

The Silver Lining



Ye Are Of More Value Than Many Sparrows

March 1996



"...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

James 4:6

"...for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

I Peter 5:5

In some aspects, humility is more important in our life than anything else because we must be humble to receive grace as we find it written in I Peter 5:5 and James 4:6. Can't we just visualize James and Peter sitting together in that room, in Jerusalem, talking together about humility?

We may ask ourselves, what is it to be humble? None of us are perfect and if we could see ourselves through God's eyes, we would know just how much humility we lack. We are imperfect so it behooves us to strive diligently to be humble so we can receive grace sufficient to keep us free of sin.

What is humility? Webster tells us that humility is:

1. Being aware of one's shortcomings
2. Not proud
3. Not self-assertive
4. Modest

With that list we could work for the rest of our life on trying to accomplish perfection in those four items. Is it possible to be proud of our humility? Really, the answer is no. Once we become proud, we lose grace and we are no longer humble. That is simple deduction. So, if we are humble, we will not be concerned with the degree of humility we have because we will have no thought of self at all.

Nothing of self and all of God—that is true humility.

But how do we attain a closer walk with God? How can we strive to be more humble without thinking of self or whether we have made progress? In the world we are taught to make goals and when we attain the goal, we should be proud of our accomplishment. This is not the way of God and our Lord, for we can read in His Word, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" (I Peter 5:6)

True humility, therefore, is being satisfied to be under God's mighty hand. Where could we feel safer than under God's hand?

The Bible tells us how to be humble in Matthew 18:4, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." The Bible teaches us to be as

Humility

a little child in all we do. Forgiving, trusting, willing to learn, hearing and obeying the spoken warning, and submission are a good place for us to start.

Humility will make us different in this world because the true nature of man is to be self-assertive, boastful and proud.

It can be likened unto a war in that we must war or fight against the enemy, which is pride and her various partners. If we defeat self-assertiveness, for example, we cannot sit down and review how good we were in that battle. If we do, the enemy will win back that which we defeated him in battle. So again, we learn the lesson to continue battling Satan and his craftiness, without trying to keep track of our wins over him. We can do that by being truthful, obedient, and submissive to instruction that is good for our soul, whether it comes directly from the Bible or from someone who has our best interest at heart.

If I am humble, I will wish for the ultimate good for my friend, neighbor, brother, sister, or anyone who puts the will of God foremost in their heart. That's a tall order because many times when we strive for others to have the ultimate good, we lose out or diminish.

Are we willing to decrease so others can increase? We probably don't know the answer to that until we are placed in the position of doing it. Good intentions are great, but defeating Satan and pride is better.

We can learn a good lesson from the small birds we see in our yards. They do not set goals and systematically try to accomplish the goal. The little birds just try to keep out of reach of the enemy, and trust that there will be food enough for them to sustain life. They never eat more than they need. They never get fat. They are always able to be satisfied. What a wonderful thing when we are satisfied to be under the mighty hand of God.

The Bible teaches us that a righteous man will not have to beg for food. The key to that, of course, is the word righteous, and with righteousness comes humility. We would be amiss if we

understood humility to the fullest extent and did not mention repentance. There is no greater manifestation of humility than that of repentance wherein we fall down before the Lord, a broken and emptied vessel, and ask for forgiveness, with a Godly sorrow.

There are two kinds of repentance: one is that of Judas, the other is that of Peter; the one is ice broken, the other is ice melted.

The ice that is broken still carries the same physical property and is not changed at all. There is no conversion. Ice melting, on the other hand, takes on a totally new property wherein the new does not resemble the old.

Repentance unto life will be repentance in this life.

Humility is indeed a far-reaching topic and deserves much consideration in our lives, for it is the key that unlocks the door to Heaven and eternity. Humility will not be assessed by us as it is manifested in other hearts. We can only strive to defeat Satan in our own lives and in the process, hopefully, God will be able to see that most precious humility in our heart and then grant us grace.

The Silver Lining

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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

March 1996

If the Watchman Blow not the Trumpet

The watchman on the wall is responsible for the safety of his people. The Bible is clear that this responsibility includes more than watching for an enemy who would destroy us with weapons of war. This responsibility also includes protection from an enemy who would destroy the unity of God's children and spiritually starve them by depriving them of the privilege of feeding on the truth of His Word.

The technological advances we've become so accustomed to often make it difficult to fully appreciate some of the accounts and analogies from Scripture. With our nearly instantaneous access to news and weather reports, we can hardly imagine how critical the role of the watchman on the wall was as we read of it in the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 33. The situation in view was one of imminent peril because of invasion of the enemy. The responsibility required early warning to provide time for flight to safety or to make full preparation for the impending battle, thereby avoiding being overtaken by surprise assault.

We do not strain the interpretation of this vivid account when we compare the watchman's duties to the ministry of God's Word, especially as carried out by those who have charge over us. Indeed, "they watch for our souls, as they that must give account" (Heb. 13:17). Likewise, the responsibility for sounding the trumpet that rested with these ancient watchmen, also rests with those who minister the Word today and are exhorted in Paul's letter to Timothy to "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2).

In our denomination today we "take a man of our coasts and set him for a watchman" (Ez. 33:2). There is absolutely no question for believers today that there is danger at every quarter, a spiritual warfare of immense proportion, an enemy bent on destroying the faithful. Wherever practical, our elder brothers ordain other elders in every congregation (as the elders of the 1st Century did so from city to city). Without doubt, the individuals chosen as watchmen were aware of their awesome responsibilities, as we must be today. As the watchmen

were set on the wall, they could see far greater distances. The Scriptures give account of those who seemed to have a gift of God to be able to distinguish even individual runners or chariot drivers (II Sam. 18:27) (II Kings 9:20). We are often in awe of the many grave dangers that those who have watched for our souls have seen and have sounded the warning at a great distance (in our case, a distance of time, of years or decades). In both situations, the responsibility to sound the warning is emphasized. Failure to sound the warning brought stern judgment from the Lord, a fact that rests on the hearts and minds of our shepherds.

Perhaps more appropriate to the early church than to ancient watchmen with trumpets was a variety of trumpet calls. The ancient trumpet blasts brought quick response; the armies and cities of the 1st Century AD recognized a variety of trumpet calls indicating various alerts and necessary maneuvers. Regardless, the necessity for clarity of call and certainness (loudness) was imperative so all could hear and act accordingly. We are called upon as believers to pray and support those ordained of God to these weighty tasks (I Thess. 5:25).

Ezekiel gave stern warning to the hearers also. It really didn't matter why they did not heed the warning. Excuses were irrelevant and unacceptable. The clear fact was that they heard the sound of the trumpet, and did not take warning. Their blood was on their own head, and the responsibility was theirs. It would seem that in so critical a scenario as portrayed here, no one would fail to take the warning. The very fact that our Heavenly Father chose to emphatically outline such a sad situation makes it clear that such things happened. We are not exempt from the very same admonition. If we think we are standing fast and firm, we should take heed, lest we fall (I Cor. 10:12). The dangers are real, the consequences for ourselves and those we love are tremendously grave. The ancient watchmen were set because the people were acutely aware of the presence of evil and danger around

them that was life threatening in most cases. As we pray for those faithful watchmen on our walls today, may we recognize just as acutely the spiritual danger and the eternal life threatening menace of Satan and his minions.

The ending verses of the 33rd chapter of Ezekiel are extremely sobering to believers today. After God had freed Himself and had shown them how they could serve Him and do His will, and had revealed the consequences of failure to heed His warning, the people essentially made light of the whole situation. They would turn out in goodly number to hear what the Lord had to say. They would whisper about the message bringer and poke fun or demean the message. Insincere as they were, they had no intention of following the Lord's directive. The whole situation became as one big entertainment, not to be taken seriously. They would hear and, lamentably, ignore. Sad to say, when the terrible consequences of their folly overtook them, when the clear warnings of the Lord were proven to have been on the mark and they realized how wrong they had been, it was too late. How very much of the work of the Kingdom goes undone because of the folly of the very people who should best know the clarity of the admonitions God unflinchingly sends!

The sound of the trumpet must also include encouragement and admonition that God's people would be united as one, with God's Word as the foundation upon which the unity is based. Faithful shepherds (watchmen) must continue to sound the warning. Sheep that are not warned, or who do not heed the warning, will be scattered and destroyed by the enemy. The watchman who clearly sounds the warning, who feeds the flock and who strengthens the weak fulfills the directives that God places upon them. It then becomes the responsibility of the flock to heed the warning.

All of God's children would do well to study these scriptural accounts, heed the warning and fulfill our duty as watchmen on the wall.



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

Bible distribution is a major portion of Mission Committee activities

One of the primary purposes of a mission effort is to fulfill the command of our Lord that we send the gospel throughout the entire world.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ACTS 1:8

We can interpret this to mean that our first efforts must begin at home, therefore we do encourage Bible distribution on a local level.

Following an exhaustive comparison of various translations of the Bible, we reaffirm our position that

we support distribution of the King James Version of the Bible exclusively. Bibles provided by the Mission Committee are available at distribution centers in Leo, Indiana, and Eureka, Illinois. Some of our congregations send their entire collections for Bible distribution to the Mission Committee, and others use some funds to finance activities on a local level. In either case, we appreciate learning about the ways our brethren handle these efforts. The following account outlines how two of our congregations in a rural area carry out this work. It is told in the form of a report from a sister who coordinated the efforts for several years.

An example on a local level

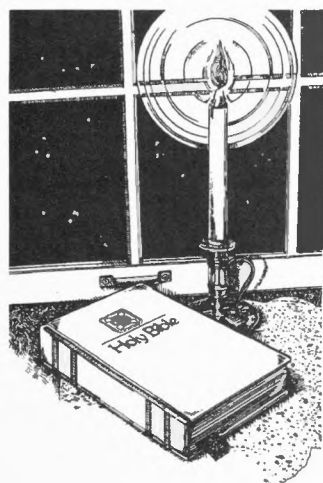
“ Bible distribution boxes were already in place in motels, restaurants, libraries, and businesses when we volunteered to manage supplying these points of distribution. Our church communities are separated by a major interstate highway, along which are the facilities where the travelers stop to refuel and refresh themselves. This did provide a natural outlet of exposure to a variety of people. Over a three year period, we placed about 3,000 Bibles in these establishments. The largest number of copies passed through fast food restaurants.

Almost all of our work was with the small New Testaments which we obtained from the Mission Committee. They are packaged individually in small boxes. We employed our young children over a one-half hour period during the noon break in our church on Sunday. Setting up an assembly line, we stamped

the name of our church in the front, and attached a fold out Scripture reference in the back. We were able to complete about two boxes (400 copies) during our work period.

The children looked forward to the work, and even after we passed it on to our neighboring congregation, they asked us when they could do Bibles again. Our feeling was that this experience created a desire to spread God's Word, as well as a sympathy in the hearts of our children for those who had not heard it.

The same type of system we used with children at church could be used in family gatherings, times when older brethren gather together, plus providing activities for young members. The potential is nearly unlimited, and the benefits ensuing from this work cannot be measured. ”



Anyone can be involved

Using this simple system, Bibles can be prepared by nearly anyone, and it has become evident that when the books are placed in a public place, people accept them. We may never know the results of spreading God's Word in this way, but if one soul is worth the entire world, no price can be set upon the benefits.

Let us know about your work

The Mission Committee would greatly appreciate hearing from you as to how Bible distribution is being handled in your area. It is helpful to learn from your experiences in this work. Please write to:

Bro. Gene Marti
Apostolic Christian Mission Committee
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66223



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

Work team
to Mexico
provides
housing
for two
families



Late
lin
November
of last year, a
work team con-
sisting of 17
arrived in El Paso,
Texas on the first leg of a
trip into Mexico. The purpose of
this trip was to repair and build houses
for poor families. The group came from various areas,
and it was nearly midnight on Tuesday, November 28
until all had arrived and gotten settled for the night.

As previously arranged, they met Chito, their Mexican
contact, at a site near Juarez on a beautiful Wednesday
morning. After warm greetings, and a prayer, they loaded
a truck and proceeded to the first site where half of the
team began preparing to pour concrete. At this location,
the house needed a concrete floor, all the walls needed to
be replaced, and half the roof recovered. The other half
of the team went to a site where an entirely new home
was to be constructed.

After a day's work, and a night of rest, they assembled
once more for prayer on Thursday morning. The women
painted the walls on the outside of one building as the
men labored in construction. By the end of that day, two
walls were replaced, and part of the roof repaired at site
#1, and two long walls and a roof nailed on the building
at site #2.

Weary with the toils of the day, yet happy in heart with
their progress, the workers refreshed themselves a bit in
their motel rooms. They ate supper in a local restaurant,
after which they shared several hours of spiritual
fellowship, finally retiring about 11:00 pm.

The sight of the buildings taking shape increased their
enthusiasm, and after Friday morning devotions, they
set to work. The fellowship and brotherly love developed
during these trips creates many precious memories. As
Friday came to a close, the house at site #1 was ready for
stucco, and the women did more painting as well as
distributing clothing and kits furnished by World Relief

groups in the USA. The new building at site #2 was
nearing completion, with the walls and roof in place, and
stucco on two of the walls. In the evening, the group
evaluated efforts to date, and planned for future work.

By noon on Saturday, the new house had one complete
coat of stucco everywhere, and two coats on some walls.
House #1 had one coat of stucco applied by 3:00. Having
completed most of the painting, the group traveled to the
K-20 area where our teams had built two homes the
previous year. The gratitude of the families who had
received this help warmed their hearts. Realizing that there
are no borders or limits on God's love, they ate their
supper and retired looking forward to a day of worship
on Sunday.

Sunday breakfast was at 9:00, followed by worship
services in the motel at 11:00 am, conducted by Bro.
Leland Plattner. Both World Relief and Mission
Committees encourage a ministering brother to
accompany these work teams, and invite brothers to make
themselves available for this work when possible. Sunday
afternoon was both relaxing and enjoyable as the team
viewed the lovely scenery, seeing the cities from high up
on a mountain. A time of singing, Bible reading, and
meditation brought this blessed day to a close.

Beginning the new week on Monday with prayer, they
gathered together at building #1 to plan their day. The
group at site #2 completed the simple house by adding a
second coat of stucco to the outside, and a wall on the
inside. These houses are the most basic of structures, with
none of the conveniences we enjoy here. However, they
are far superior to the cardboard shacks lived in by
hundreds of Mexicans. The house at site #1 was also
completed that day, and by evening they could see that
their goals had been accomplished.

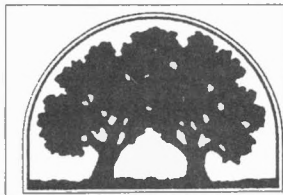
Seeing first hand the rewards of ministering to the poor
and sick, the group gives honor to God and thanks to the
brotherhood for providing opportunities such as this one
to serve.

Two trips are planned in 1996, with Bro. Dave Wegman,
847/778-1048 being the contact person for the medical
teams, and Bro. Mike Fiechter, 219/597-7330 being the
contact person for building teams.

Opportunity to serve in Jamaica

Volunteers are still needed to complete a work team to
the CCCD Deaf Village Site in Jamaica. The dates are
May 17-25. Anyone wishing to help in this work may
contact:

Bro. Mike Finley
Box 176, Carlock, IL 61725
309/376-7301 or fax 309/923-7243



ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT NEEDED

*When God says Go...
Don't Say No!*

We have an opening for an Assistant Houseparent here at Gateway Woods. If you are a single sister and you are interested in full time service to others, you may be the one God has chosen to come and join our family here at Gateway Woods. The work here is challenging, rewarding, and inspiring. We trust that a mature sister will respond to our need and to the Lord's leading.

Please contact one of the Brothers listed below for more information about qualifications, training, salaries, and benefits for this position.

John Stoller
Child Care Supervisor
Gateway Woods
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219-627-2159

David Bertsch
Counseling Elder
11520 Grabill Rd.
Grabill, IN 46741
219-627-2923

GATEWAY WOODS CHILDREN'S HOME

The 20th ANNUAL
Gateway Woods
Auction and Sale

Saturday, August 17, 1996

**WE ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU!!**

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

Sometimes in the daily routines and the constant happenings of the Home, we almost miss the inspiration of the actions done about us and the words we hear spoken.

There is the sparkle in the eyes of the resident aide as she relates the details of stopping at Pizza Hut with a resident after taking him to a doctor's appointment. This was a real treat for the resident, but as we listened, we also realized that extra effort and patience were required of this staff member to make this special time possible.

Other staff members were heard sharing their concern for one of their co-workers who was going to undergo surgery for the second time in a brief period.

When a couple who works at the Home were expecting their first baby, the anticipation and caring was very evident among the residents and staff. And when the news of that baby's arrival reached the Home, it felt like "family" news.

Twice recently word was received of the death of a resident's parent, and then there were tears of sympathy.

The full mail bag on Valentine's Day spoke a story of love, and a willingness of dear ones to remember and do good unto others.

A quiet gift given to someone in great need, the comforting and encouraging words, "I'm praying for you!", make this a special place.

The cold winter days, and various illnesses among both residents

and staff will soon give way to spring. But we have been inspired this winter when residents would take advantage of any break in the cold to go outside for a little exercise and fresh air.

A group from Goodfield who came to sing for us certainly brightened a cold winter day! And the church services conducted by area brethren are always a special time of worship and fellowship.

April birthdays for all of our facilities are: ACHH - Velma Hoffmann (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Nancy Jones (27), Zita Palko (27), and Jon Terhorst (30). OAKWOOD - Sonja Metzger (14) and Mark Gundy (17). LINDEN - Jane Kohler (1).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME GATEWAY WOODS Todd Schrock

Be prepared. It is something we usually are not. We associate it with studying for tests, insurance, financial planning, and Boy Scouts. But preparation is even more important than we sometimes think. At least Jesus thought so.

Jesus thought preparation was vital when it involved His disciples and the mission that they would receive after He died, arose, and ascended to Heaven. He wanted to accomplish His work on earth through men (and particularly through the leadership of these twelve men). For about three years, Jesus traveled through Judea, Samaria and Galilee teaching and healing. Even though He had presented himself to Israel as the Messiah, He did not use all of His time and energy healing and teaching. Many times Jesus left

- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books,
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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.

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(309) 448-2416

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Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

Eleven Years — August 1983 thru July 1995 — 321,754

Bibles Distributed — Twelfth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1995 —	3,834	3,834
September 1995 —	1,404	5,238
October 1995 —	1,780	7,018
November 1995 —	3,461	10,479
December 1995 —	3,506	13,985
January 1996 —	2,525	16,510
February 1996 —	3,870	20,380

*Repaired Bibles - Song Book -Storybook Shipped - 28

*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.

CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

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

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

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

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

the crowd to go spend time with just His disciples even though the needs of the multitude were so great.

Why would Jesus not have used more of His time to keep trying to heal everyone and to teach more wisdom to the thousands who only got a glimpse of Him? One of the reasons appeared to be that Jesus valued the time that He spent in preparing the disciples for their future ministry. Large portions of the Gospels are filled with ac-

counts of Jesus spending time teaching some or all of the disciples with precepts, parables and His own example about His Father, prayer, worship, how to live and serve, etc. Jesus also split them into groups of two and sent them on at least one "practice" mission to cities where He did not personally go. Jesus constantly disciplined, trained, taught and prepared the disciples for the hardships that they would encounter as they fulfilled His mission.

Are we allowing God to prepare us for the work that He will have us to do next year or in five years? Are we actively cooperating with the discipling and training that the Father wants to work in our hearts through His Word and Spirit so that we will be more prepared for the service He calls us to next year? Soldiers would not think of going into a battle without putting in a lot of time and energy into preparing for battle through disci-

pline and training of their bodies and minds because their lives and the lives of their fellow soldiers depend upon it.

Here at Gateway Woods we know the realities of the preparation that we went through before we came here (just as many of you know the realities of preparation for the ministry that God has called you to). The circumstances that God sovereignly engineered in our lives, the hours of searching for God's will, and the agonizing over the thoughts of the big changes that would take place in our lives. For most people, the whole process took many months.

However, even for all of that, if you were to ask people after they worked here a year or two if they now felt that they had been prepared, you would probably get a resounding "No". After you are submersed into the lives of these children and their families, you realize how much more preparation you should have had. More time and energy building a solid relationship with your spouse characterized by understanding and communication that can weather the heat and pressure. More time and energy building an understanding of what God's Word says about human nature and how to change and how to communicate God's love and holiness. More time and energy in understanding and practicing compassion, tough love, and sharing His truths in practical every day ways. More time and energy into daily worshipping the Saviour and practicing His presence.

Obviously, God's preparation for your life may not take three years (as with the disciples) or the forty years in the desert that it took Moses, but we can say for sure that if it has not started already, God wants to start now preparing

you for the ministry that He will call you to in the future. Maybe God has chosen Gateway Woods for your future. If this is a possibility, then there is something else that you need to know. Do not wait until you hear of a staff opening to start preparing or praying or searching for God's will for your life or even to start contacting us to find out how to be better prepared. Many times recently we have had gaps of up to twelve

months before positions are filled. In a ministry where the daily need is constant, a vacant position (or two or three) brings the staff families that are here much closer to the brink of burnout.

Currently, we have one Assistant Houseparent position open for a single sister. We also are aware that another Assistant Houseparent position will be open at the end of June. Whether God chooses you to serve Him with us

A Humble Thank You For The Love And Support Concerning The Hungarian Church Tape Project



The goal has been met thanks to all the efforts of brethren. A number of tapes are left over, which will be offered at a reduced price of \$25.00/set. Only sets are being offered in an attempt to reduce the remaining inventory. Thank you again for your love and support.

Five 60 min. Tapes Available:

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- 5.) Szeged with guests: Hodmezovasarhely churches

\$25/set, includes shipping, American Funds

"These tapes are made only for glory to God. Our wish that sisters and brothers in the States will listen them also for glory to God."

Elder Bro. Pap Janos

To order, contact the following individuals:

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| 3.) Sis Harriet Orcsik
2670-5 Meadowbrooke Lane
Windsor, ONT, CANADA N8T2Y4
519/945-9964 | 6.) Bro. Roger Ward
RR 2 Box 74a
Francesville, IN 47946
219/567-2687 |

Send U.S. Funds With Orders

at Gateway Woods or whether it is elsewhere, I hope that you seek to actively participate in the discipling preparation that God is tailoring for you.

Through the last month, Mary K., Jenny K., Tammy R., and Misty S. moved back to their families or on to the next step. We hope that we have prepared them for moving on and pray that they are also more spiritually prepared to someday taste salvation and share it with their families and friends. Marisa D. moved into the Schrock House.

However, the most exciting news for us is that Robin Esslinger, a former resident, is now a baptized member of our church. Robin, our prayers are still with you.

We are thankful that Sis. Jan Baumgartner is taking over our present Foster Care program. Our thanks to Ruth Reinhard for her four years of faithful service.

Alex Z., Zach F., and Rachel S. all made the Honor Roll this last report card.

Dying To Self

When you are forgotten, or
neglected, or purposely set at
naught,
And you don't sting and hurt with
the insult or the oversight,
But your heart is happy, being
counted worthy to suffer for
Christ,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When your good is evil spoken of,
when your wishes are crossed,
Your advice disregarded, your
opinions ridiculed,
And you refuse to let anger rise in
your heart, or even defend
yourself,
But take it all in patient, loving
silence,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you are content with any
food, offering, raiment, climate,
society, solitude, and
interruption by the will of God,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you never care to refer to
yourself in conversation,
Or to record your own good works
or itch after commendation,
When you can truly love to be
unknown,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you see your brother
prosper and have his needs met,
And can honestly rejoice with him
in spirit and feel no envy nor
question God,
While your own needs are far
greater and in desperate
circumstances,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you receive correction and
reproof from one of less stature
than yourself,
And can humbly submit inwardly
as well as outwardly,
Finding no rebellion or
resentment rising up within your
heart,
THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

Are you dead yet? In these last
days, the Spirit would bring us to
the Cross,

"That I may know Him being
made conformable to His death."

(author unknown)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Tricia Tucker

"This little light of mine, I'm
gonna let it shine..." There is
nothing quite like the sound of 48

children singing (at the top of their
voices) praises to our Lord. One
day while singing "This Little
Light of Mine" one child ex-
claimed, "I'm gonna let my light
shine until the whole world gets
shined up."

February was full of excitement.
We studied the letters R-U and
colors black and white. Valen-
tine's Day brought love and choco-
late. We had a party, exchanged
valentines, and played games. The
children had a lot of fun.

We also used our ears, eyes,
nose, mouth and fingers to learn
about the five senses. Every day
brought new experiences for the
children. Some even enjoyed the
smell of onions when they didn't
know what they were.

However, the best part of Feb-
ruary was the beginning of spring.
The last two weeks brought sev-
enty degree temperatures. Not
only were the students ready to
cure their cabin fever, so were the
teachers. It was such a blessing to
be able to frolic outside.

Prayers needed: We are still in
need of a teacher beginning this
summer. If anyone would like
more information, please contact
Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205)
232-2035. Also, we are in need of
summer volunteers. Please con-
sider us while making plans for the
summer.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

As I look back over the calendar,
from January 15 to February 15,
not many activities have taken
place. Perhaps we're still recover-
ing from the busy Christmas sea-
son.

Our Athens congregation is very
much missing the presence of Bro.
Charles Williams (Sis. Corrine).
Bro. Charles passed away on Tues-

day, February 13, 1996, at Huntsville Hospital. Bro. Charles had four children, four step-children, eleven grandchildren, and eight step-grandchildren. We are saddened to see his seat empty on Wednesday nights, and miss his ready willingness to pray on Sundays. However, we rejoice, as we believe Bro. Charles is in his Heavenly Home. Sis. Corrine needs everyone's prayers.

We've experienced quite a winter so far in Alabama. Twice we have been "snowed in", which is very unusual, followed by beautiful, sunny warm weather. As I heard someone mention, if you don't like the weather, wait around a few hours-it will change. That is definitely how this winter has been, reminding us that God is still in control.

If you're making Memorial Day plans, we hope you'll spend the weekend with us at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Many volunteers have worked hard to continue the work on the building there. If you do have plans to come, especially large groups, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (205) 232-2035, so that we in turn can make plans.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God..."

Romans 13:1

Our Elder Body Conference was held in mid-February. We pray each Elder will feel and have a burning desire to do God's will to preserve the Godly quality of our churches. Oh, Father, let us not be "man-pleasing" that we read of in John 12:43. Preserve the Godly

comfort we desire when entering His house we pray.

The bad weather elsewhere and an aunt's 80th birthday brought us many visiting ministering brothers. Our thanks to Bros. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN).

We have been blessed with visiting brethren from California to Connecticut and those wonderful places between. Thanks for coming—what a delight to have you!

Our dear Lord's presence was felt by Sis. Ruth Baer who was in the hospital with a broken hip. Sis. Emma Sanders was in for a broken leg, Bro. Ron Hoerr had out-patient eye surgery, and Sis. Martha Elsasser was hospitalized. Millie Stickling has not shown improvement for months.

Many attended the chili supper which was our monthly get-together.

Many relatives and friends came from Illinois, Iowa, Colorado and California to wish Sis. Martha Elsasser a blessed and happy 80th birthday. May God watch over her for many more years.

Our sympathy to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry Beyer on the death of his sister, Mildred Rodgers. They flew to Gridley, KS for funeral services.

Psalm 103 will help you remember your blessings.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

This last month we experienced challenges, due to lack of heating in the building we have been renting for services each Sunday. The furnaces had been removed and

not replaced by the Sunday we were expecting Elder Bro. John Lehman and his wife, Sis. Connie (Bern, KS), to minister to us. Sis. Jan Elsasser from Phoenix lovingly offered us the use of her home in Prescott, and we managed to fit around sixty people in her home for services, and had a blessed day.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. John Lehman and John Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for ministering to us this last month. We were blessed with Elder Bro. John Kokanovich's presence twice.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were saddened to hear that Sis. Joan Knapp (Bro. Loren) lost her sister, Sis. Phyllis Gerber, to cancer. We know that Sis. Joan and her family in Connecticut will miss Sis. Phyllis here on earth, but what rejoicing there must have been in Heaven to greet her. We will keep Sis. Phyllis' family in our prayers. May God be their constant companion in the coming days.

We were blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) was with us, as were Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). We thank them all for their labors of love in ministering to us; we appreciate you all!

Our annual Pancake Supper was held last Sunday with the men doing the cooking and clean-up. However, they left the women with the job of overseeing the children, so I'm not sure who got the better part of the deal. I think I want my old job back!

We are still experiencing very warm weather with the forecast

for the coming President's Day weekend calling for lower 80's and bright sunshine.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joy Nenadov

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not!
Jesus wants a faithful witness;
Teachers not confessing Jesus
Have stern judgement as their lot.
Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not.

Zion's Harp #112

Greetings to all in our precious Saviour's name!

I'm sure we would all agree that we have a most blessed and precious faith. True sound doctrine being preached to this day, beautiful and edifying traditions and practices that uphold our faith and doctrine and a very unique and most precious fellowship of our brotherhood unknown to the world. We all pray that it would last for many more generations to come, even until the Lord would come again. We also realize that it doesn't just happen by itself, but takes the effort of each and every child of God. As a watchman of a fort will sound the warning of impending danger that could harm or destroy those within the fort, those within should be more on guard and ready to defend all the more that which is within the walls. Even now as our beloved Elder brothers gather together, as our watchmen on the wall, to discuss and discern many weighty matters, and strive to keep our church unified in the face of this ever-changing world which is trying to even attack and destroy our precious faith and foundation, may we heed their cry as they, the leaders of our churches, sound to

us the warnings. If we indeed heed this warning, we will readily defend all the more our precious faith which was once delivered unto the saints, and by God's grace preserve it for many more generations to come! We can through humility and obedience strive to make this possible. May we also be in constant prayer for our Elder brothers as they are gathered together for the mid-winter Conference in Francesville, IN.

On January 28, we were blessed to have ministering Bro. Jim Hoerr (Sis. Virginia, Peoria, IL) in our midst and we want to thank him for his willingness to serve us from God's Holy Word. The message truly was an inspiration to all of us. May God bless him richly.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huetten

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

Hymns of Zion #99

"...lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..."

Hebrews 6:18,19

Visiting ministers for this month were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Bros. Jim Hoerr and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). May the Lord richly bless these dear brothers for their labors of love and we invite them to come back again!

The last weekend in January, many invited families from other churches. We all enjoyed a chili dinner on Saturday and a potluck on Sunday night. The weekend

ended beautifully with songs of praises to God.

Bro. Louie and Sis. Kathy Bickadi, with their daughter, Kathleen, have recently moved to Colorado Springs, CO because of a change in employment. We are saddened to see them go and they will be greatly missed, but we know how welcome they will be in Colorado. We wish this dear family God's richest blessings in their new home. Come visit us often!

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"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."

Psalms 1:1-2

We are so thankful for our ministering brethren who give us counsel from the Bible or "the law of the Lord", and not from literature of the world or "the ungodly". And what a joy it is to meditate upon the Bible "day and night". We thank two of our ministering brethren, Bros. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) for preaching God's Word to us. We also thank all the other visitors who came to support us here in Kitchener.

We welcome all visitors. Anyone who would like to fellowship with us, please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information.

COLORADO, DENVER**Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Greetings across the many miles! We were blessed to have Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) with us this month to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We certainly appreciate the labors of these brothers and their wives.

We rejoice with the angels of God as three dear souls have turned their backs to sin and have sought salvation. Among them are Duane and Ann Wulf and Pam Braun (Kevin). We want to wish them God's grace to overcome and pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit as they make this new beginning.

We are thankful that a healthy baby girl was born to Brad and Karen Metz. Allison is welcomed home by her big sister, Larissa. Grandparents are Dave and Ruthann Martino (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL).

We are excited to welcome Sis. Kathy and Kathleen Bikadi to our small congregation. They join their husband and father, Bro. Louie, in Colorado Springs.

We have surely felt blessed this month with all the new additions to our small congregation, both physically and spiritually. We pray that each one will continue to trust in the Lord and seek His favor in all we do.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

We were privileged to have vis-

iting ministers in our midst recently: Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Andy Virkler (Croghan, NY), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), and Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ). We wish them the Lord's blessings for their labor of love.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Our dear Sis. Phyllis Gerber (Bro. Everett) went to her rest on February 8. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family. She leaves her dear husband, Bro. Ev; her sons, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Carole), Bro. Dale; her daughters, Dawn, Sis. Lynne Beutel (Bro. Gene) and Sis. Jane Schneider (Bro. Doug). She will also be sorely missed by her sister and brothers, Sis. Joan Knapp (Bro. Loren), Bro. Alden (Marion), Bro. Alfred (Sis. Barb), and Dave (Ann). May the Lord comfort and keep them.

We are thankful for our recovering hospital patients. They are Sis. Barb Reutter (Bro. Alfred), Bro. Kenneth Bahler (Sis. Aline), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), and Bro. Jay Fehr (Sis. Amber). We wish them God's blessings for a speedy recovery.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

Sometimes just the ordinary is news. This is the first month since October we have met all three scheduled Sundays; two months were due to the holidays and once due to the blizzard.

We appreciate Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) flying in one Sunday morning to minister to us. They had planned to come Saturday, but it was too windy to fly out.

Our other ministers this month

were Bros. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). We also enjoyed the fellowship with all who traveled with these brothers.

If you are starting to plan your vacation, consider visiting the Washington, DC area. There are also a wide variety of employment opportunities in the area, many in the suburbs. The brothers listed below or anyone else in our congregation would be willing to answer questions for either of these concerns.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at Tysons Westpark Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. Some from the area meet in the hotel dining room for breakfast at 9:00. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5947 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 444-9085.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Mary Ann Klaus

On Wednesday, January 31, we gathered to hear the Memorandum of the Brother Meeting held in August, presented by Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Bud Klopfenstein. May the Lord grant us all the grace to accept and practice the loving conclusions agreed upon by the entire Elder body.

On February 4, our congregation and guests enjoyed a church potluck and evening of song worship and fellowship.

We have been very blessed by

the visits of ministering brothers this month. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) and Jim Hoerr (Sis. Virginia, Peoria, IL) for their inspiring messages.

Also in our midst was Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) and he presented a message on "The Family" for our first family night. A delicious potluck supper was enjoyed by all. Both the Sunday School and adult choirs sang songs of praise to the Lord's name. It was a blessed evening and we pray that we can have more evenings like it.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS **Kay Eisenmann**

We are all so blessed to live in this United States of America! Sometimes we ask ourselves, "why me?". This gift carries with it a responsibility—to share the Living Word and life of Jesus. Our country was founded on God and that's why we are so blessed; not because our leaders were scholars and so very wise.

God's Word tells us He works in humble hearts and minds. He paid the price of our sins to open Heaven's gates. We need to pray that our government can go back to the Bible, where there is a price to pay for sin. What was sin then is still sin today. Some people forget that as there is a Heaven, there is also a Hell! Satan would like us all to believe we are pretty good and don't need to go to church to go to Heaven. Living for the Lord is great; such inner peace this world cannot buy. The fellowship is so uplifting. Don't let Satan tell you that you can walk this road of faith alone! Jesus had twelve to help Him and one of them was deceived, just as we all have been

and can be again if we don't read God's Word so He can talk to us.

A brother who has visited more than forty different countries sees starving and much need, not for that second car, but maybe just for that one meal a day! In this United States of America we throw away a football field of edible food a day.

Are we our brother's keeper? What will people write about or say about us when the Lord calls us Home? No matter what we do in this life, we all must remember it affects many. We are making memories each and every day. We have been well blessed with many wonderful messages this month on how to better serve our loving Lord.

We had our annual business meeting and want to thank each and every one for their efforts in their jobs that makes our little church run smoothly, and encourage those who are taking on new jobs as well as those that are so faithful to fulfill these jobs. It takes working and willing hands to keep things going.

Our addition is a real blessing and we want to thank our winter families for their support; the job is getting done.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Tom Schambach and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Doyle Frauhiger and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Ed Bahler (Remington, IN), and Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We want to thank them all for their messages and may God bless them as only He can!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Vera and Mary Martin**

It matters not how oft you kneel
In attitude of prayer so true,
Unless inside, where no man sees,
Your very soul is kneeling too.

—*Mary L. O'Hara*

In our busy lives as we hurry through our prayers, how often do we pause long enough to have a thankful and positive attitude before we hurry to make our requests to God?

Our busy winter season is again here and we are thankful for so many visitors and winter residents that enrich our fellowship. Among our visitors, we have been blessed with visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), and Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN). Thank you for lending yourselves.

The annual business meeting was held and we want to take this opportunity to thank each of our brethren who have given their time and efforts of labor in the Lord's vineyard. As promised, it will not be unrewarded and we appreciate the willingness of our brethren who have volunteered their services for the coming year.

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized in our congregation, which include Bro. Richard Martin, Bro. Dave Wengeier, Bro. Willard Bahr and Sis. Hermine Miller.

As we face an uncertain future, let's keep a positive attitude and count our blessings for the many promises that God has given to us for each new day!

"Let us not be frightened by the problems that confront us, but rather give Thee thanks that Thou hast matched us with this hour.

May we resolve, God helping us, to be part of the answer, and not part of the problem."

—Peter Marshall

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We were fortunate to have two visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We thank these brothers and their wives for traveling to share God's Word with us.

Services are held every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located on I-85 just off the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. Don Sellers (770) 381-1395 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Millie Jepson

Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow:
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow;
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life: let come what
may
He'll be there to lead the way.

When my work on earth is done
And life's vic'tries have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus
loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me; the Bible tells
me so.
(Author unknown)

This version of the children's favorite song reminds us that Je-

sus loves us; He always has...and He always will. "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." (Proverbs 16:31).

The majority of those regularly attending Belvidere church are children, so it has been a special blessing to have Sis. Louise Knecht in our congregation. She moved to Rockford from the Chicago area over a year ago. Sis. Louise had been hospitalized this past month, but has recovered very well and is back in church. We really missed her while she was recuperating and we rejoice to have her back again!

Another blessing we have is Bro. Jeff Strunk from the Valparaiso, IN church who is living and working in this area now. We are so thankful God has led him here to worship with us and we pray God will bless him in his new job.

The visiting ministers this past month were: Bros. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie), and Bill Gudeman (Sis. Evie), all of Elgin, IL and Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL). Also, Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL) came to Belvidere to read the Memorandum. We thank each one for their kindness and pray that God will richly bless them. We have again been encouraged in our faith and in the confidence that Jesus loves us; He always has...and He always will.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner

We were challenged by two topical Bible studies this reporting period. On January 17, Bro. Kevin Knapp gave us an inside look at the

church and how it best functions when we realize one person's weaknesses are complimented by another's strengths. Through working together in unity and maintaining accountability to each other, the church can be used mightily by God to accomplish His purposes. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann, on Wednesday, February 14, urged us as Christians to focus outside ourselves, let our lights shine, and to be known for our concern for the souls of men. Since this study happened to fall on the February holiday which is focused on love, Bro. Dennis also pointed us to three aspects of a I Corinthians 13 type of love along with Bible characters in which these were exemplified. "Love is kind" was modeled by Boaz in his treatment of Ruth. The unselfish attitude implied in "Love seeketh not her own" is frequently found in the Scriptures. King David's unconditional love for his wayward son, Absalom, is a great example of "Love is not easily provoked". These aspects of Christ-like love do not come naturally to fallen man but, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are able to exercise them.

Our hearts go out to the family of Wilmer Moore upon his death on January 17. He was born and raised in Elgin, IA but most recently resided in Bloomington and attended the B-N church as often as his health permitted over the last two years. He enjoyed the fellowship and the preaching of God's Word from the pulpit. During his illness he was very appreciative of all those who reached out to him with a helping hand. As Wil chose our church as his place of worship during the early stages of his illness and then during it's progression, we, as a congregation, learned a lesson in true Christian

love and acceptance. "...as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34). This type of Christ-like love demands a heart that is not motivated by feelings, but rather one that is motivated by obedience to God and His commandments.

Our sympathy is also with Sis. Georgia Steffen and her husband, Bro. Herb, at the passing of her father, Harold Ward, of Fairbury, IL. We pray her Heavenly Father will comfort her and help fill the void left by the loss of her earthly father.

We enjoyed hearing the Lord's name lifted up in praise at our monthly hymn sing on January 21. The three-year-olds through kindergarten sang with innocence and enthusiasm while the young men's group "For His Glory" sang with precision and power. All present were very much blessed.

We rejoiced as three of our young people were baptized, the outward ceremony symbolizing the inward spiritual transformation of a repentant heart. Stephanie Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev), Steve Lehman (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Yvonne), and Philip Stoller (Sis. Lois) were welcomed as brothers and sister in Christ upon hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms on January 26 and 27. We appreciated the visiting ministers who made the effort to be present for the ceremonies: Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). We pray they and their families will receive tenfold blessings for their faithful service.

January 31 brought Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) to visit for the reading of the Memorandum through which we were exhorted and encouraged.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Meekness is the noblest virtue,
Every Christian's honor bright,
It adorns the youthful member
And the aged with its might.

Zion's Harp #186

We are so thankful that we have humble Elder brothers who keep the church's benefit in mind at all times. They have recently attended the mid-year Conference to discuss important issues concerning our faith. Let us heed their warnings and instructions for they are our "watchmen on the wall".

Richard and Marilyn Slutz are new converts in our congregation. May God give them much grace and wisdom during their conversion.

Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bro. Jack) had surgery this past month. We are thankful that she has recovered so quickly and can assemble with us again.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI). May God richly bless them for their labors on our behalf, and we invite them to come back soon.

ILLINOIS,
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"The treasures that lie hidden in the heart of the child spring from that same heavenly world from which the soul itself originated..."

—Daniel Udo De Haes

Springtime is that time of year when we think of renewal, new-

ness, and life-giving. We see the small flowers begin to push up through the light snows and the trees begin to bud. As this issue's article is written, we are still having some winter weather, but are looking forward to a renewing spring in a few weeks.

Two couples in our church have already experienced the theme of springtime's newness with the births of new children. On the evening of Saturday, January 27, a son was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda (Blunier) Kupferschmid. Curtis Alan's long awaited arrival confers the title of "big sister" on Alyssa.

The title of "new parents" is now most appropriate for Bro. John and Sis. Lisa (Schneider) Walder, as daughter, Laura Dawn, made her presence known on February 13. Laura will no doubt enjoy many good times with her local grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder. Best wishes go out to both the Kupferschmids and the Walders on their new charges and the many hidden treasures that these children will reveal to their parents over the years.

Our attitude makes a great difference as we go on this great journey called Life. I recently read of two stonemasons who were asked what they were doing. The first said, "I am cutting this stone into blocks." The second replied, "I am on a team that is building a cathedral!" What is our attitude when something new comes into our life? Do we have the attitude of the first stonemason who only saw the present situation, or of the second who saw the larger picture and knew that there was something greater to come? I know that my attitude concerning our winter weather has been just a little worse than the attitude of the first stonemason. ("More snow, yuk!")

Conversely, my son's attitude ("Look dad, more snow!") is much more similar to that of the enthusiastic second stonecutter. Sometimes it takes another person or a little humbling from God to get us to see things in another light and improve our attitude. At our house, we're all looking forward to spring, but have also had some fun in the snows of winter.

Helping to warm our souls spiritually this past month have been visiting ministers Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for the time they take to come share the Word with us.

The season of life ended as the mother of one of our congregation passed away in early January. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma Simpson and their family on the passing of Bob's mother, Wilma Simpson-Furr, of Shelbyville, IL. May they cherish the good memories for many years.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

The Rose of Sharon bloomed the most profusely with the most fragrance in His greatest hours of temptation and anguish. He is our example, and He alone can envelop us with such grace under most difficult circumstances.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Luke 1:37

We are thankful for brethren who come to renew us with words of the Spirit. This month we were grateful for the visits of many, especially ministering Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). May they be refreshed as well.

Precious Abby Rose was born February 5 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Liz Leman. Big brothers are Richard and Jason. Grandparents include Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman (Morton, IL), and Helene Schleiter from the Chicago suburban area. Great-grandparents include Sis. Rose Vierling and Bro. Eli and Sis. Bertie Leman, all of Morton.

We are grateful to God for His guidance and blessing as our church remodeling project has become a reality. An open house is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, and we would like to extend an invitation for loved ones to share this special day with us. We welcome visitors at any time and are especially hopeful that brethren and friends who have participated in the project will be able to attend the open house.

In connection with church offices, we have a new committee to oversee our new Fellowship Area consisting of Bros. Lenard Meyer, Craig and Dan Plattner. Our kitchen committee has Sis. Heidi Haerr as its new head, Sis. Paula Bahr now in for a complete term, and Sis. Penny Stahl completing Lora Braker's term.

Part of our Christmas gift for our second and third graders involved a "perfect opportunity". They played games with residents at Elgin Resthaven and had so much fun. Both residents and staff enjoyed them, too! Part of what we are here for is to help our young people understand the delight of service in a Christ-like manner, and everyone benefits from such time spent together. For myself first, this I must remember: never to allow myself to be too busy to set up "perfect opportunities".

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our

Lord Jesus...Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:20-21

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

Galatians 6:10

The challenge of this time and hour is not really what we think sometimes. We are to examine ourselves strictly. We are asked to be much more tolerant with our neighbors. Not only do we find it much easier to reverse those "judgments", but we also spend too much time in that reversal. In sacrificing self, it is that of sacrificing our will which makes "...every man...right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6) to the Lord's covering of shed blood for us and for "whosoever" (John 3:16). The Lord is pleading that we love as He loved and give as He gave, without thought of return, and even when we don't understand another, that we would believe that through Christ, he/she can have purpose, for "...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

"Each Step I Take"

I trust in God, no matter come
what may,
For life eternal is in His hand.
He holds the key that opens up
the way,
That will lead me to the promised
land.

Each step I take I know that He
will guide me;
To higher ground He ever leads
me on,

Until some day the last step will
be taken,
Each step I take just leads me
closer home.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

—*Abraham Lincoln*

What would we do without a Saviour to turn to? "How sweet the privilege of prayer, when we our cares and sorrows share, with Him who understands." (Hymns of Zion #205)

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). We want to thank each of them and their wives for visiting our congregation and for their labors of love.

What a wonderful promise to know when we go through the darkest, most painful hours that God will not fail us.

"And behold...I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you: all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."

Joshua 23:14

Feeling God's closeness and this faithfulness in a special way were our hospital patients: Sis. Naomi Knapp, Sis. Edythe Stock, Sis. Carolyn Hari, and Sis. Violet Maul who still remains hospitalized at this time. May we keep each of

them in our prayers. While we know that God will not fail us or let us down, we also know God has given each of us a mission. It is our duty and our privilege to pray and care for one another especially during times of adversity.

God has abundantly blessed grandparents, Jim and Betty Hofbauer, and great-grandparents, Bro. Joel and Sis. Mary Hofbauer, with three precious grandchildren in a space of four days. Brian and Tammy (Hofbauer) Martin welcome into their hearts and home twin daughters, Jessica Lyn and Taylor Ann. Brian and Terri (Hofbauer) Jacob, along with Sarah, Sadie, and Emily, rejoice over the birth of Adam James.

Also Grandma for another time is Sis. Ellen Hofbauer. Little Zachary Alan was born to Lynn and Rhonda Hofbauer of Popular Grove, IL.

First-time parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann of a precious baby boy, Tyler Steven, born January 18. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Bro. Robert and Sis. Rose Mary Frank (Tremont, IL). We just pray God will give each of these parents Godly wisdom in raising these little ones that have been "loaned" to them.

Our congratulations go out to Joni Young and John Castino who have recently announced their engagement. Joni is the daughter of Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Anne Young. We pray God's blessings for Joni and John.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank each one for their prayers, cards, food, flowers, and visits since Carolyn's surgery. May God bless you all!

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carolyn Hari

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

Linda Knobloch

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..."

Proverbs 15:13

We thank Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for helping minister the Word.

Our thanks to Bros. Jake Rinkenberger and Alan Roth and Sisters Maryellen Zimmerman and Phyllis Miller for teaching Sunday School. Bros. Dennis Virkler and Mark Roth and Sisters Carla Walder, Annie Steffen, Joanne Roth, and Ginny Zimmerman have been elected to teach Sunday School. Our new usher is Bro. Dennis Wettstein. Our new nursing home trustee is Bro. Bill Dietrich who replaces Bro. Ernie Stahl. Bro. Dennis Virkler replaces Bro. Jerry Banwart as church secretary. Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber will serve on the food committee, as Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis Miller have fulfilled their term. We thank these people who so freely give of their time and talents for the Lord's work.

Sisters Irene Schrock, Sarah Dietrich, and Melinda (Bro. Jay) Steffen have spent some time in the hospital. May God be very near to them as they recover. We are thankful Bro. Duane Steffen is again able to assemble with us.

Bro. John and Sis. Ranae Dietrich are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Landon Ryan. He was born February 1 and welcomed home by Hannah and Logan. Landon is blessed with grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Dietrich

and Gary and Sis. Wanda Edwards (Goodfield, IL), and great-grandparents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Jean Kupferschmid (Roanoke, IL), Sis. Sarah Dietrich (Congerville), and Marie Edwards of Eureka.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all who have offered loving support to us preceding and since Bessyanna's birth. We are humbled by and appreciate your prayers, gifts, cards, and many deeds of kindness. May God richly reward each of you.

In Christ, Bro. Jon and Sis. Andrea Knapp

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

Lead me then, when I must go
Through death's valley here below;
Lord, in death Give me faith,
And protect and strengthen me in
my last breath.

When thou stand'st on Zion's
height
Grant that I stand at Thy right
From pain free, Cleansed in Thee,
Where thou wilt, O Lamb, my
light and temple be.
Zion's Harp #240

We were all saddened at the passing of our dear Sis. Mary Leuthold from time into eternity, and yet rejoice at God's faithfulness of His nearness until her last breath. We truly believe that a place does indeed await her at our Lord's right in those mansions above. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, Sis. Lucy Schulz, and the many nieces and nephews. Though we will all miss Sis. Mary and the faithful light and exemplary life she led, she has left many "precious memories" we

each may ponder often. Many fond memories also exist of Sis. Lena Steiner (formerly of Elgin) who recently passed away in Sabetha, KS. While we know our loss is her gain, let us remember the family and friends left behind. May we each strive to be as faithful as these dear sisters, that someday we again can be reunited on those yonder shores.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

Although God's ways and His perfect timing is somewhat a mystery to us, the Word assures us that the Lord's ways are always perfect and divinely directed. While we may not always understand, we are simply commanded to put our trust in an Almighty God and believe that His way is best and right. Our dear Sis. Helen Liebig and friend, Eva Schambach, are presently hospitalized. Although neither have been fully restored, let us remember them in prayer, be thankful for even the small improvements and trust that "God will take care of them".

We are thankful for the dear ministering brothers who so willingly preach the Word of the Lord unto us. May God bless Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and John Stoller (Leo, IN) for their deeds of love.

What a treasure I have in this
wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my
soul;
So secure that no power can take
it away,

While the years of eternity roll.

Gospel Hymns #746

As the angels rejoice over each sinner who finds grace to repent, we likewise rejoice with Darren Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) as he has experienced this wonderful peace. We look forward to hearing his testimony in the coming weeks.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

We heartily welcome Bro. Don and Susan Jones and their children, Emilie and Collin, as they recently have moved to our area from Morris, MN. We are glad to have them worship with us and wish them God's blessing and guidance.

Jolene Kay was born on January 24 to Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki Wiegand. Katie and Julie are excited to have a new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand, all of Eureka. May God bless and provide for Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki as they love and raise their girls.

Bro. August Mogler died on February 3 at the nursing home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Inez, and five children, John and Samuel of Washington, Loren of Lowpoint, Roger of Mount Holly, NC, and Ina Sauder of Eureka. May God comfort them in their loss and time of grief. We also extend our sympathy to his brothers, Bro. Nathan of West Bend, IA; Bro. Andy of Lester, IA; and his sisters, Sis. Leah Schaer of Oakville, IA; Rachel Park and Lorene Farrell of Davenport, IA. Bro. August was a good example to all of us as he lived his last days in patience and faith.

We appreciated the exhortations of Elder Bro. Wes Knapp

(Goodfield, IL) and our Elder Bro. Ervin as they read to us the Memorandum on February 3. They reminded us how important it is to have a humble and obedient attitude. We need to continually work at having the right attitude as we struggle against the evil influences of each day. May God help us to change our attitude on those days when we would like to give in to the wrong feelings.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine..." Four converts gave their testimonies and were baptized on January 20 and 21. We welcome Janelle Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Shay Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay), Melissa Slagel and Kurt Slagel (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Gladys) as our new brothers and sisters in faith. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) shared the blessed weekend with us. We thank them for their labors.

Thanks also to Bros. Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) who visited us this month. We appreciate all your efforts.

On January 13, we gathered with the brethren at Forrest for the reading of the Memorandum. How thankful we should be for the loving exhortations of our Elder brothers. It is often a comfort to me to feel a chastening at a time like this for laxness in one area or another. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...", and chastening "yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them

which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:6,11).

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as two souls, Kari Kaiser (Robert and Cheri) and Gene Denick (Karen) have begun on the pathway of repentance. We wish them much grace.

"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

May God bless the newly established household of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha (Fritz) Moser. They were married in Washington on January 31. We heartily welcome Sis. Martha to our congregation.

The engagement of Bro. Michael Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane) to Sis. Holly Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey, Bern, KS) was announced to us. They are planning a June 9 wedding. Also, Mark Bazzell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol) and Tania Voeste are planning a June 1 wedding.

We are going down the valley one by one,
Human comrades you or I will
there have none,
But a tender hand will guide us
lest we fall,
Christ is going down the valley
with us all.

Gospel Hymns #798

Four loved ones were called into eternity during this month. Sis. Carolyn Fehr, 85, died February 14. We extend deepest sympathy to her children: Bro. Glenn (Sis. Kathryn), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Norma), Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Linda), Bro. Warren (Sis. Shirley), Sis. Loida Mueller (Bro. Ron, Forrest), Sis. Jane Steidinger (Bro. Dennis), Sis. Patricia Menold (Bro.

Don, Bern, KS), Kathleen Slagel (Lynn), Darlene Stork (Elmer), Susan Mastronardi (Rick), and their families.

Sis. Della Meiss passed away February 2. She was 91. May God comfort her husband, Bro. Eli; and children, Sis. Dolores Zehr (Bro. Warren), Sis. Rosemary Hartman (Bro. John), Bro. Marion (Sis. Barbara) and Bro. Carlos (Sis. Jane), and grandchildren.

On January 29, Kathryn Nussbaum, 94, passed away. A son, Oren; a daughter, Delores; and grandchildren survive her.

Sis. Ida Steffen, 86, also died on January 29. She leaves four sisters, Sis. Lena Zehr, Sis. Anna Steffen, Fannie Steffen (Bro. Alpha) and Sis. Aldine Steffen (Bro. Ezra). What a comfort it is to know that though we cannot walk through this valley of the shadow of death with our loved ones, Christ's tender hand is guiding them even as He has throughout their lives.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients: Sis. Clara Broquard who met with accident and Bro. Ezra Steffen (Sis. Aldine) who had surgery. May they feel the Lord's comforting nearness.

We were asked to consider the theme of humility this month and I was reminded of the Scripture which says, "...and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). It seems so simple to do and yet, at times, can be so difficult when we let "self" get in the way. We need to continually pray for more humility for "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6).

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to every-

one who so kindly remembered our 50th wedding anniversary by attending and giving of cards, gifts and so much love. A special thanks to our children and grandchildren and others who helped plan and host this joyous occasion. God bless each of you.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat Hartman

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Marlene Walter

Mary Bachtold

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers this month. May God bless Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel and Jim Byrd (Roanoke, IL) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) for sharing God's Word with us.

Our hearts are filled with joy as we see two souls turn their lives to the Lord in repentance. It is our prayer that God will grant Reuben and Devra Stork much grace as they surrender their will to Him.

A precious baby girl has arrived in the home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller. Welcoming Anna Rose are big brothers and sisters, Sis. Sheila (Bro. Brent) Ifft, Sis. Sara, Michael, Ben, Heidi, Rebekah, Laura and Crystal. Loving grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller.

Bro. Kevin, Sis. Martha, Matthew, Heather and Heidi, and Valerie Schaffer are happy to have little Jeremy Kevin join their family circle. His grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller and Peter and Emma Schaffer.

Those spending time in the hospital this month have been Sis. Louise Honegger, Sis. Rosetta Stoller, Bro. Leland Kuntz and Bro. Ivan Steidinger. May God,

who knows our needs, restore health and strength according to His will.

Three couples have recently celebrated special wedding anniversaries. Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub celebrated their 60th anniversary on January 28. February 10 was Bro. Sid and Sis.

Helen Leman's golden anniversary, and Valentine's Day marked the 65th anniversary of Reuben and Mildred Metz. May God continue to bless these couples as they reach this milestone in their lives.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Ben (Sis. Irene) Traub in the death of his sister, Margaret Traub (Wabash, IN). We also sympathize with Sis. Loida (Bro. Ron) Mueller in the sudden passing of her mother, Sis. Carolyn Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Sis. Carolyn also leaves many grandchildren in our congregation who will miss her kind and loving ways. May God comfort these loved ones.

Notes of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to all who took part in making our 40th anniversary such a special occasion. May God bless you.

Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all our friends and relatives for the many cards, gifts and best wishes we received for our 60th anniversary. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Barb Brim

"Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Matthew 10:31

I'm only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree:
My life is of little value,
But the dear Lord cares for me.

I know there are many sparrows—
All over the world they are found,
But our Heavenly Father knoweth
When one of us falls to the ground.

Tho' small, we are never forgotten;
Tho' weak, we are never afraid;
For we know that the dear Lord
keepeth
The life of the creatures He made.

I just fold my wings at nightfall,
Wherever I happen to be;
For the Father is always watching,
And no harm can happen to me.

I am only a little sparrow,
A bird of low degree;
But I know that the Father loves
me;
Doest thou know His love for thee?
—*author unknown*

Our Goodfield congregation sends its love and prayers for a speedy recovery to our dear Sis. Elsie Hohulin who has undergone knee surgery recently. How precious are His promises!

We would also like to thank Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger (Gridley, IL) for sharing the Word with us this past month. The Lord blessed us with wonderful words of wisdom and encouragement through your unselfish service to Him.

"Incline your ear...hear, and your soul shall live..."

Isaiah 55:3

May we all live in the truth of His love.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

There is a sense of great rejoicing when souls are seeking God in repentance and faith. As of this writing, 26 souls are in the convert category. This includes 11 who have repented in the past few weeks.

With rejoicing comes a sense of nurturing and responsibility. To become re-born (spiritually), to pull away from the fleshly life, and to daily become crucified with Christ can be painful and often traumatic. We all need each others' prayers daily!

The enemy of our soul—and of the church—is seeking to undermine God's work. He roars like a lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8).

It is heartening (and a joy) for our congregation to witness young people choose life's best pathway—that of following the Lord Jesus Christ. As they turn from sin and begin life anew, it is as if they put a torch to the worldly bridges behind them. They are fleeing Babylon and traveling to that eternal Zion.

May God be praised, both now and forever, for His continuous mercy in drawing souls to the Lord. To behold souls becoming converted is indeed one of our earthly treasures.

“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.”

Proverbs 16:6

Sis. Hermine Miller underwent surgery on her arm after an injury in Florida.

Our visiting ministers on January 27 were Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Greetings from Morton to our brothers and sisters across the land.

Mary Heubach, 91, who formerly attended the Morton Apostolic Christian Church died January 16. Graveside services were held by our ministers. May the Lord bless and comfort her nieces, nephews, and her other relatives and friends.

Elizabeth (Betty) Mangold died on February 3. May her loved ones find comfort in the Lord. They are her two brothers, Edward Binkele and Raymond Binkele; her two sisters, Sis. Marie Rapp and Lillian Bridgeman; and her nieces and nephews.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser along with their children, Lara and Nicholas, welcome home their new baby, Nathaniel Luke. Nathaniel was born on January 17. His grandparents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Young (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine Kaiser. May God continue to grant wisdom and direction to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce as they rear their precious family.

We rejoice in the engagement of Sis. Erin Mayo (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail) and Bro. Ross Wuthrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie, Roanoke, IL). May they continue to look to the Lord to guide their ways during their engagement period and throughout the remainder of their lives.

We were blessed with the teaching of visiting Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) this month. May the Lord extend special watch over our ministers that travel to various churches to minister His Word.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Cara Nussbaum

As I write this column, we are getting a taste of spring weather outside. Even though I know it probably won't last, it turns my thoughts to springtime, to God's creation as it will burst forth with color and new life. May we each search our heart, that it can be renewed and revived. What better time as we think of the approaching Easter season, when our Saviour shed His blood upon the cross and then arose, that we each could have a new life in Him.

Caleb William was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane Roecker on January 2. Caleb joined big brother, Aaron, and sister, Hannah, at home. His grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Bro. Ed and Sis. Barbara Roecker (Morton, IL).

Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzel welcomed Joshua David into their family on February 7. Joshua's sisters are Samantha and Alexandra. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel and Bro. Herman and Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer, all of Peoria.

One day later, February 8, Ross Brendan was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Janet Kieser. Ross is their first child. His grandparents are Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie Kieser (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Gudeman (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Margaret Getz are pleased to have a new little grandson. Michael Anthony was adopted recently by their daughter, Kathy, and her husband, Tony Thompson.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott Meiss (Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris) and Sis. Danell Stock (Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock, Cissna Park, IL) who have announced their engagement. They are planning a May 26 wedding.

It is with sadness that we report

ILLINOIS, MORTON

the death of Sis. Emma Woerner, "Grams" to many, who died February 19. We extend our sympathy to all of her family, especially daughters, Sis. Marian Hemmer, Sis. Betty Miller and Sis. Norma Rieker, and son, Dr. John Woerner. I know she will be greatly missed. May God comfort them all in the days to come.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Bud Fehr, Sis. Clara Scherer, Bro. August Hoerr, Sis. Sally Rauhaus, Sis. Beth Herman and Lucas and Lexie Marx (son and daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Marx). We are thankful God has placed His healing hand on each of them.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for his recent participation in the February family night. May God bless him for his efforts.

New Sunday School teachers and a new trustee were elected in January. The teachers are Sisters Karen Waibel and Crystal Klopfenstein, and Bros. Rich Schock, Gary Kempf, Dennis Unsicker and Frank Gutwein. Bro. Marvin Hodel is the new trustee. We wish them the grace of God as they carry out their Christian duties.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers and kind expressions of sympathy during the illness and passing of our loved one.

The family of Bro. Walter Knepp

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19

On January 6 and 7, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls. They are Sis. Paula (Mark) Feucht (daughter-in-law of Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht), and Bro. Doug Blunier (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce). We would like to thank Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Stoller with these duties.

Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not!
Jesus wants a faithful witness;
Teachers not confessing Jesus
Have stern judgment as their lot.
Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not.

Zion's Harp #112

Our prayers are going out on behalf of our Elder brethren as they assemble this week for the mid-year Elder Conference. We pray that the "Watchmen on the Wall" would never cease to cry out boldly. We read in Psalm 25:9, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." This could apply to both our Elders and us. Our Elders, that they would be emptied of self, and filled with His Spirit; and us that we may receive the warnings and council of the Lord, speaking through them.

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

Eccles. 3:1-2

We believe God's Word, that it is true, although it is hard for us to always understand. We extend our sympathy to two dear sisters at the passing of their father. Sis. Paula (Mark) Feucht and Sis. Renee (Bro. Brian) Wieland are

the daughters of Norman (Pat) Stahl. We continue to remember them along with their mother, sisters and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

At this same time, Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland were blessed with a little daughter, Mikaela. She was born January 24. Mikaela is welcomed home by big brother, Ethan. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland and Pat and the late Norman Stahl. We pray she may be a blessing and comfort to her family.

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

Eccles. 12:1

We are so thankful to have two new converts this past month. Both of our converts are still in high school. They are Kristal Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine) and Doug Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia). Our prayers are with them as they begin their new walk with Christ.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

Our visiting ministers who labored among us this month were: Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO). We also thank Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for his World Relief slide presentation at our January Bible study and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for our February Bible study on "Parenthood".

We rejoice in the engagement of

Bro. Ross Wuthrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Val) and Sis. Erin Mayo (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail) of Morton, IL. May God be with them during this special time of their lives.

Flourishing youth, Thou our hope
and our fond expectation,
Hark to the voice that is calling in
kind invitation!

Martin Rebbec (Bro. Marty and Sis. Patty) and Kasey Kaeb (Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy) have answered the loving call of their Saviour in their youth. May God richly bless them.

Tenderly Jesus embraces the
lambs as His treasure.
Youth, thou shalt furnish the
Shepherd His favorite pleasure.
Blessing and glee, showers the
Father on thee,
Prize of His flock, without
measure.
Zion's Harp #168

Wayne and Sis. Marjorie Blunier welcome a new grandson, Curtis Alan. His parents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda Kupferschmid (Champaign, IL).

Those who have spent time in the hospital this month are: Brad Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan), Sis. Mary Lou Martin (Bro. Lyle), Bro. Chris Bradle (Sis. Anna), Elmer Wiedman (Virginia), Sis. Bev Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott), and Sis. Dorothy Pfister. May these loved ones feel the prayers of the church.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for all the kind and sympathetic thoughts and sincere prayers during the illness and passing of our dear sister, Nettie Feucht. We have felt the love and support of our brethren.

Alvin and Mary Farney

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

We thank Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward them both for their efforts.

Sarah Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy) and Shawn Lennington have announced their engagement. We pray that God will lead them as they look forward to life together.

Several of our loved ones who have been in the hospital recently are: Bro. Fred Beutel, Sis. Mary Baurer, Harold and Eunice Rowell, baby Rachel Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane), and baby Angela Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy). May they feel God's love and care.

Sis. Carolyn Bolliger is the happy grandparent of little Eric William, born February 12. His parents are Sam and Sandy Bedwell (Indianapolis, IN).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Ellen Sinn on the death of her brother, George Woerner.

Sis. Sophia Sauder was called Home on January 29. She will be greatly missed by her brother, Bro. William Schmid; and her children, Joseph Sauder (Peoria), Bro. Dale Sauder, Sis. Carol Koch, and Sis. Donna Martin (Princeville). May they all look to the Lord for comfort and strength in their sorrow.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Denise Romersberger Sue Ruppert

Just recently, I saw a list of desirable traits for a Christian. Among many was the statement, "Holy, not holier-than-thou". It brought to mind the parable that Jesus taught about the Pharisee who "prayed thus with himself,

God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are" and then proceeded to list all of the good things he was doing. The other man, a publican, could only say "God be merciful to me a sinner." The second man was justified because of his true humility, rather than the man who was proud of who he was and what he was doing. (Luke 18:9-14). As we look at our own hearts, is there any pride present that is masquerading as something good? We all need to ask God to show us these hidden sources of pride so that we can ask, and receive forgiveness.

"...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

I Samuel 16:7

It was with much rejoicing that the Washington congregation, and many guests and family members, witnessed the wedding ceremony of Sis. Martha Fritz (Washington) and Bro. Lloyd Moser (Fairbury, IL). We pray that God will give of His richest blessings to them in their new life together. We are glad that they will continue to attend services with us for the present time. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) was present to assist with the service.

Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) gave of his time to assist Elder Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate all of the efforts of the Elder Body in communicating these important messages to all of us.

The first and second graders sang heartily unto the Lord at the monthly hymn sing. The second featured group was Four His Glory. Those present were blessed by the hearing of praise through

the use of the human voice. Thank you to all!

It is with much happiness that Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise Weerts welcome Brittany Joy into this world. She was born February 15. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz and Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts (Cissna Park, IL).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

Another month has passed and we again rejoice in welcoming a new brother and three sisters into our fold: Kent Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann), Rachel Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth), Pam (Jim) Agler (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger) and Elizabeth Habbegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane).

We also welcome several new babies, including twins: Twin girls were born to Jeff and Tanya Turner, Lauren Elaine and Olivia Nicole. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Elaine Baumgartner.

A new daughter, Ashley Paige, comes to Jenny Steffen. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen.

A bundle of pink joy, Abigail Elizabeth, is welcomed by waiting parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Frauhiger, along with big brother, Benjamin. Grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipfer.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber welcome their son, Drew Eric. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber and Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser.

My co-writer here in Bluffton,

Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda Bertsch, along with their older daughter, Jessica, welcomes Holly Sue. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch and Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch. Many prayers go out to all of you as your families change.

Along with our new arrivals on earth we have two dear sisters who have gone on to their Heavenly Home. Sis. Beulah Clark has left her husband, Bro. Richard, and five children, Jean Detmon and family, Rick Clark and family, David Clark, Sis. Lori (Bro. Stan) Fiechter and family, and Sis. Lisa (Bro. Bruce) Aschliman, behind.

Sis. Alice Schaefer, wife of Bro. Kenneth, also has gone to her resting place. Along with her husband, survives two sons, Dave Schaefer and family, and Sam Schaefer and family. Our sympathy goes out to all of the family members.

In the hospital at this time we have had Sis. Ida (Bro. Wilmer) Steffen, Jacob Gerber (one of the triplets born to Kip and Jill Gerber), Sis. Dorothy Frank, Sis. Helen Stoller, and Bro. Steve Reinhard.

A special celebration in honor of sixty years of marriage goes out to Bro. Clarence and Sis. Freida Steffen.

United in marriage in the month of February was Bro. Ked Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Adrienne Maggart (Bro. John and Sis. Becky).

We also rejoice with the families of converts, Krent Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) and Elizabeth Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy).

We would like to especially thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for lending of himself for service to our congregation.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) to share the Memorandum with us on Sunday, January 21. We certainly need to be reminded of our high calling and encouraged to press forward to our Heavenly goal.

February 11 was a very special day for Bro. Ked Moser (Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Adrienne Maggart (John and Sis. Becky Maggart, Bluffton) as they were united in the Lord. Ryan Gerber (Bro. Duane and Sis. Betsy) and Crystal Harlan (Stephen and Rachelle Harlan) chose February 17 for their wedding day. May God bless these couples and may they feel God's nearness and direction in their lives as they have now become husband and wife.

Sisters Gladys Fiechter and Evie Meyer have spent some time in the hospital. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Carolyn Yergler have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 27. May God bless them with many more years together.

How blessed we are to be part of the Family of God! Let's continue to encourage one another.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Wendell Gudeman
Val Gutwein

February 13-16 will long be warmly remembered by our Francesville congregation. We

bring thanks first to our Heavenly Father and to the many brothers and sisters across the land who faithfully prayed for God's blessings, direction and protection during our mid-winter Elder Conference. The prayers were answered.

Fifty-two Elders and seven retired Elders, accompanied by forty-eight of their wives, felt the unity of the Spirit as we embraced I Cor. 3:9, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

Special services were held on Thursday morning for the Elders' wives, giving words of encouragement for their unique labors of love in the Church. More words of encouragement were given in the afternoon. Each sister made a "block" to be assembled into a comforter as a love gift for Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold who labor in Mexico. They were also shown a sample of the water pumps constructed here which are sent to Haiti through World Relief. A sample and an explanation was given of how, in the Wolcott area, two ton of soap is made in an evening to be sent to the needy in Romania and Haiti.

As the Conference came to a close on Friday evening, February 16, we felt a rich measure of Grace, Peace, and Love among us to "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Philippians 1:27).

The Zion's Harp Hymn No. 173 expresses the heart of the Francesville congregation. "This is the wish from all our hearts, for you, our loving comrades; In our alliance may the Lord be felt in blessed nearness. The power of His cross and blood unites us in true brotherhood."

Two evening services were held

during the Conference. We thank the following Elder Bros.: John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Douglas Sabo (Sarasota, FL). Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) served us on Sunday, February 18. We are grateful for their labors of love.

Thou my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me:
All along my pilgrim journey
Saviour, let me walk with thee.
Planted with Thee in Thy dying,
Risen like Thee I shall be;
By the Father's might and glory
Saviour, let me rise with thee.
Things above I now am seeking,
Life is hid in God with Thee;
In the heav'nlies with the blessed,
Saviour, let me sit with Thee.

Hymns of Zion #223

As believers, let us be striving to walk in step with the Saviour, clothed with humility and meekness, so that we can radiate His love. He is coming again! Will He find us ready? We are thankful for Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) who came and encouraged us in our walk with the Saviour this past month. Also, a special thanks to our home brothers who brought us many teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. We were exhorted to let the Spirit challenge us and change us in some way because of the Word that Jesus spoke to us in Matthew 5-7. May all the glory, honor and praise be to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our dear Sis. Mary Gutwein (the late Bro. Emil) underwent knee surgery recently and we pray that she will daily find strength and encouragement as her knee heals. She will be spending some time in rehabilitation. Let's remember her in prayer.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber

have been blessed with a bundle of love from the Father. Anna Christine was born on January 16 and is welcomed home by big brother, Paul. Happy and thankful grandparents are Algrid and Erica Gudas, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber.

Recently we held our annual elections for the various offices in the church. May each brother and sister find special grace to fulfill the duties set before them. The list is as follows: Sunday School teachers - Brad Neihouser, Wendell Anliker, Lavone Pelsy, Connie Wuethrich, Trudi Gudeman, and Carol Gutwein; Sunday School song leader - Kathy Wuethrich; Church Trustee - Randy Gudeman; Ushers - Kevin Marti and Denny Leman; Local Missions - Roger Pelsy; Fellowship Center Trustee - Mark Wuethrich; and Parkview Haven Board - Wally Bucher.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Missy Baumgartner
Lauretta Schafer**

Our annual business meeting was held January 17. It is amazing how the Holy Spirit works to fulfill the elections and make the church function smoothly. If everyone does his part, we reap the benefits. It is similar to a mechanically sound automobile. When all parts are operating properly, we enjoy the comfortable ride as we travel along the highway. We truly are grateful for all the church "parts" operating properly for our comfort as we feed on the spiritual food Sunday after Sunday on our highway to Heaven. Another analogy: if our car oil-warning light comes on, we should not assume that it is just an electrical problem but rather have the car checked. It is a scary experience to have our car

stop along the highway broken down. Spiritually, if the Holy Spirit pricks your heart, even just a tiny prick, have your spiritual life checked. You might be able to correct the problem yourself with God's help if it is small, but you also might have to take your life to a brother or sister-in-faith or your Elder to repair a more complicated problem. Don't wait until it gets worse and your spiritual life breaks down. The most important thing in this life is to get our spiritual car to Heaven. Be there.

We are happy for a new baby in our congregation. Bro. Doug and Sis. Jenny Hart became first-time parents January 19 with the birth of Jacob Douglas. Grandparents are Dean and Julie Rieke (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart (Goodfield, IL). May God give guidance and wisdom to the new parents.

Our church became the recipient of "love in action" when Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette Graham (Princeville, IL) and their workers painted our Sunday School rooms and baby room. Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette are parents of our Sis. Doreen (Bro. Jerry) Leuthold. Thank you for your labors of love.

Visiting ministers on January 23 were Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and his wife, Sis. Frances (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Nile Bucher and his wife, Sis. Phyllis (Bluffton North, IN). Not only are we appreciative of the efforts of our visiting ministers but also of our own faithful servants—Bro. Ron Bollier and Bro. Ken Wuethrich and their families. Thank you for your untiring work on our behalf.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

Jenny McClanahan and Marc England exchanged marriage

vows on January 27. Jenny's parents are Drue and Diane McClanahan. As they have experienced the joy of beginning a marriage filled with love, we wish them the special joy of God's love in their home.

The miraculous healing of the body was evident in our congregation as Sis. Pearl Neust, Jenny Massner, and Bro. Randy Massner endured affliction and recovery.

Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Heiniger came home from Florida to attend the funeral of Sis. Lucille's brother-in-law, Joe Jarnecke. We mourn with you, Bro. John and Sis. Lucille.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." The time for parting came for the Don Gudeman family and our congregation as we bid farewell to our dear Sis. Judy Gudeman. Judy has accepted employment in the Rockville, CT church area for the next three months. Our love stretches the miles to Sis. Judy, and we wish her God's blessed nearness as she meets the challenges of this new season of her life.

Love, the theme for February, has many meanings. Wherever the times and seasons of life send us, there is the memory of a childhood home full of warmth, stability, and love around the family fireside, and this vision encourages us through life. But for those who cannot relate to the warmth of an earthly home, there is a future abode of cheer and warmth in that Heavenly Home where dwells a loving Father who will never forsake His children.

A grocery/singing shower was held at Kouts School for Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole Gudeman. We wish them an abundance of love for each other and for the God who brought them together.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Guest ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Bill Waibel and James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). We appreciate these visits with their family. It is never "too soon" for your return. Thank you for sharing the Word of God with us.

On February 3 and 4, we were blessed by a quartet from Gridley, IL. As we listened enraptured, we had no idea the Lord would allow us to gather again on Monday for more fellowship. That weekend was very cold and we had a heating problem in the kitchen area. Monday afternoon one of our sisters came to the church and found it flooded as far as the fellowship area. Brothers and sisters were notified and by evening we had it under control with fans and dehumidifiers running to dry out the area. This was our third and worst flood in as many months. The first two were problems at the water fountain. This time a pipe burst and the air activated a sprinkler head. We are thankful to the Lord for what did not happen. We were able to have services Wednesday evening, as the assembly room was not involved.

Bro. John Laukhuf and Sis. Marcie (Latty, OH) visited us on February 14. Bro. John presented a topical Bible study based on Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The many thoughts conveyed revealed our need for humility. The art of loving communication is action as well as words. He said "every love we have is an extension of the love of Jesus Christ."

Bro. Robert Norr was able to

attend services only once since last month's report. Sis. Minerva Stoller is now in a wheelchair due to a lot of pain. She had hoped to attend services, but cannot sit in the chair for very long. We miss them both and pray for the Lord's healing touch. Sis. Mary Lantz, who resides at The Cedars, also needs our prayers. She has been experiencing severe back pain and is spending a lot of time in bed.

Sis. Marlise Stieglitz's trip to Cleveland was very positive. She continues to return there for intravenous nutritional feedings. Her platelet count continues to increase even as the medication is decreased. We are rejoicing in the Lord's mercies.

"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We appreciated having Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (Sis. Shirley, South Bend, IN) share God's Word with us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts. We also think of our Elder brothers meeting at the time of this writing and thank each of them for their labors of love and for being the "watchmen on the wall".

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness. Sis. Ruth Beer (Bro. Don) experienced surgery. Sis. Marie Reuter has moved into the Lakeland Loving Care Nursing Home. We are so thankful that Bro. Theo Beer and Sis. Dorothy Martin (Bro. John) could worship with us once again after being confined to their homes.

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer as they became grandparents again. Naomi Janelle was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer (Wolcott, IN).

We want to wish God's richest blessings on Bro. Jeremy Price and Sis. Heidi Lehman as they announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price and Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman. May the Lord continue to direct them as they prepare for their wedding.

As we once again look forward to the springtime, may we not forget to thank our great Creator.

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

Hymns of Zion #207

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Romans 15:13

Springtime is a season of renewal and hope. As we see signs of spring, may each heart be filled with hope in our spiritual lives as well. For we believe the God who created the flowers bursting with blooms, has also promised us eternal life in Heaven if we remain true to His Word.

Our congregation would like to thank Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for traveling to be with us on January 31 at our topical Bible study. We benefited from hearing about the scarlet thread of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.

We are thankful Sis. Alta Kilgus has recovered from two minor surgeries this past month. We thank God each day He grants us reasonable health.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider are rejoicing upon the arrival of a new granddaughter. Laura Dawn was born February 13 to Bro. John and Sis. Lisa Walder from our Champaign, IL congregation. We pray the Lord will fill them with wisdom as they begin their new role as parents.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

We thank ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) for proclaiming the Word of Life in truth and sincerity on the last Sunday in January, and we thank those who accompanied him for an enjoyable day of fellowship.

Our church family hosted a farewell potluck for Bro. Matt, Sis. Jennifer and Andrew Mangold on Sunday, February 4. Bro. Matt is pursuing his career in Aviation Management and they are located in Rochester, NY. Our parting hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" expresses our sincere, heartfelt wishes for this dear family.

Appreciation is extended to Sis. Pauline Laidig and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe for winter Wednesday evening services in their homes.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman opened up their home for our traditional February evening of fellowship. We thank them for their warm hospitality.

The LaCrosse and Valparaiso Sunday School Bible Classes, along with their respective teachers, visited the South Bend Sunday School when they practiced

singing for the Purdue Youth Fellowship.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

Greetings to all. This weak one has to admit to being excited that spring is very near. Last weekend we were visiting our daughter in southern Indiana and it seems as if all the signs were there, including several robins. I gave them my best bird call, but they wouldn't follow me back to the north part of the state where winter is still very much in evidence. This statement I have made to many, and then I got to thinking about some other signs that God said would take place before Jesus comes back for us. Isn't it amazing that we all look for these signs of spring with great enthusiasm, but when it comes to the Great Day of the Lord's return for us (a day that has so much more meaning than spring), the signs are there but so many seem to turn their backs to this event. With that same enthusiasm that we have for spring, let us try to show our families and the world the right way.

In this past month we had our annual meeting. We thank all whose terms have been completed and at the same time pray the Lord's blessings for those who are just beginning and those who are still serving. We are also thankful for our ministering brethren whose terms are never up and their families.

Visiting brothers for the past month have been Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Brace Wieland (Leo, IN). We thank God that He has again given traveling mercies and blessed us through you brothers. Thank you all.

Hospitalized in this last month were Bro. Willis (Sis. Eunice) Feller and Mindy Ames (Bro. Tim and Joyce). We are thankful that they are assembling with us again and pray God will continue to heal them.

This year so far in our little congregation, we have had three very dear and special people turn 80 years old: Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene Frieden and Art Heinold. May God bless and keep you. We are deeply encouraged by you all.

At this time, since this is the last issue before the Easter season, we pray you will all have a blessed Easter. May we all remember what has been done for us. As the song says, "Because He lives, we can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone, Because I know who holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives." So many songs come to memory with special meanings to each one. With all our hearts, Dear God, we thank Thee and praise Thee for all that Thou hast done for us. May what we do be pleasing in Thy sight.

Thank you all for your love and prayers for us and our church. We also will continue to pray for you all. Farewell.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Sheri Bahler

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

Eccles. 3:1,2

We rejoice with Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer as they gave birth to a healthy daughter on January 18. Naomi Janell was welcomed home by big brother, Andrew. Grandparents are Bro.

Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN).

Visiting ministers this month included Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) who were both here on January 21. Also, Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) was here for our topical Bible study on January 31. His topic concerned the completeness of the Bible from Genesis to Revelations. God has always been a faithful God throughout the many generations that have passed since the beginning of time. If we rely totally on Him, He will be faithful to us also. May God bless these brothers for their service to us.

Our prayers continually go to those who have been in ill health or have met with accident. Bro. Lloyd Kyburz (Sis. Pat) has been in a serious automobile accident and has been hospitalized. Also, Angela Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) has been in the hospital with some complications. We pray for God's healing powers, but more importantly, for His will and the ability to accept whatever may come.

We are thankful that the Lord has been present among our Elder brethren as they assembled at Francesville for the Brotherhood Conference. Let us be attentive to the conclusions and instructions that they bring forth.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisemann

Edith Massner

We appreciated the visits of our dear Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife (Oakville, IA). During meditation he commented that in at least two of our prayers a day there should be expression of deep gratitude for our Saviour's love and

dying for us.

We were thinking of all our dear Elders as they gathered for the winter Elder Conference in Francesville. We trust God's guidance and nearness will continually direct, inspire and comfort them. May we pray for humble hearts to be easily led and support them in this most important work of salvation of the souls of men. Our thanks is extended to the Francesville congregation for their efforts and this labor of love.

Let us remember our loved ones who are shut in with prayers and cards. We who are so busy cannot comprehend their long and lonely hours!

A little girl, Alainna, was born to Inga and Larry Simms on January 24. Two brothers, Patrick and Lawrence, welcome her. Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster are grandparents. May our loving Father in Heaven bless them all.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

How quickly four weeks pass and it is time to write a few lines for the Silver Lining again. Being a small congregation, it so often seems that there really isn't much news to share, but we do rejoice with Jill Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) who have been announced for obtaining peace and are looking forward to baptism.

A special thanks to all who braved the 40-degree below temperatures (without wind chill factor) on our invite-a-guest weekend. It certainly was an enjoyable blessed time for us. As long as our hearts are warm and we can share God's love and mercy as we gather together in warm buildings and travel in heated ve-

hicles, the cold outside can be tolerated.

It's always uplifting when ministers come from a distance and stand and proclaim the same truths as we are used to hearing by our home ministers, whether they be words that bring conviction, admonishment, direction or encouragement. Surely we can feel that the Holy Spirit is directing the same messages to God's people across the land. Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Paul Messner and Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN).

Douglas John arrived February 17 and will bless the home of Jill Schupbach. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach.

Now before closing, I would like to share this little message from Leaves of Gold:

Humility

The tree falls with any gust of wind when the root is near the surface; the house which has a shallow foundation is soon shaken. High and wide as the noblest trees spread, so deep and wide their roots are sunk below; the more majestic and noble a pile of building, the deeper its foundation; their height is but an earnest of their lowliness; you see their height, their lowliness is hidden; the use of sinking thus deep is not plain to sight, yet were they not thus lowly, they could not be thus lofty. Dig deep, then, the foundation of humility; so only mayest thou hope to reach the height of charity; for by humility alone canst thou reach that Rock which shall not be shaken, that is, Christ.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Once again we have been blessed with many visitors and visiting ministers which included: Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). We want to thank those who came to worship with us and extend an invitation for all to come to visit us.

We recently held our annual business meeting. We want to thank those who have served in the various positions and ask that God bless you for your efforts. We want to pray for those who were voted into these positions. May we all work together in peace and unity, and do the will of our Heavenly Father.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We want to extend our thanks to all of our visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA). It was a very special month for us all as we welcomed our new Sis. Jeanette Moser into our church family. We hope that many more can experience the joy that was so evident as she was able to testify of her faith in God and thankfulness for her salvation. May we remain diligent in prayer for those who are still "outside the gate".

*I Dreamed I Searched
Heaven For You*

I dreamed I had gone to that city,
That city where never comes night,
And I saw the bright angels in
glory,
I saw the fair mansions of light;
I gazed for long, long years of
rapture,
On the face of my Saviour so true,
And I sang with the seraphim
holy,—

Then I dreamed I searched heaven
for you.

I looked on both sides of the river,
That flows thro' the city of God,
I searched thro' bright mansions
celestial,
And streets of gold pavement I
trod;
The faces of saints by the million,
I scanned in my yearning to see,
That face I had cherished so
fondly,—
The face that had grown dear to
me.

I asked of ten thousand angels,
Have you seen this belov'd one,
pray tell,
Have you met in the bright courts
of heaven,
That one whom on earth we loved
well?
They shook their heads sadly and
told me,
That they had not seen you, and
then,
I knew that somewhere in the
darkness,
You wandered, lost, lost in sin.

I dreamed I searched heaven for
you,
Searched vainly thro' heaven for
you;
Friend, won't you prepare to meet
me up there?
Lest we should search heaven for
you.

Heavenly Highway Hymns #158

We also welcome a new little one
to our congregation. Garrett Jef-
ferson was born January 30 to
Doug and Karla Grimsman and
big brother, Nickolas. We're all
looking forward to getting to know
this newest bundle from Heaven.

Dear Lord,
Help this little baby
be Thy child in every way.
Start these little feet on paths

that lead to Thee each day.
Be near him in the daytime hours,
protect him in the night,
And bless his loving family, Lord—
Guide them by Thy Light.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

Humility in its truest form was
shown to us as we witnessed the
testimonies of our beloved con-
verts on February 10. The joy and
the peace that they have found
from submitting their hearts by
being humble and obedient to His
will is truly an inspiration for us.
We welcome into the fold Bro. Jon
and Sis. Tricia Blomgren, Sis. Tina
Knobloch, Sis. Lisa Wulf and Sis.
Tami Bajema. May they strive to
stay close to God and serve Him
faithfully. We appreciated the
visit that weekend of Elder Bro.
Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who
assisted our Elders with the prov-
ings. Other visiting ministers
among us were: Bros. Roger Aber-
le (Sabetha, KS), Pat Zaugg
(West Bend, IA), Doug Grimm (Sa-
betha, KS), Jon Schmidgall
(Oakville, IA), Jim Knobloch and
Paul Messner (both of Winthrop,
MN).

While the bitterly cold weather
surrounded us, we were warmed
as we gathered to listen to the
Memorandum on February 3. We
want to thank Elder Bro. Ken
Sauder and his wife, Sis. Suzanne
(Mansfield, OH), for traveling the
many miles to be with us for this
occasion.

A precious baby boy has been
born to Dan and Amy Leuthold on
January 24. He has been named
Mitchell Lee and he is their first-
born. He is welcomed by grand-
parents, Jim and Betty Leuthold,
and great-grandparents, Bro. Art
and Sis. Emily Leuthold.

The betrothal of Sis. Violet

Knobloch to Bro. Ray Luthi (La-
mar, MO) was made known to us
on January 28. We celebrate in
this occasion as they begin to plan
their lives together.

We wish to extend a note of sym-
pathy to Bro. Andy Mogler and his
family on the death of Bro. August
Mogler, his brother, in Eureka, IL.

Our known hospital patients
this month have been: Sis. Eliza-
beth Nester and Jeff Moser (Bro.
Donn and Sis. Joyce). Bro. Bill
Wulf, Bro. Elmer Metzger, Bro.
Art Knobloch and Sis. Martha M.
Feucht (Gus) have submitted to
surgery and are now in their
homes making good recoveries.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

May the Lord be near the minis-
ters and their families who have
visited our congregation this past
month. They include Bros. Jim
Vierling (Eureka, IL), Garry
Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), and Ver-
non Wettstein (Congerville, IL).
We thank each of them for being
willing to share the Word with us.

January 28 was the wedding day
of Bro. Brent Eberhardt (Bro. Jodi
and Sis. Ruby) and Sis. Karen Ste-
iner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn).
Our thoughts and prayers are with
them as they begin their married
life walking together with the
Lord.

A precious little bundle has once
again arrived in the hearts and
home of Rob and Sis. Chris Tapp.
They warmly welcome their third
little daughter, Jenna Lanae. Also
excited about a new little sister to
love are her big sisters, Bethany
and Danielle. Helping with loving
and caring are her grandparents,
Bro. Ed and Sis. Patti Stoller and
Dave and Phyllis Tapp, as well as
her great-grandparents, Sis. Ione

Stoller (the late Bro. Earl) and Jim and Mabel Kelly. May the Lord richly bless all of them as they strive to raise the little ones He has entrusted to their care.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Myron Schulz, Sr. May the Lord be near his wife (Opal) in her lonely hours and comfort and strengthen his children: Bro. Myron Schulz, Jr. (Sis. Dorothy), Donald Schulz (Evelyn), Velma Scheitlin (Rol-lan), and Thelma Siegle (Richard), in the loss of their father and their children's grandfather. Even though Myron was not well for many years, we know there is still a great void there.

Out on the highways and byways
of life,
Many are weary and sad;
Carry the sunshine where
darkness is rife,
Making the sorrowing glad.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and
His love,
Tell of His pow'r to forgive;
Others will trust Him if only you
prove
True, every moment you live.

Give as 'twas given to you in your
need,
Love as the Master loved you;
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,
Unto your mission be true.

Make me a blessing, make me a
blessing,
Out of my life may Jesus shine,
Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I
pray,
Make me a blessing to some one
today.
Tabernacle Hymns #8

IOWA, PULASKI
Carol Wettstein

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

Luke 15:7

On February 17 and 18, Robin Esslinger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy) and Lana Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn) gave their testimonies and were added to the fold. We truly appreciated the labors of our Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO). Also with us was Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN). May God bless these dear brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

We are so thankful that even in our small congregation, souls are still answering God's call. May we as believers always be an example so that many more may follow.

There is so much in the world that is pretty and lovely but we often fail to see very much of it. We are like the man who could not see the trees because of the forest. How refreshing to look forward to spring, and hopefully we can take the time to watch the beauty of the little flowers and buds spring forth.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

It was a welcome surprise to come to church and see Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We want to thank him and his wife for coming and may he feel God's blessings for sharing His Holy Word with us.

At Home, 'tis well! There shall the
pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief and strife;
In heav'n, when the hard race of
earthly life,
Is run, the long-borne load no
more he'll carry.
Zion's Harp #170

Our heartfelt love and sympathy is extended to the family of Louisa Anliker, 91, who passed away February 11. We are thankful to God that Louisa found grace to turn to the Lord in her last years and could feel she was ready to go Home. She always enjoyed the visits and prayers while she was residing in the West Bend Care Center. Louisa will be missed by her children, Sidney and Bonnie Anliker, Melva (Sis.) and Jim Bargman, and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker, all of Rodman, IA; ten grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren; one sister, Sis. Lena Grimm; sisters-in-law in our area, Agnes Anliker and Margaret Anliker. She was preceded in death by her husband, Reuben; infant son, Reuben, Jr., and son, Melvin (a twin to Melva). May God bless Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) who was with us and offered the graveside prayer. The family wishes to thank all who remembered them with prayers and kind words and deeds.

Our sympathy also goes out to others who have lost loved ones:

The family of Mary Metzger (Emil). She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Marie Metzger, Sis. Darlene Metzger, Alice Marie Metzger (Bernard), Rosie Metzger (Wilmer), Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger, and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger

Sis. Tillie Mogler, who mourns the loss of a grandson, Craig M. Mogler, 37, of Cedar Falls, in a car accident. He was the son of Marvin and Beverly Mogler of Fort Dodge.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman, who lost a loved one when Bro. Larry's mother, Bertha (Bertie) Wickman Elbert, of Rodman passed away.

Bro. Nathan Mogler, whose

brother, Bro. August Mogler (Eureka, IL), passed away and to sister-in-law, Sis. Elma Mogler (Ervin).

Louis Schafer, whose sister, Elfrieda Sengbusch, passed away at the Humboldt Care Center North, where she was residing.

May our Heavenly Father comfort the hearts of all who have had to say goodbye to loved ones.

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

Hymns of Zion #135

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

Luke 13:5

We are so thankful that God is still calling and that young, tender souls are heeding that call. Those who have been announced for peace and are awaiting baptism are Molly Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori), Christy Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol), Tony Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley), Amber Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen), and Amy Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Joan).

It seems that we have had our share of hospital patients this month, but are so thankful to God that He has touched all with His Almighty healing hand. Our loved ones have been Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick), Sis. Deb Bruellman (Bro. Mark), John Bruellman (Cindy), Bro. Verner Wirtz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Lawrence Schneider (Sis. Ella), and Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori).

Our congratulations and best wishes to Yvonne Fehr and Curtis Hartig, both of Jacksonville, NC on their engagement. We pray

God's blessings on them as they plan for an April wedding. Parents of the couple are Alfred and Annette Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hartig.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Lance and Christy Banwart, Cedar Falls, on the birth of their first child, a baby girl, Lexi Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart, and Doug and Ruby Thompson and Mary Vandewalle.

Our prayerful thoughts are with our dear Elders as they are in conference at this time in Francesville, IN. May our Heavenly Father grant them much grace, Godly wisdom, and courage as they labor in the interest of our spiritual well-being.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo. We are situated in what is known as the Kanto plain, a small part of this island where one in every six Japanese live, and are enclosed to the west and north by high mountains which protect us from wintery conditions coming from the Sea of Japan. As a result, it is sunny almost every day in the winter. This week, however, we had two days of snow, and so normal church services were canceled for today, February 18.

February 12 was our annual Brotherhood Conference which included the reading of last year's Memorandum. We were exhorted to be more dedicated to church and to make it the most important priority in our lives. For many in this land, work or family is the most important priority, and as a result, church attendance can suffer.

Today we heard of the passing away of Takano Natori, the mother of Sis. Hiroko Natori of

Shioda church, and an aunt to our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue. Our prayers are with them in this time of grieving.

This month we renovated the room to the left of our pulpit in the sanctuary. Also in the plans for the next few months are the building of a new kitchen/baby room in the back of the church, and shower facilities for guests that stay overnight at church. For any of you who plan to travel to the Far East, you are always welcome to worship with us, and we do have room for accommodations, if necessary.

This July we are planning another summer camp for the Sunday School children of Tokyo and Shioda churches, and it's tentatively scheduled for July 29-31. If there is any brother or sister who would like to do a little traveling on their summer break, you are welcome to come here for a couple of weeks this summer to help out with the camp, and also to fellowship with us, and see this land. Accommodations will be provided. Please contact Bro. Andrew Klaus at 01181-45-852-8828 or write to him at 550-2 Harajuku-cho, Tot-suka-ku, Yokohama, 245, Japan.

KANSAS, BERN

Holly Meyer Lori Baumgartner

"...Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

Nehemiah 9:5

On a recent Wednesday evening, we were humbly reminded to stand up for Jesus-even when it means that we might have to stand out in a crowd. God has called us to be a separate people. Are we

obeying His call?

We are happy to report two marriage engagements in our congregation. On January 21, Sis. Holly Menold's engagement to Bro. Mike Steidinger was made known. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). On January 28, the engagement of Sis. Loretta Edelman (Sis. Marge, Sabetha) and Bro. Steve Buser (Bob and Ellen, Sabetha) was announced. We pray that God will bless these two couples as they plan their spring weddings, but even more so, as they make a lifetime commitment to each other.

We rejoice with Bro. Paul and Sis. Katie Grimm as they have been blessed with another grandchild. Ellie Ruth was born to Ross and Martha Montgomery of Sabetha, KS on January 20. She has a big sister, Emma, to love and care for her.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola) and Harlan Wittmer (Alice), as they have both spent time in the hospital.

We do appreciate the messages brought forth and efforts of our visiting ministers, Bros. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and welcome them back at any time!

As winter draws to a close, how wonderful it is to look forward to the return of spring as this hymn indicates:

He sends His word, and melts the snow;
The fields no longer mourn;
He calls the warmer gales to blow,
And bids the Spring return.

Hymns of Zion #283

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Tammy Sinn

We are thankful for each one

who finds opportunity to worship with us. This past month we have enjoyed the presence of ministering Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) in our assembly. We wish to thank these brothers for willingly bringing forth the truth and pray that God will bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

God, my life's Creator,
Grant me grace and favor
Not to live in vain.
Lord, Thy love so holy,
And Thy Spirit lowly
In my heart shall reign.
Thy likeness
Let me possess;
With Thy care and Thy direction,
Bring it to perfection!

Zion's Harp #167

The beautiful words of this hymn give us pause when we think, "Why am I on this earth? What are my goals in life? Where am I directing my children as they are growing up? Are my aims for my children and myself focused on Jesus or on the world? Are we living in vain, or are we, with a true heart, striving to give Jesus the best that we can give even though the path is not easy and sometimes we get discouraged?" Each of us has to look into our own hearts and answer these questions for ourselves, but it is our fervent prayer that God will grant us the grace to daily strive to possess His likeness that one day, in His own

time, He may bring our feeble efforts to perfection.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. John Lehman and his dear wife, Sis. Connie (Bern, KS), in our midst one weekend this past month. Bro. John lent himself to bring us precious teachings from God's Word, helped oversee our annual meeting, and gave us insight into many different ways our precious Faith is being doers and not just hearers of the Word of God. As we start a new year in the work of the Lord, let's remember that we may be only one, but we are one; we may not be able to do everything, but we can do something. And if that something is for the Lord, may we do it with our whole heart, not grudgingly, but cheerfully, not as menpleasers, but only to please the One who gave us His most precious Gift-His Son's life!

We have enjoyed several other very happy occasions this past month. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alice Tanner celebrated 70 years of marriage in the Lord; Sis. Rachel Kraft celebrated her 94th birthday; and Brandon and Marianna Farney celebrated the birth of their first daughter, Shania Tristen. Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay Farney are paternal grandparents and Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney are paternal great-grandparents.

Bro. John Hoffman was a hospital patient this month as was Sis. Kathryn Miller. We have also had several loved ones who have been gone due to flu and other illnesses. We are thankful that most are again able to be in our midst, and pray that God will bless all with His gentle hand of healing.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:"

Deut. 6:6

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in sharing the Holy Scriptures with us. This is an opportune time for us as brethren to be reminded how desperately people around us are in need of a Saviour. We must not delay in sharing our precious gift of salvation with them and also offering to bind their bleeding, wounded hearts.

A new baby boy, Kadin Bryce, was blessed into the home of Rick and Mary Anliker. Kadin is welcomed home by a big sister, Crystal, and a big brother, Bryden. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft. What a joyful blessing from our God. Let us be thankful!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to our dear Sis. Bertha Beyer in the loss of her sister, Mildred (Pat) Rogers. We ask for God's comfort and strength on their entire family in this loss of their loved one.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, letters, food, phone calls, and especially prayers while Floyd was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary Isch

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

A new addition is welcomed by our congregation and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm. Whitney Ann was born on January 19. En-

joying the new arrival are Sis. Wanda, Wayne, Kent, Kara, Lana, Lafe, Lyle and Kendal. Grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm and Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger (Lester, IA).

Our annual business meeting was held the end of January. We appreciate all the efforts put forth for the physical care of the church. May God guide those given duties so His will can be done. We are rejoicing and very thankful for two new converts. Oliver and Marie Weiss have heeded the call to repent. They moved to the West Village Apartments last year from Elgin, IL.

Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise) had heart surgery while spending the winter in Florida. We send our thoughts and prayers to you for a speedy recovery and look forward to having you back with us soon.

Sis. Lena Steiner passed away at the Home on February 8. Sincere sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Matilda Steiner, Sis. Priscilla Anliker (Francesville, IN) and Sis. Martha Bittner (Peoria, IL). What a comfort to know that we can meet our loved ones again in Heaven. "When a Christian dies, precious is the prize." (Hymns of Zion, #248)

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). We are always appreciative of their visits.

Our Elder brothers are gathering for their mid-winter Conference this week. As they meet to discuss and consider many weighty matters, may our prayers be that God will bestow guidance and heavenly wisdom in their seeking to preserve our precious faith.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank all who shared their love through prayers, cards, food, flowers and support at the time of our loved one's illness and death. God bless you all.

The family of Sis. Lena Steiner

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

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We had the blessed privilege to partake in Holy Communion the first weekend in February. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Sis. Joan made the long trip from Oakville, IA on this record setting cold weekend to minister to us so we could bask in the warmth of Jesus' love. May we always realize the sacrifice our Elders and their families make on our behalf.

Joe Gallatin's physical strength is ebbing as of this writing. We lift up him and Sis. Kathleen and their daughters, Laurie and Sis. Sara, in prayer as they share this phase of life.

The youth group has been meeting on Wednesday nights under the direction of Sis. Sally Funk while the rest of us meet for Bible study. Sis. Sally has worked with the young people to develop a repertoire of songs. They sang these songs to us at our February church dinner which they served to parents and grandparents. Their soft voices blended in beautiful harmony as they sang to us of the Saviour's love. It was especially rewarding to hear them sing "Come Unto Me" from the Hymns of Zion. With God, all things are possible, even for a small nucleus of ten voices!

I read an article in the January 22 edition of our area newspaper, the Wichita Eagle, which I feel directed to share a part of in this

writing. The article, titled "Wanted: highly skilled workers", spoke of the upswing in the aviation industry which has increased the demand for skilled laborers in the Wichita area. The demand ranges from highly skilled technical jobs to production workers.

One of the solutions to the decreasing labor pool is to recruit from outside the state and another is job training. The average pay for manufacturing jobs in the Wichita area is \$36,522 while the average wage in large aircraft plants is \$42,448.

Our deacon, Bro. Max Reimschisel, and I feel this is an opportunity for anyone who may be facing bleak employment prospects in his present location. It would also be an opportunity for us to share our church fellowship with any who may be led to the area. While we are a small church, we love the Lord and would therefore extend that love to you.

(At this time, it appears that there may also be opportunities in the field of public education.)

You may contact Bro. Max at the following address: 15257 SW Queen Ann's Rd., Rose Hill, KS 67133.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

Greetings from the Bluegrass State. We have enjoyed many visitors this past month and want to say thank you to all who have stopped to visit.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), who with his wife, Sis. Karol, came to share some time in Kentucky. We enjoyed an evening of singing with them and some local brethren on Saturday evening.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Michelle Oesch

Melanie Kaeb

Greetings in the name of our Lord! As we tried to catch up with the events of the past four months, we had to take a couple of minutes and reflect on the many blessings which the Lord has showered on us and the times He has protected us from harm as we traveled along this earthly road.

We have been blessed with three babies. Emmalee Euzefa Mae was born to Gary and Laurie Blough and big brother, Noah, on November 1. Grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough.

On November 7, Silas Lee joined Bro. Marvin and Sis. Elizabeth Blough and Chris, Ernie, Cynthia, and Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough. In January, Sarah Kay was born to Jeff and Brenda Oesch. She was welcomed by big sister and brother, Veronica and A.J. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch. David Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta) and Tanya Carlson have announced their engagement. They plan to be married in September.

Surgeries since January 1 included Sis. Michele Blough (Bro. Martin), Bro. Lyman Feldman (Sis. Vivian), and Sis. Darleen Goodwin (Rick). Bro. Dave Wingeier (Sis. Bertha) has undergone heart surgery in Florida. Hospital visits were Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite) and Sis. Denise Oesch (Penny).

Sis. Delia Schrenk is spending the winter in Texas. Sis. Helen Steffen is spending the cold months in Arizona. Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha are wintering in Florida.

We held our annual business meeting on January 20, 1996. Sis.

Carol Meyer (Bro. Vernon) is head cook, and Sisters Donna Oesch (Bro. Fred) and Christine Wingeier were elected to the committee. Sisters Michelle Oesch and Melanie Kaeb are now the Silver Lining correspondents.

On February 10, the teens and young adults served supper to the homeless at the Mel Trotter Mission in Grand Rapids. They plan to work for the Mission again in April as a building was recently purchased and needs to be renovated.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

Our Lord has blessed us once again with three souls being brought into our small flock and we thank Him: Sis. Kayleen Ramseyer (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon), Sis. Sara Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana), and Bro. Bob Grew (grandson of Delor and Sis. Inez Grew). With us for this very happy occasion was Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL). We were so blessed with the words of our Lord.

We have many with us who have been ill: Bro. Elias Schlatter, Sis. Betty Schlatter, Sis. Martha Rezmer, Bro. Allan Wackerle, Bro. Winsor Mosher with a bleeding ulcer, Bro. Wallace Wackerle with broken ribs, Bro. Merle Wieland had hip surgery, and Ileen Wackerle with a broken hip. We pray for our Lord's healing hand on all who are ill in body, soul, or mind. Also having open heart surgery was Bro. Floyd Knochel. All are doing some better.

The Penitent's Conflict

Forward struggle e'er contending,
Till the light from God

descending,
 Shall envelope thee, dear soul!
 Throughout all the deepest
 darkness
 Jesus guides thee, and He
 hearkens
 Thee with courage to console.

By thy hand thou shalt be taken;
 Though you feel of Him forsaken.
 Do not doubt, but God believe!
 Strive and labor without ceasing
 Till His grace, from sin releasing,
 Send thee power and relief.

Soon His countenance will glisten;
 Watch and pray and forward
 hasten!
 God will ne'er regret His choice.
 Let with zeal thy faith be fired,
 God is but with love inspired;
 Fear not, soon thou shalt rejoice!

From the world now turn thy
 vision;
 "Forward go" be thy decision,
 To God and eternity.
 Eye and heart and all affection
 Turn in Jesus Christ's direction;
 Heavenly joy He sendeth thee.

Oft He's saved thee from
 destruction,
 From the wild waves of affliction
 With His strong and mighty hand.
 If our love is pure and fervent,
 There is not a single servant
 Whom He will not refuge grant.

Locked within thy chamber's
 stillness
 Pour into His heart the fulness
 Of thy sorrow and thy grief.
 Though thou canst not feel His
 nearness,
 Canst not pray nor speak with
 clearness,
 Groans and sighs will bring relief.

Though in silence, God will hear
 thee,
 As a Saviour will be near thee;
 Have no doubt; He hears you
 pray!

Just believe Christ intercedeth;
 Just believe that all He pleadeth
 God will grant without delay!
Zion's Harp #39

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Holly Barton - Lynette Moser

"Peace I leave with you, my
 peace I give unto you: not as the
 world giveth, give I unto you. Let
 not your heart be troubled, neither
 let it be afraid."

John 14:27

These words serve as a great
 comfort to us as we hear of earthly
 conflict taking place all over the
 world. It is natural for us to grow
 uneasy as we hear of wars in East-
 ern Europe, Africa, the Middle
 East, and South America. We be-
 come apprehensive as we see what
 we perceive could be signs of the
 end times coming into fulfillment.
 However, God calls us not to fear
 and discouragement, but to peace
 in His sovereignty and joy in His
 love. So may we go into the world
 spreading the hope of peace and
 eternal life instead of the fear and
 troubled countenance that Christ
 came to dispel.

"That ye may be blameless and
 harmless, the sons of God, without
 rebuke, in the midst of a crooked
 and perverse nation, among whom
 ye shine as lights in the
 world;...For the same cause also do
 ye joy, and rejoice with me."

Philippians 2:15,18

In our journey of joy through
 life, we have reasons to be thank-
 ful this month as we welcome
 Caleb Benjamin Ramseyer into the
 world. He is welcomed by his sis-
 ter, Carrie, and parents, Bro. Mark
 and Sis. Kelly.

We are also thankful for the ma-

terial gifts God has given and our
 opportunity to share them, as Bro.
 Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) again
 journeyed to Jamaica with World
 Relief.

We are blessed with the fellow-
 ship of young people from other
 churches as they were invited for
 a weekend by the Detroit Young
 Group.

As we pray to God with thankful
 hearts, we also beseech His grace
 and healing on those in our congre-
 gation who have been ill and in the
 hospital. Hospitalized this month
 for surgeries were Bro. Mark Bahr
 (Sis. Bev) and Sis. Arlene Belsley.
 They are both having a good recov-
 ery. Our prayers are with Bro.
 George Popp, Sis. Perseda
 Wieland (Bro. Floyd), and Sis.
 Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben) as they
 deal with pain and illness. May
 God grant all that are struggling
 with ill health strength in our hu-
 man weakness.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Perry Virkler

"How then shall they call on him
 in whom they have not believed?
 and how shall they believe in him
 of whom they have not heard? and
 how shall they hear without a
 preacher? And how shall they
 preach, except they be sent? as it
 is written, How beautiful are the
 feet of them that preach the gospel
 of peace, and bring glad tidings of
 good things!"

Romans 10:14-15

May the Lord richly bless the
 brothers who lend themselves in
 preaching God's precious Word.
 Our visiting ministers this past
 month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger
 (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Leroy
 Messner (Winthrop, MN).

On February 3, we held our an-

nual business meeting. Newly elected to offices were: Bro. Doug Messner (Trustee), Bro. Rudy Haerr and Bro. Duane Rocke (Ushers), Sis. Melody Knobloch (World Relief Activity Group), Sis. Kelly Schmidt, Sis. Bonnie Rocke, and Sis. Mary Mogler (Food Serving Committee). We thank the brothers and sisters who worked so selflessly in the offices in the past and our prayers are with those who are now beginning a new term.

Sis. Laura Miller (Bro. Noah) became ill and was hospitalized several days. We pray that God will continue to strengthen her.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. LaRae Dill (Bro. Dewayne) on the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Della Meiss (Bro. Eli), of Fairbury, IL.

"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

1 Timothy 6:8

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

Philippians 4:11-12

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5

Be Satisfied

Be satisfied with what you have,
Thank God for what is yours,
The Lord walks close beside you,
As long as time endures.
The bitter disappointments,

He will gently brush away,
His loving arms will hold you close,
Forever and a day.

You need not ever worry
That He will not understand,
Or that He'll push you from Him,
With a cold and careless hand.
For He knows our deepest
longings,
And the tears we try to hide,
And His love is deep and lasting
And His arms are open wide.

Be satisfied though you may walk
The narrow way alone,
God's love for you does far surpass
All human love you've known.
You must believe that you are very
Special in His sight
And trust He will not ever let
You stray from what is right.

In spite of all you may desire,
The dear Lord knows what's best
And through our weakest
moments,

He helps us pass the test.

"To err is only human,
But to forgive, divine..."

And in God's heart, forgiveness,
...Is exactly what we find.

Grace E. Easley

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Maxine Sauder

Linda Schmidgall

"Hear instruction, and be wise,
and refuse it not."

Proverbs 8:33

"...and they are written for our
admonition,..."

1 Corinthians 10:11

We appreciate the loving instructions and admonitions given us as Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Nohl in sharing the Memorandum and ministering God's Word

to us. May the Lord bless Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla for their efforts on our behalf.

Also visiting us this past month was Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL). We appreciate the willingness to share God's Word with us. Believing God has directed their hearts, Bro. Kevin Koehl and Sis. Julie Messner's engagement was announced on January 21. Parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner, both from our congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they follow His will in their lives.

Also, Rita Schmidgall and Eric Eisenmann have announced their wedding engagement. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Bro. John and Sis. Beverly Eisenmann (Forrest, IL). May God direct their hearts as they prepare for their life together.

God has blessed our congregation once again with three new babies. On January 19, Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Knobloch welcomed their new little daughter, Kelsey Marie. She is welcomed home by Jeffrey, Alyssa, Kevin, and grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall and Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL).

On February 11, Byron and Julie Koehl became the parents of their second son. He was named Patrick Allen. Welcoming home his baby brother is Brady, and grandparents, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Jerry and Audrey Cline.

Bro. Verle and Sis. Christa Sauder are also happy for a baby boy. Jordan Keith was born February 14. His happy siblings are Heidi, Heather, Harmony, Jesse, and Jerry. Thankful grandparents are Virgil and Mildred Sauder and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber

(Fairbury, IL).

Submitting to surgery this past month were Bro. Gottlieb Joos and ReKeeta Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane). May God grant them a speedy recovery.

REMINDER: Silver Lining dues will be collected in March. Please pay Sis. Linda (Jerel) Schmidgall.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

"Our Father knows what's best
for us,
So why should we complain
We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain.
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their
tenderness
If we never shed a tear.
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet TOMORROW.
For growing trees are
strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form.
God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain.
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for
murmuring
And no time to lament.
For our Father loves His children,
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us
PLEASURES
When the SOUL'S DEEP NEED
IS PAIN.
So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us

To make OUR SPIRIT STRONG."

Helen Steiner Rice

We pray that we can all strive to be more Christ-like which will make our Spirit strong. We cannot do this unless we truly give up self.

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:5-7

A bundle of joy was delivered on January 31 to Darrin and Jan Schmidt. Luke Richard brings much happiness to his sister, Brit-tany, and grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt and Bert Peterson. We trust God's wisdom will be imparted that all parents who are recipients of a bundle from Heaven will raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Don Miller and his wife, Sis. Bernadine (Minneapolis, MN), for sharing the Word with us this past month.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who thought of us in our time of sorrow as a result of our dear loved one's death. Our hearts still hurt so from losing our Husband, Dad, Son, and Brother, but the prayers, calls, and acts of kindness helped us so much. Words fail so short on expressing our thankfulness. May God richly bless each and every one for your acts of love.

God bless.

The Joe Messner Family

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

Robert Christian was born on December 1 to MJ and Angel Geran. He is welcomed by his brothers, Shay and Brian. Happy grandparents are Mike and Carolyn Geran.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS). Thank you for sharing God's precious Word with us.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Martha Kellenberger

We are rejoicing with our Bro. Ray Luthi and Sis. Violet Knoblock (Lester, IA) as their engagement was made known to us on January 28. May God direct them as they make plans for their life together.

This month we enjoyed a visit from Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and his family. It is our prayer that God will bless him for his willing service on our behalf.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Thadd Walter

Greetings to all in the name of our God and Father and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our congregation has been blessed with many brothers and sisters in faith who have been passing through our city. As we worship together and feel the bond of brotherhood with people we have known before or people we have just met, it fills us with a deep appreciation for God's goodness.

Last month we were privileged

to have Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) come and share the Word with us. We are thankful that God saw fit to grant them words of edification that we, as hearers, could benefit from them.

In springtime God has granted us a season full of new life. We are granted the opportunity to see God's creation renew itself, and it is humbling to see God's power. In Ephesians 2:10, Paul writes that we are God's workmanship, "created in Christ Jesus unto good works...". We have a great responsibility as part of God's creation to walk in His goodness in all humility. There are those in the world who would forget this responsibility and become proud in themselves and what they have created, but we know that God is the Father of all, through all, and in us all (Ephesians 4:6). We should try to serve God in humility and meekness for we know that, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6). The question we should ask ourselves is, "Where would we be without God's grace?"

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Rusty and Amy Adrian

As springtime quickly approaches, what a joy it is as we can think about the new life that comes forth-especially of the new life we all can have through serving Jesus Christ.

February 4 was a special day for our Sunday School as they got together for a pizza supper and participated in making health kits, pre-natal kits and school kits for World Relief followed by an all-church singing. Each one was truly blessed in knowing that what they were doing was helping some-

one less fortunate.

We rejoice in hearing of the engagement of Sis. Lisa Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine) to Bro. Todd Bryant (Peoria, IL). Our prayers are with them as they seek the Lord's guidance in preparation for becoming one through marriage.

On February 11 our Bible Class traveled to Tremont, IL for ACYF. We thank our precious Lord for His traveling mercies as they could return home safely.

Special thanks goes to visiting minister, Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), for stopping on a Wednesday evening and sharing God's Word with us. May God's blessings be upon him for his efforts.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Charlene Sutter as her brother, Floyd Winfield (Liberty, IL), passed away; also to Sis. Loida Hodel's family as her sister, Sis. Caroline Fehr (Fairbury, IL), passed away; and to the family of Sis. Clara Yackley for the passing away of her brother, Bro. Gotthold Tanner (Morton, IL). May each family be strengthened at this time in their life through the prayers of the church and the grace we receive through looking to Jesus Christ for help.

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

"...follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

These words spoken by the Apostle Paul to Timothy in I Timothy 6, verse 11, are good advice for us in 1996. If we follow God's Word and strive to attain true meekness and humility, it will be the pathway that will help

us attain eternal life. Also, Hymn No. 186 in the Zion's Harp, entitled "Humility", tells us in verse one that humility is one of the greatest virtues each of us can possess in this lifetime.

Meekness is the noblest virtue,
Every Christian's honor bright:
It adorns the youthful member
And the aged with its might.
Though it does not stand in favor
With those of a proud behavior,
Yet 'tis more than precious gold,
More than fame and wealth
untold.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Minnie Taube and Joe (Linette) Bush. Bro. Bernard Martin was an outpatient for surgery. May God be near them in their recoveries.

Sis. Minnie Taube has observed her 100th birthday. Surely as we can visit with her she shows forth the trait of humility as she sits and is unable to get out. She also has a smile for all who enter her home and enjoys visits and singing. Some were able to be with her on a Sunday evening to share in song with her for the observance of her birthday. May God grant her good health in the remaining days He has for her in this life.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie Farney in the passing from this life of his brother, Malcolm. May God comfort them and each member of the family in their time of sorrow.

OHIO, AKRON

Diane Jarrett - Joyce Gasser

Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder were blessed with the birth of a new baby boy, Grant Christian. He has one brother, Evan. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder and Bro. and Sis.

Melvin Walder (Champaign, IL).

Sis. Esther Grossenbacher had an unfortunate fall and got a broken shoulder. Bro. John Graf is home from the hospital. We wish for both of them continued recovery.

Sis. Anna Enyeart passed away. She had been in a nursing home at Girard. Her husband preceded her in death.

We extend our sympathy to Mike and Sis. Diane Jarrett in the loss of Mike's father, Carl Jarrett.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Our telephone area code is being changed from 216 to 330 effective March 9 for most of our congregation.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Our small congregation is very thankful for the love and support extended by our visiting ministers and their families. Recently, Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Rittman, OH), and Bro. Wally and Sis. Helen Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) spent Sundays bringing God's precious Word to us. We appreciate their efforts of love!

We rejoice with Bro. Henry Pfeiffer (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna, Mansfield) and Sis. Diane Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) as the Lord has revealed to them His will that they become husband and wife. Our prayers are with them as they prepare for their March wedding.

Several positions were filled during the annual business meeting. Bro. Larry Banks has been re-elected for the position of Sun-

day School superintendent and has also been elected as trustee for the coming year. Sis. Nancy Banks was elected to fill the position for kitchen committee. We wish to thank those whose terms were recently completed.

Prayers for recovery are with Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) and Sis. Bonny Reimschisel (Bro. Troy) as they are confined to their homes because of illness. We look forward to the day that we can assemble with these dear sisters once again.

Our church is now holding both services on Sundays and we look forward to getting back to a normal schedule as our remodeling progresses.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Gary Whitney (Nora, Armonk, NY), son-in-law of Richard and Eleanor Gerber, died on February 18 following complications of encephalitis which left him dependent on a respirator for seven months. He left behind a young wife and two small children, one of whom he never saw. Many of us can't begin to fathom the trials and heartache that his family has dealt with during his illness. We do know that this is a family of faith, and we lift them up to the Heavenly Father praying that this experience will draw them closer to Him.

Barb Brink (Rob) and Sis. Betty Manz (Bro. Alvin) have spent time in the hospital. Barb is doing well, but Sis. Betty is learning more about patience as she waits for healing. We look forward to seeing her in church.

The Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz family experienced a real lift when they received a phone call in the middle of the night from son,

Tony, expressing his need to repent. As he turns his back to sin and the world, may he feel a new closeness to his family, his church and most important, his Lord and Saviour.

No doubt there will soon be discussions centering around the first robins sighted, geese flying north, greening grass, budding trees, and other signs of spring here in the northwest. After an especially harsh winter, we look forward to the season when the slumbering earth bursts forth with new life and color.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

We have had several reminders of God's mighty hand in our congregation during the past month.

Bro. Roy and Deb Klopfenstein welcomed another son, Matthew Roy, into their family. Brothers, Andrew, Evan and Gary, will enjoy this new addition. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Don and Myrna Hubbard.

Bro. Doug and Annette Nygaard were blessed with another baby boy, Logan Philip. Siblings, Jonathon and Leah, are looking forward to having another playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine Hackenjoos and Philip and Jerry Nygaard.

God also called a soldier of the cross to his eternal rest. Bro. Roy Rager (Sis. June) was laid to rest on Thursday, January 25. May God be ever near Sis. June; their children, Dennis, Susan, and Eric; and Roy's brothers and sisters.

Thankfully, God has provided healing for Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Kenny) and enabled her to return to church. May God continue to grant healing.

Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller

have moved to the Toledo, OH area and will be gathering with the brethren in Toledo. We will miss them in Latty and ask God to richly bless them further on. We gathered on February 4 for a pot-luck supper to wish them well.

Ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) gathered with us. We appreciate his continuance of preaching the truth of God's Word. May God continue to bless his family.

Sis. Louise Laukhuf gathered with her family to observe her 80th birthday. May God bless and keep her in His care each day.

Bro. Clem and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland gathered with family to remember their fifty years of married life. May God be their constant companion.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of Erika Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) on February 10. Thankfully, the Lord stood by her and granted her the needed grace to testify of the Lord's mighty hand in her life. We welcomed her as a sister-in-the-Lord on Sunday. May He continue to direct her on paths of truth and righteousness. Ministering brothers who gathered with us were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Cari Mann

Love at home. Love at home,
Time doth softly, sweetly glide,
When there's love at home.

Hymns of Zion #64

We know that there has been love at home and we hope the times have mostly been sweet as

we rejoice with Bro. Frank and Sis. Peg Graszl who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. May they look back on their years together as blessings and rejoice in the ones yet to come.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

Isaiah 61:1

As our ministers stand before us, we should be so thankful that the Spirit is using them in this way. This past month, we have had visits from Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). We pray the blessings of the Spirit may be upon them as we thank them for their willingness to be used.

"I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly."

Psalms 85:8

We are rejoicing as Jessica Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) has heard the Lord whisper sweet peace to her. We pray that she will continue to draw closer to Him as she now awaits baptism.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

On Sunday, February 11, we heard of the engagement of Bro.

Henry Pfeiffer (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna) to Sis. Diane Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky, Columbus, OH). As they make plans to begin their life together, may they always look to God first for His guidance.

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord.

Hymns of Zion #7

We wish to extend our greetings to Bro. Dave and Sis. Edna Eyerly and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Vi Popp who are now assembling with us. As they join our congregation, may they ever feel at home with us.

As I was searching for verses on humility, I came across the one in James:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

James 4:10

This has always been my understanding of humility, that a person does not exalt himself or try to draw attention to himself. May each of us strive to remember to go against the thinking of the world, which is "toot your own horn." But let us remember this verse in James that promises that God will lift up the humble. What more could we need?

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Linda Schar

We recently had the opportunity to hear the Memorandum read to us. Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) with this important work.

Laura Lee Riley and Charles

Winkler (Pat) have turned their backs on the world and turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish them much grace.

Nicholas Jeffrey was born on January 28 to first-time parents, Jeff and Darlene Lanz. First-time grandparents on both sides are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Jim and May Reminder (Solon, OH).

Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman, along with Brooke and Brandon, welcomed Brice Austin on February 4. Brice's grandparents are Marion and Sis. Delores Bauman and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder (Akron, OH).

Trudie, Tyson, Tobin, Trenton, and Trevin received a new little sister when Trinda Kay was born on February 5. Trinda's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler. Grandparents are Bro. Joseph and Sis. Marian Hartzler and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller (Latty, OH).

Bro. Robert and Sis. Lorie Riegenbach brought home a precious little boy, Jeriah Robert, to join his brothers and sisters, Joshua, Crystal, Cymbal, Charity, and Jacob. Jeriah was born on February 14. Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riegenbach and Boyd and Barbara Acker also eagerly awaited their new grandson.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized recently, including Sis. Pauline Hartzler (Bro. Ernest), Derek Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan), and Nicholas Lanz (Jeff and Darlene). May they feel God's healing hand.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Bertha Kiser (Bro. Henry) in the passing of her sister. May God grant His comfort and strength.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Relatives and Friends:

Thank you all so much for the beautiful cards you sent me to help celebrate my 100th birthday on February 1. I'm thankful for so many things. Thanks again for remembering me. God bless you.

*Much love, Esther Deislinger
(attended Girard, OH church)*

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

The way in which a church family works together to help one another, individually and as a group, can be beneficial for both the givers and the receivers. Whether the duties fulfilled are appointed, elected, or volunteer, they are essential and appreciated. Positions filled at our annual business meeting were trustee, Bro. Allen Indermuhle, and usher, Bro. Milan Indermuhle.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Margaret Blough

Edith Miller

Meekness is the noblest virtue,
Every Christian's honor bright;
It adorns the youthful member
And the aged with its might.
Though it does not stand in favor
With those of a proud behavior,
Yet 'tis more than precious gold,
More than fame and wealth untold.

Zion's Harp #186

As the theme of this month's issue of the Silver Lining is "humility", the above hymn seems so appropriate. I was impressed with the words of a ministering brother recently: "None of our lives are free from troubles and trials, so we find it necessary to receive grace from God for help in our walks of life. To receive grace, we must continually strive to be more humble; for through humility, we can

receive grace from God." How quickly one can recognize this priceless virtue of humility in another brother or sister!

We appreciate the visit of one of God's humble servants. Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) visited us on a recent Sunday afternoon, and we thank him for bringing forth the Word to us.

May God's healing touch be felt by Bro. Herbert Bauman (Sis. Berniece) and Joan Gasser (Edward) as they both experienced surgery in the past month.

We welcome three new babies to our congregation this month. On January 9, Bud and Lynne Kandel became first-time parents to Joshua Allan. Grandparents are Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery, and Norman and Janice Kandel.

On January 20, Joshua William was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam Zollinger. Big sister, Carla, will be happy for a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger.

On January 25, a new little girl joined the family of Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer. Anita Ruth was also welcomed by her brothers and sisters at home, Katie, Andrew, Peter, Susan, and Claudia, as well as grandparents, Alfred and Margaret Art and Fred and Harriet Fetzer. To all these families we wish God's blessings and much grace from God to raise these precious little ones in the fear of the Lord.

We sympathize with Florence Hanzie as she mourns the loss of her sister, Mae Shaffer. May God's comforting hand be upon her.

We spent a blessed evening together with the Rittman congregation recently as our Elder brothers

read and explained to us the Memorandum from the 1995 Conference. We appreciate our "watchmen on the wall" and pray they will continue to teach us how to strive to be more humble.

So I'll strive to be more humble,
Evermore be meek and kind;
Humbleness shall rule my actions,
Meekness dwell in heart and mind.
In my manner and my being
All my neighbors may be seeing
That it is God's Spirit's might
Leading me in truth and right.

Zion's Harp #186

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

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

Hebrews 13:17

We were blessed by the words from our watchmen as we heard the Memorandum on January 27. We thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) who was here to help Bro. Walter Rager. We also enjoyed a recent visit from Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and appreciated his service on our behalf.

Chad Sancraint (Dave and Sis. Connie) has recently moved to Chicago, IL. We miss seeing him regularly, but hope he will feel at home in the church there.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

"God is greatly to be feared in

the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand."

Psalm 89:7,9,11,13

We were certainly reminded of the strength and power of the Lord here recently as this area experienced some very heavy rains which in turn caused severe flooding in many areas of Oregon and Washington. What power and authority God has over all the earth! We pray for those that have experienced the devastation of flood waters and mud slides that have caused so much destruction. May God direct us all in giving of ourselves to help those in need.

Sam Feucht has been hospitalized this past month. We just pray that if God wills, Sam will recover and be home soon. May he feel the prayers of all of us and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) visited our congregation recently. We thank him for his ministry and service to us. We also thank Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR) for sharing the Word with us. As Bro. Clarence has announced his retirement, we just want to thank him for his many years of service to the Oregon churches. May God be with him and his dear wife in this new stage of his life.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

We greet each of you in Jesus' Holy name. In looking back over the past month, there is so much

for which to be thankful. Once again, God has spared us from devastation, while so many in our area have suffered great loss from the recent flood. Our hearts go out to them and we hope in some small way we can help them.

We are happy to bring to you the news of the birth of Weston Dean Luthi on January 29. He is welcomed into his home by Bro. Bill, Sis. Kris, Aaron, Brooke and Zayne. Bro. Ray Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi are his grandparents.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) minister God's Word to us this month. Elder Bro. Art also spent some time with the single group on Saturday evening. May the Lord reward them for their labors of love on our behalf.

Bill Hari (Sis. Verla) has been hospitalized recently. May we remember in prayer those who suffer afflictions in the flesh.

We rejoice with Nick and Lori Stadel as they have found peace with God through repentance. We look forward to hearing their testimonies.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Hebrews 1:14

The prayers for a new minister for our church have been answered. We wish Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) God's blessings as he assumes his new responsibilities. We thank Elder

Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for being with us during this special time. May God bless them for their efforts.

Ann Waibel is again able to worship with us. It is good to have her back. Ann has found peace with God and man and we look forward to her baptism on March 10, 1996, Lord willing.

With the coming of spring weather, we encourage those in the area to worship with us. Services are held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you are in need of more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Gwen Leuthold

This past month I flew to Toronto, Canada with a stopover in Detroit, MI. As the plane was descending into Detroit, there was a period of time when the plane was totally enveloped in clouds and you could see nothing but white vastness. After five to ten minutes, I was beginning to wonder if and where we were going to land. I sure hoped the pilot could navigate where he was going. I had to think later on that this is sometimes how God leads His children along. We can't see where we are going but know that He as our Pilot is guiding our lives. Each day God unfolds another page of our lives before us. May He grant us the grace to trust Him more and more for each and every step of the way.

On February 4, services were canceled due to weather. On February 18 as well as January 21, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) with

us for services. On January 21, we shared Holy Communion. We thank you, Elder Bro. Lavoyd, for your efforts in being with us and pray God will bless you and your family.

We also welcomed many volunteers during the weekend of February 10 from the Goodfield, IL and Bluffton, IN areas who came to brick the church. The transformation of the building in a few short days was amazing. We thank you, brothers and friends, from the bottom of our hearts for your hard work and labors. May God abundantly bless you and your families.

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 1:3

Come visit us in Nashville! Upcoming services are scheduled for April 14 (Ft. Scott, KS); April 21 (Congerville, IL); May 5 (Akron, OH); and May 19 (Indianapolis, IN). Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615) 384-8761; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940. Spring is just around the corner and presents a wonderful, scenic time to visit Nashville.

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL

Christine Kaiser

Kim Kaiser

Greetings in the Lord. The love and support of our visiting brothers and sisters lifts our spirits. In Dallas, we were blessed to hear Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Ft. Scott, KS). The Austin area heard God's message from Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) at the Dave Brummitt home.

This past month, Communion was held at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) led the service. The Sunday pulpit was shared by these brothers and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). We thank each one of our visitors for their service and kindness. May God's mercy and strength abide in all our lives.

This year services in central Texas will be on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. The services will be held in the homes of four families who attend and support central Texas gatherings. The rotation of central Texas services will be in Round Top, Smithville, Austin, and San Antonio. Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 is the primary contact for the central TX schedule.

Dallas church services are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at the Holiday Inn in DeSoto, TX. Service times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Contact Bro. Howard and Sis. Dolores Rapp (214) 867-4074 or Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser (214) 335-0105 for more information.

Dallas Schedule:

March 17 - Congerville, IL
 April 7 - No Service
 April 21 - Princeville, IL
 May 5 - LaCrosse, IN
 May 19 - Cissna Park, IL

Central Texas Schedule:

March 10 - Fairbury, IL at Martins
 March 24 - Bern, KS at Kaisners
 March 31 - Francesville, IN at Zeltwangers
 April 14 - Champaign, IL at Brummitts
 April 28 - Pulaski, IA at Zeltwangers

May 12 - Smithville, OH at
Martins
May 26 - Holiday - no service

**TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz**

We were reminded of Christ's suffering and death as we had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion on February 4. We thank Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Roy Ehnlé (Bradford, IL), and Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL). We thank them for their visit and sharing the Word of Life with our congregation. We also enjoyed the visit of retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont, KS) and his wife, Sis. Clara.

Most of our winter residents are here and many visitors. The other morning at a fellowship breakfast, twenty-two churches were repre-

sented.

On January 21 we had our annual business meeting. The following people were elected at this meeting: Bro. Paul Leuthold, trustee; Bro. Richard Bricker, usher; Bro. Norman Frank, recorder; and Sis. Melva and Bro. Roland Messner on the Food Committee.

February 5 was our annual cleaning day. We thank our many visitors for their help.

Silver Threads

"Bonding Friendships"

Where can you go and a stranger greet,
With a kiss of love as you both meet?
You've never met this person before
Until now as you walked in the door.
You'd go to his home with great delight
Where you have never been to spend the
night,
Sharing your cares through love, joy and tears
You'd think you've known each other for
years.
These friends are found in many a state
Through prayer and faith, God gives them a
mate.
The bond these friends have is rarely found
Amongst other folks, the world around.
Our church is different, so others say
As they watch us kneel, when we do pray,
Men on one side, ladies the other
Blending single loved ones together.
What's this veil ladies wear on their head?
'Tis a covering as God's Word has said.
Eating noon lunch in fellowship sweet
To young and old it's a special treat.
There's something special here that we see

In loved ones from our church called A.C.
God gave us this bond when we did give
Our lives to Christ and for Him now live.
In church we worship in one accord
Singing praises and hearing God's Word.
We come together from far and near
Blending hearts and hands with friends so
dear,
These special friends on whom we may call
Are really not strangers after all.
Let's keep this bond and not let it stray
From our friends at home or far away.
And as we bid each other adieu,
We'll cherish friendship, some old—some
new.
If we ne're meet again by and by,
We'll meet in Heaven, friends, you and I.

*Written by Virginia Rauch (Grandma
Ginny) of the North Ft. Myers, FL congrega-
tion*

Silver Threads

A Normal Day?

I awoke to another normal day,
 "You are late," my alarm clock seemed to say.
 So I made myself rise from a warm bed.
 Never thinking, "Should the Bible be read?"

To school I was headed; could not be late.
 So for breakfast, toast was all that I ate.
 "Bye Mom," I said and was then on my way.
 But no time was spent that morning to pray.

At school with my friends, I often forgot
 Things my parents tried to teach me a lot.
 Like turning to God and changing my life,
 Not trusting in self and not causing strife.

To repent, I'd been told, had to be done,
 Through the shed blood of our Lord's only Son.
 We must be baptized, also born again,
 But from these thoughts, all my life I had ran.

Giving up my friends and giving up fun,
 I am still too young, this can't be done.
 Now the school day was over, the last bell rang.
 Shouting and screaming, we left with a bang.

As I got off the bus that afternoon,
 I saw Dad's car. Why was he home so soon?
 In the house I yelled, "I'm home, Mom and Dad."
 No one answered, I felt a little sad.

They had left in a rush. The house - a mess.
 I was bewildered, I'd have to confess.
 On the table was lunch, only half ate.
 Spilled milk on the floor, what caused such a state?

The words of my father then came to me.
 I remembered in horror, could this be?
 He talked of the Saviour coming again,
 To take Home His servants, female and men.

This day, I'd been told, could come anytime.
 To Heaven they would go, those who are prime.
 Repent, I was told, and grace you will find.
 Had Jesus Christ come and left me behind?

"Dear Lord!" I was crying, "Come back for me!
 I'll give up the world, a Christian I'll be.
 I should have known what they told me was true
 I'll live for Thee, Lord, I promise to you."

The rapture had come, and many that day,
 Were taken to Heaven, ever to stay.
 The wail of the sinner was heard throughout.
 They had waited too long, without a doubt.

Bro. B. Grant



“A POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS GOOD”

Sermon by Bro. Kenneth Dietz of Bradford, IL

II Samuel 23:1-17 and Matthew 11

I have read to the end of the chapter and truly that last verse is very true. The Lord's yoke is easy and it is light. If we are in the right standing and the right heart and the right mind with our Lord and Saviour, we can go through life, beloved ones, when very difficult things come before us and come upon us. If our heart is right, pure and holy and if we are trying sincerely to serve the Lord in the right mind and the right spirit, even difficult things can become somewhat light and easy.

But on the reverse, isn't it true that if we are not in the right mind and the right spirit, even when little things are asked of us—small and trivial things—maybe what the Lord asks us to do or to bear, if we are not in the right mind and the right spirit, it becomes a mountain to us? It becomes very difficult and we can hardly do it.

So, beloved ones, it is so important that daily we pray to the Lord and say, “Oh, Lord, make my heart, my mind, my attitude right, pure and holy in Thy sight.” Truly, beloved ones, our attitude makes all the difference in the world of how successful we are going to be in life. That holds true to a large degree, even in outward things, but even more in spiritual things.

I am reminded of attitude, and of a little account I heard one time about a man who took a job. He was going to sell shoes. The company that he was with (he was a new man) sent him to a far away place, to the back sticks or the back woods. They sent him out there and said, “Sell shoes.” That man became discouraged very quickly. He got in touch with the company and said, “You've got to get me out of here. I can't sell shoes up here. Nobody wears shoes. How can I sell when nobody wears shoes?”

So the company pulled him out of there and sent another salesman. It wasn't long and he called back and said, “Send me shoes. Send me every color and every size for men, women and children.” Do you know what his reasoning was? He said, “Everybody needs shoes up here.” That was his attitude. This man was successful because his attitude was right. He could sell shoes. He said, “Everybody needs shoes up here.”

So, beloved, isn't it true that it holds true to a large degree in outward things,

but even more so with spiritual things? Our attitude needs to be right, pure and holy and that we have the right mind and the right attitude. We ought to have the attitude of sacrifice and service.

I had to think about our first reading. To me it really goes along with this thought right now about David and his faithful soldiers. We read of the soldiers and the great and heroic things that they were able to perform. Beloved ones, the things that made these soldiers right, great and courageous was because their attitude was right and pure. They did it out of love.

We can see here what a relationship these men and their leader had. David was a good soldier and a good man. Not that he didn't make mistakes...he made some serious ones in his life. We can see here the relationship that these men and their leader had.

David one time made the remark and said, “Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!” (II Samuel 23:15). As they were out in the wilderness, David got to thinking about that water in Bethlehem and how good, cool and refreshing it was. “Oh, just to have a drink of that water,” he remarked.

What was that result? He did not ask the men to do it. They heard him say that. Their love was so great toward their leader that they rose up with great hindrance and danger. It says that three of them rose up and broke through enemy lines and went to the well at Bethlehem.

They got that water and brought it back. Not because they had to, but because they wanted to. That is the key, beloved ones—they wanted to do something for their master and their leader.

Then we can see the attitude of David. He had a thankful attitude! He was moved when they came back and handed him that water. They said, “It is from that well in Bethlehem.” David's heart was moved and he said, “I cannot drink this.” He said, “Be it far from me, O Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it.” (II Samuel 23:17).

These things he did and poured it out upon the ground, not because he disdained what they did, but he was so

moved and so thankful. He said, “I cannot drink this; this is too wonderful,” and he poured it out upon the ground.

Beloved ones, that is the attitude that we need to have one with another, with our God and with our fellow brethren. We want to serve one another, do what we can, and do it because we want to, not because someone is making us or forcing us to serve the Lord. It is because we want to serve the Lord. He has been good, kind, compassionate and gentle with us. We can all say that, can't we?

Friends and brethren alike, we really look at it right. We can say that the Lord has been good and patient with us and compassionate. We want to thank Him for that and serve Him with all of our heart.

Then, on the other hand, beloved ones, if we are on the giving part, we want to do it with all of our heart. We want to do it cheerfully because we want to. Then, on the other hand, when someone does something wonderful for us, even small things, we want to be of a thankful and a grateful attitude. We want to express it.

When the Lord does something for us, we want to thank Him and praise Him for what He has done. Even one among another, as brethren and sisters together, we want to express our thankfulness. That goes a long way...just a simple “Thank you, I appreciate what you have done.”

I want to tell you a little experience we had in our family quite a few years ago, but it still comes to my mind at this time. We raised several children, but I am thinking now of my youngest daughter. She was a little girl in school, in one of the low classes. In school, there was a program and they had to have costumes made for them.

It fell upon my wife to make that costume. Time got away and it got down to the time when the costume was not made the day before. It was not done. It was getting urgent, so my wife worked on it through the night. She said by the time that she got it done, she was almost beside herself—so wore out and almost emotional. But she got it done.

She told me this. The next morning when our youngest daughter got ready to go to school she came up to my wife

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

and said, "Thanks, Mom, for doing my costume for me." You know, my wife said that made it all worthwhile. She almost had to cry with just that simple "thank you". She said, "Thanks, Mom, for making my costume for me." That is all it took—a simple "thank you". She appreciated it and my wife appreciated it so much.

So it is, beloved ones, in our relationship one with another. We want to express our thankfulness; just a simple "thank you" in appreciation. We want to do that for our God, too, as we go through life. Thank Him for all that He has done, for He has truly done so very much for us all.

I have to think, when we read in the Old Testament, we read of the people of God...God's chosen people. God did so many things for them. When they were down in Egypt in great oppression and great distress, God led them out by the hand of Moses for a mighty deliverance.

Beloved ones, it is so sad with us if we fall into the same thing. It seemed like those people, though God was so good to them and helped them in such mighty and miraculous ways, so often and so regularly, whenever they got in a little bind and little trouble and were dry or hungry, what did they do? They so quickly began to murmur and complain.

They were murmurers and complainers and the Lord hates that, beloved ones. He hated it with them. That was one of their great sins—their murmuring and complaining against the Lord. It is no different today. Let us not be a murmurer and a complainer.

I had to think that our second reading refers to this, too. It says, "But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children." (Matthew 11:16-19).

What does this say? To me, this Scripture (I think it is correct) says that those people were not satisfied with anything. We read where it says that they played a joyful and merry music to them, and they were not satisfied. They did not like it. On the other hand, they

played some more sad and more mournful music, and they were not satisfied with that either.

John the Baptist came neither eating nor drinking. They said, "He hath a devil." The Lord came eating and drinking and they said, "A winebibber." They were not satisfied with anything. So it is. The Lord was dissatisfied with them. He is dissatisfied with us today if we fall into that same trap. No matter what may come our way, let us receive it right. Even difficult things that come into our lives, if we receive it right, God can make a blessing out of it, and He will.

Just this morning, as we sat on the front bench there, I was so pleased to be able to come into church. We don't always get in that soon at our church in Bradford. But here they were in close to 9:30. I mentioned to Brother Wayne, "Do you always come in at 9:30 to sing?" He said, "Well, pretty nearly."

Then he mentioned the reason why. One of the reasons is because they are so crowded that people tend to come in. Really, it has become a blessing. Something that is a little unhandy, a little difficult to be crowded; yet, God can make a blessing out of it.

It is that way with so many things in our life. No matter what we are called upon to go through, if we receive it right, God will make a blessing out of it for us...some way or another.

What is a blessing, beloved ones? The people in this world and time probably view a blessing differently than it really should be viewed. I think so many people, and maybe even us, think that a blessing is anything good that comes our way and makes it easy for our life and joyful that we can be of good cheer. Many people think that is a blessing. It can be.

But, beloved ones, I read a little definition one time that I think is more correct. It said, "A blessing is anything that makes us to desire and to long for heaven." Anything that increases our longing and desire for heaven, that is a blessing! So, beloved ones, God can make a blessing for us out of anything in life if we receive it with the right mind, the right attitude and the right spirit.

"Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3). Isn't it encouraging, beloved ones, that we can read the Bible and we can read accounts

like this that we can identify with?

This man, John the Baptist, the Lord said he was the greatest prophet of them all. He was a humble man. Isn't it wonderful that we can identify with him? Even as great and faithful man as he was, there came a time in his life when he began to doubt.

He said, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). Faithful man as he was, doubts came into his mind. So it is with us. We should not think it strange when the devil would come and try to make us to doubt and to fear. I am sure we all go through the same things. The devil tries to make us afraid and faint-hearted.

As I sat there singing this morning, hymn number 157 was sung. It is wonderful to come to church and sing these hymns together. They bring thoughts in our minds and experiences we have had along life's way. That one really prompted a thought in my mind.

The first Sunday that I ministered, I felt totally unable and impossible, but the Lord helped me. I was not eloquent when I was first put into the ministry. You know, the very next time I had the service, do you know what that devil said? He said, "The Lord was with you last time, but will He be with you today? He probably won't help you today!" Then that hymn opened up that day. "As a hart for water panteth..." and it expresses that.

That is the way he likes to work. I think we all experience that. Even great and faithful men like John the Baptist went through that same thing. Doubts and fears came into his mind; but the Lord helped him. He restored his faith and brought it back and recouped it for him. It will be that way for us, beloved ones.

It is not wrong, it is not an evil if we have a doubt or a fear in our minds, but we do not have to leave it there because we can pray to the Lord to help us to restore our faith and to increase our faith. If we really ask Him and are sincere about it, the Lord will certainly do it.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me." (Matthew 11:4-6).

What did the Lord do to help John?

He reminded him of what was being done and that restored his faith and helped him. So, beloved ones, if we at times have doubts and fears, what shall we do? If we become fearful and doubtful or maybe discouraged, what shall we do? We read in the Bible and see how the Lord helped the people in days gone by, and how He stood beside them!

It reminds us of this. That is how we fight the devil. Why do we come to church? Not because we hear something new every week, but it reminds us of what we already know. It brings it to the forefront of our minds. We think upon it and it recovers our faith. Beloved ones, we need to do that. We need to read the Bible. We need to come to church. We need to think of that heavenly home.

I am reminded of the account of an army that one time was out many years ago. They were footsoldiers from Italy and they were on a war campaign. They were victorious and coming back home. To get home, they had to cross the Alps, the mighty Alps. Those mountains are tremendous from fifty to one hundred fifty miles wide and up to ten thousand feet tall. That army of soldiers had to cross those mountains in the middle of winter to get home.

They came to the base of those mountains and their courage began to fade. They didn't think that they could do it. They didn't think that they could cross them. It was the middle of winter, and they didn't think they had the strength to do it. They were tired and weary. They were victorious, but they had to cross those mountains, and they didn't think they could do it.

Their courage began to go down. The commander (I don't know if he was a religious man) knew how to inspire men. He saw what was happening and he got up in front of those soldiers and spoke to them. He said, "Soldiers, comrades, don't look at those mountains before us. Don't think on them." He said, "Think what lies over those mountains. Think of home."

Those soldiers did that. They began to think of home and their mothers and fathers, their wives and children. They thought of those beautiful fields of grain, the beautiful vineyards, and as they thought on those things, it was not long when their courage began to revive. It wasn't long and they were up and on the march. They marched right over those mountains in the middle of winter into their homeland.

Think of home, beloved ones; think of what lies beyond this life. Think of that heavenly home that God has prepared for the true and faithful. We ought to think of that and our courage will revive and we will be able to go onward and forward. Those of us who have made a beginning with the Lord, we want to be faithful. We need courage to be helped in that way.

Now we want to speak to those who have not yet made a beginning to serve the Lord. We want you to think, too, of what is coming in the future. Think of eternity and what lies beyond this life. Beloved friends, think of that. Think of eternity.

We can't hardly comprehend eternity, can we, any of us? We really can't comprehend it. It is just almost beyond what our minds can think on. But I like

to think of a little example that our Sunday School teacher in Princeville told us. That must have been over forty years ago but I still remember it today. He tried to convey to us young students what eternity really is so that we could think on it and comprehend it somewhat.

He said eternity is somewhat like this: If there would be a solid rock one mile wide, one mile high, and one mile deep—solid rock—and once in a thousand years a little bird would come and brush it's wing over the top of that rock, in the process of time, that rock would all be worn away from the wing of that bird brushing over it. When that rock is entirely worn away, then eternity will have just begun. Think of it, beloved ones, eternity is a long time.

Friends, think of what lies for you in eternity. Where will you spend eternity? This I ask you, and today when you think of that, if you think of it with a right mind and right attitude, you will do something. You will do as the Bible says to repent and to become converted and serve the Lord faithfully until you die.

May it be that all of us would do that—repent. If we have failed, brethren, repent, turn from our ways, do better and be faithful all the days of our life. Then when we leave this world, we can go to that home that God has prepared for the true and faithful in the heavens above.

Humility

Humility makes a man peaceable among the brethren, fruitful in doing good, joyful in suffering, and constant in holy living.

Humility makes us fit for the highest service that we owe to Christ and at the same time is not negligent of the lowliest service to the humblest saint.

Humility can be content with the most modest table and yet will enjoy the most precious delicacies as with God, with Christ, and in glory.

Humility makes a man willing and ready to bless him who curses him and to pray for him who persecutes him; a humble heart is an abode of God, a disciple of Christ,

a companion of angels, a preserving vessel for grace, and is prepared for glory.

Humility is the faithful nurse of our graces and gifts and the mighty impulse to sacred exercises in duty.

Samuel Heinrich Froehlich
1803-1856



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

In one of our most gorgeous *Zion's Harp* hymns we sing, "Meekness is the noblest virtue, every Christian's honor bright." (p. 186) The trait of humility finds its root in the Scriptures. Its presence is unmistakably woven throughout the old and new testaments.

It is of great interest to see how humility and humbleness were practiced in Bible times; and also historically as time transpired over the ages.

In our denomination we have benefited by an emphasis on humility. It has contributed greatly to warm Christian fellowship and to our biblical sense of brotherhood. As we look back over the ages to see how humility was practiced, it helps to reinforce our present-day sense of humility.

The patriarchs endorsed the concept of humility. Moses was referred to as the meekest man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3). The prophet Isaiah described the temperament to which God would look approvingly: "...to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit." (Isaiah 66:2)

The Lord Jesus said, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." (Matthew 23:12) The apostles continued to emphasize humility. "Put on humility" (Col. 3:12) and "be clothed with humility for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (I Peter 5:5)

After the time of the apostles, the church over the ages saw humility as the power of powerlessness. Lowliness of mind personified Christ and was a pre-condition to God's presence in the heart. The abandonment of self

created a fertile abode for God's power to work within one's heart.

In encouraging the virtue of humility, a second century Christian leader wrote that the believer "voluntarily humbles himself, not under anyone at random, but under 'the mighty hand of God.'" He then cited the words of Jesus, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:29)

During the time of the radical reformation (1525), an attitude of humility found expression in the German word "Gelassenheit". Born out of the intense martyrdom and suffering of that era, Gelassenheit meant the annihilation of self as one submitted to God's will in service to others. In this, he was willing to suffer—indeed to do anything—to fulfill the will of God.

One believer of that era wrote, "Only as a man relinquishes his self-will may he be an instrument of God." The attitude of Gelassenheit was found in a letter by a believer soon to be burned at the stake in 1527: "In this peril I completely surrendered myself unto the will of the Lord and prepared myself even for death for His testimony." (from *Martyr's Mirror*)

In the era after the radical reformation, where the concepts of brotherhood and godly order among the saints found a resurgence, the attitude of "Gelassenheit" was present. Unity in the church and among believers thrived amid a high degree of humility.

From 1832 on, the benefactors of the spiritual revival in Switzerland led by Bro. Samuel Froehlich (and later in the United States) thrived by an emphasis on humility. It is a bless-

ing today that in a culture that dismisses humility as a positive virtue, God's people nevertheless cling to this essential Bible trait.

Samuel Froehlich wrote about humility: "Humility makes a man peaceable among the brethren, fruitful in doing good, joyful in suffering, and constant in holy living. Humility makes a man willing and ready to bless him who curses him and to pray for him who persecutes him; a humble heart is an abode of God, a disciple of Christ, a companion of angels, a preserving-vessel for grace, and is prepared for glory." (from *Mirror of the Soul*)

It is good to remember, and to be encouraged by, the fact that our predecessors in faith practiced humility. In the spirit of "Gelassenheit" they could endure persecution, suffering, privation, and cultural turmoil. Humility helped them find a high degree of peace and harmony as they practiced the biblical precepts of true brotherhood.

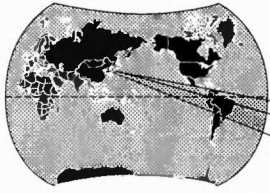
"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased: and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:
The Zion's Harp

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“Time and Distance”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Soon we will be commemorating the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Saviour, which occurred about 2,000 years ago according to our calculations concerning time. However, in Revelation 13:8 the Lord Jesus Christ is spoken of as “The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Evidently, God does not figure time as we do. This is borne out by II Peter 3:8, “One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

In Acts 4:12 we read concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, “There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” In the case of Abraham, who lived long before Jesus Christ was born as a man, “He believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.” It appears that Abraham and all others who lived before Christ, who believed, obeyed and were humble, were

saved by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same as we. We know that the animal sacrifices could not save but only pointed to the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4)

After the Lord Jesus Christ was living in His resurrected body, He suddenly appeared at different places. “And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them.” (Luke 24:36). Distance meant nothing to Him after He had completely entered the spiritual world. Philip, also, disappeared suddenly after having baptized the eunuch, evidently being able to transfer back and forth from a mortal body to a spiritual body. “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more.” (Acts 8:39)

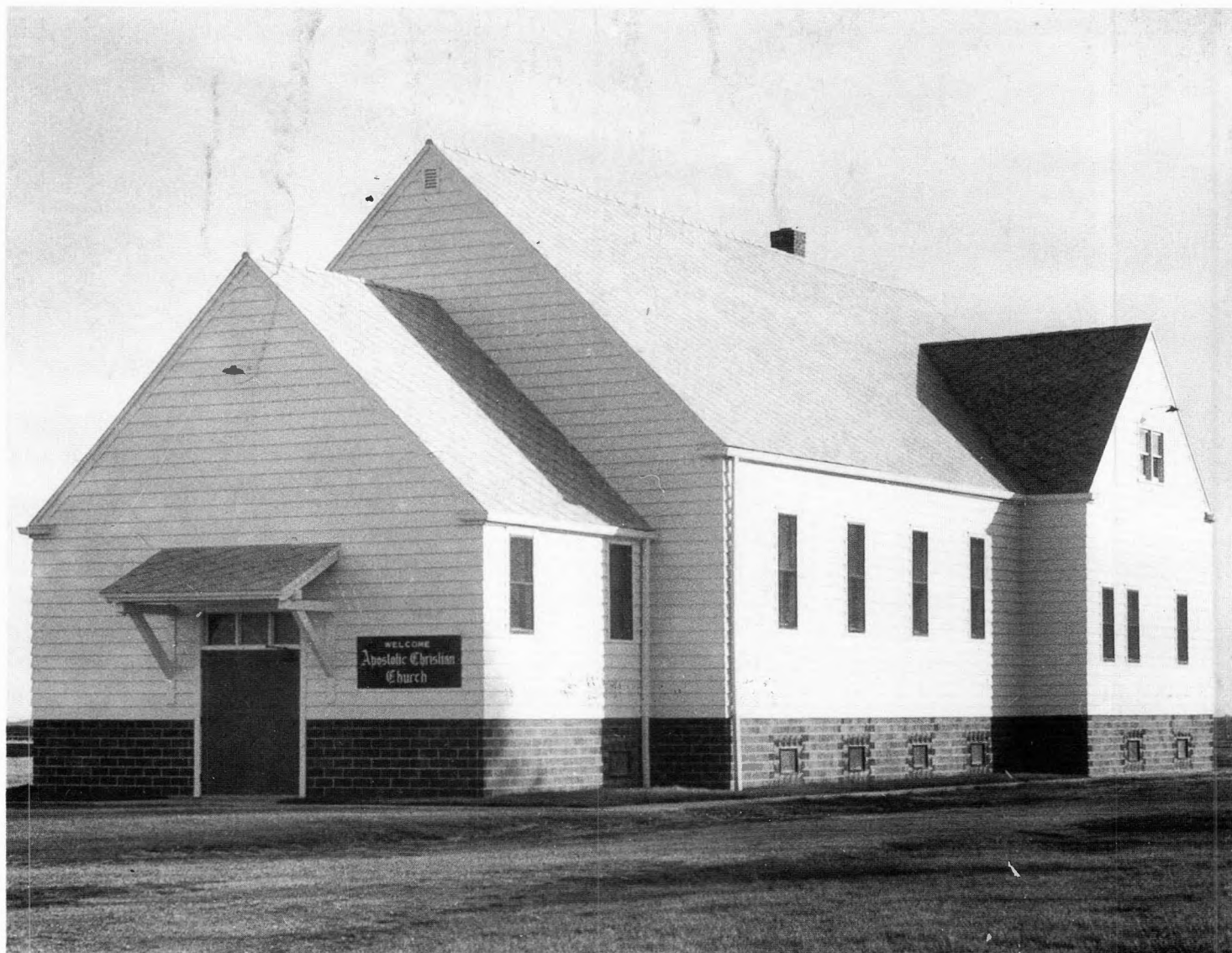
Have you heard how far re-

cently discovered galaxies are out into space? There seems to be no end as to how far you can go and still find matter; things which are not of the spiritual world, at least not as far as we know. I can see that once we transfer to the spiritual world, we've got to have a different system. If Heaven is beyond the farthest galaxy, it would take too long to get there.

In Revelation 2:2, the tree of life near the throne of God “Yielded her fruit every month.” This indicates that time is of some significance. The tree probably has blossoms for us to enjoy and these change into fruit, which takes time, even in Heaven. However, I believe we can say that both time and distance are measured differently.

At this Easter season, let's be thankful that the efficacy of the atonement and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is all encompassing and not limited by time or distance.

希望の光



MORRIS, MN - 1949

In the land of 10,000 lakes, which is known for its fishing and wildlife, highly productive farm land can be found. It was this land which brought to it the early pioneers around the turn of the century. Church families came north from West Bend, IA; Lester, IA; and others from Illinois. The first church was built in 1907, however, it needed enlarging in 1911 (middle section) and again was remodeled, and modernized in 1949. A new edifice was completed and dedicated in 1967

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