

The Silver Lining



On The Wings of a Dove

April 1996



"Depart from evil, and do good; seek
PEACE, and pursue it."
Psalms 34:14

"For the kingdom of God is not meat
and drink; but righteousness, and
PEACE, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
Romans 14:17

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PEACE

Until we have prayed, we cannot do more than pray. After we have prayed, we can do no more. That is humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Granted, we must do our part and extend effort appropriate to the task; however, in all things, prayer is primary. There are three applications of Peace that is to be addressed in this article: peace which is contentment, peace which is the absence of conflict, and the peace of God that passes all understanding which is because of God's love for us.

Many times our heart yearns to accomplish something, which ends up being next to impossible to attain. It is often those things we would like to attain and cannot that causes us conflict in our heart and thus we lose the beauty of contentment or peace we want and need in our life.

As the beauty of the bird in flight inspires us to want to mimic that freedom of soaring through the air, we might find ourselves desiring to fly when indeed we have no wings where with to do it. We might fuss and fret for a long time at our inability to fly when in fact it was never in God's plan for us to fly. Would that make us envious and anxious? Would we lose the serenity of peace and contentment in our heart if we could not attain flight? Maybe some of us would and some would not; however, the thought bears out the futility of striving for that which we cannot attain.

It has been written: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. The result of that kind of thinking brings peace and contentment into our lives.

Peace is the absence of conflict. In a war, two armies (or two neighbors) may be facing each other with the ability to annihilate the opposition; when a command can come forth that there is now peace. The opposing armies can be so joyed at that announcement, that they will forget their differences and forgive. What could possibly bring on that kind of change of heart? I would suppose that many things might, such as love, realizing the futility of the situation, and truth. Let us take each of these three and see how they might pertain to the gaining of peace.

There was a day when two armies faced each other in full battle, of which one army was led by a King who had done much to hurt the General of the opposing army. The

battle lines were drawn and the battle was about to begin when a strange sight occurred. Across the sands of the battlefield came an elderly lady, who with great difficulty was being helped out onto the battlefield because she was nearly blind. With love and wisdom she approached the General who was overcome with the sight before him. "Sir," she told him, "today this battle will destroy lives that otherwise might go on to be productive. This battle will make many mothers weep, children cry, and will accomplish nothing except to prove which army is the strongest." She reached out her hand to the General and said, "I am glad you came. Would you put up your spear and sword and come to a banquet I have prepared?" With great question in his mind, he yielded to her plea and put up his sword. She said, "Come with me." As she held the General's hand, she led him to the King of the opposing army. Approaching the King, she reached out her other hand to her son, the King, and said, "Battle can settle nothing, but peace can settle everything if we are humble and desire the fruits of reconciliation." Love brought about peace.

Seeing the futility of a situation can often bring about a change of heart, which in turn will help any of us who might find ourselves in a strait between two great obstacles, to see that there is indeed a way other than that which we may have thought was the only way, and therefore we can accomplish the goal through a new focus. When we accomplish, by God's grace, that which has perplexed us for so long, we feel a renewed peace in our soul.

Last, we want to address truth. In our life of faith we have learned the wondrous joy of God's peace, a precious pearl in our heart, and we would not want to lose that peace for any reason.

Before we found that precious peace, we were as a wayfaring stranger in a desert land. Aimless and hopeless we struggled for direction in life. We were at conflict with ourselves and with God as we walked the pathway of life. Only after finding truth could we through faith and by grace repent. Through repentance and confession we can find humility, and only through humility can we find grace. Only through grace could we become a changed person, and only through conversion, given by the Lord, could we be free of our sinful nature, which

was the root of the conflict between us and God. When that conflict was over, we indeed found a profound peace that passes all understanding. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell, and His peace is beyond our understanding.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16,17)

God's Spirit descended upon Christ in the form of a dove and with that indwelling Spirit, Jesus our Lord and Saviour, felt peace and had the strength to go forty days and forty nights fasting. It is the Spirit of peace that descends upon us as upon the "wings of a dove." It is that Spirit of peace that we strive for and long for, and if by God's grace we find that peace, let us be diligent so we will not lose it.



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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

April 1996

Self-Denial In An Age of Self-Indulgence

Self-indulgence is a spiritual disease that is rampant in America today. The negative consequences that it has on a Christian's conduct has an impact on the individual and on those who are influenced by that individual.

As believers in Christ propose to practice self-denial in our current age of self-indulgence and self-gratification, a focus on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ is necessary. All of what He taught rejects the rampant materialism that exists in the United States today.

As we learn from scriptures, the Lord Jesus was free from the heavy yoke of materialism. He had no personal possessions. He had no special place of His own to sleep: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head" (Luke 9:58).

One of the core principles of following Christ is the denial of self. The Lord Jesus plainly said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

As believers, our goal, with a renewed heart and mind, is to seek the things that are not seen rather than the things that are seen: "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18).

A key concept in understanding self-denial is the realization that anything earthly (that which is seen) is temporary. This word is defined as, "short lived, transitory, and lasting for a time only". Therefore, as we become converted, and take on a new value system, our outlook thence changes from a narrowminded one (one that focuses on temporary; seen things) to one that has expanded to include both time and eternity; and our major focus is on eternity and the lifestyle patterns that enhance our journey to Heaven.

Our general consciousness comes to realize that our soul will exist infinitely longer

in eternity than in time (i.e., in the here and now). Consequently, as Jesus' followers, we should feel compelled to follow His example in dismissing the things that are seen as unimportant and insignificant. We come to realize that beyond the grave we will take nothing material into long and endless eternity.

Our challenge today is unique compared to those fellow believers who existed over the many centuries since the early church. We in America face a threat of widespread materialism never experienced by our faithful forebears. They did not live in an age when materialism and self-indulgence was a way of life.

Today, in our prosperous nation, we are lured into the web of potential self-indulgence from a variety of fronts. There are malls, mega-malls, strip malls, superstores, and a seemingly endless avenue of retail outlets. In America, 9000 new retail products are introduced each year. This poses a great temptation for almost any true believer.

Likewise, an aura of prosperity combined with clever and convincing advertising methods hovers virtually at our every glance. We, as believers, are bombarded with a host of appealing messages, both via radio and other communication media such as newspapers, magazines and direct mail. On Sunday, our newspapers bulge with a thick handful of advertising inserts which are all designed to create wants. The door to materialism is "wide open" for believers to indulge their flesh. Credit and the ability to "charge it" fuels materialistic tendencies.

As a result, we can become so desensitized toward accumulation we hardly realize it. Before we know it, we can easily come to love the life of needless extravagance. We become deadened to the prospect that excessive possessions are the antithesis of Christ's example of self-denial, and represents poor stewardship.

Possessions, idle pleasures, and worldly entertainments (which abound in our time) do not satisfy the inner man. The more we possess, or the more entertainment we in-

dulge in, the more we want. Materialism breeds more materialism. The more excessive we become, the more difficult we make it for our less able brother who likely feels the pressure to "keep up"; or we might actually be "offending" our weaker brother as we naively fall into a pattern of materialism, and the love of worldly entertainments and contests.

Both self-indulgence and self-denial can be traced to the root concepts that are dominant in our hearts relative to flesh and spirit. The question arises, "Is our heart guided/ruled by the concepts of the flesh (i.e., self-indulgence and self-gratification) or by the Spirit (i.e., self-denial and the daily crucifying of the flesh)?"

In seeking the biblical precept of self-denial, we need to grasp the Apostle Paul's exhortation, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

If we really propose to follow Christ, we will consciously abandon any inclination we might have to put value on obtaining excessive possessions-or to live beyond our needs. This is true because anything we have left over beyond our basic needs is the Lord's. If we indulge the flesh regarding material possessions, often we are spending the Lord's resources, not our own. We will have to account for this pattern! The prophet wrote, "Woe unto them who are at ease in Zion" (Amos 6:1). This verse is very instructive to us today-we who live in outlandish comfort amid endless and on-going opportunities to accumulate material things.

Let us resist the temptation to purchase those things we do not need. The challenge to practice self-denial, even amid the traits of self-indulgence all around us, has never been greater. "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).



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

Mission Committee Meeting Report

On February 6, 1996, the Mission Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting. We wish to keep our brotherhood informed of the amount of money collected, the prayerful distribution of those funds, and the many activities in which we have the opportunity to participate.

Many topics to discuss

A typical agenda contains over 30 topics for discussion, each of which is given careful consideration. These topics include printing and distribution of Bibles and hymn books, supporting new and growing churches, building church buildings throughout our fellowship, distribution of sermons, and many other efforts to reach the lost and strengthen the believer.

Financial report

The income received for the six month period ending January 31 is as follows:

Mission Fund	\$177,381
Bible Distribution Fund	99,386
European Church Building ...	409,681
Interest	5,457
Total	\$691,905

These amounts are slightly higher than for the same period last year. Projects already approved are listed below, with others under consideration which, when approved will use up all the available funds.

European Building Fund allocated at meeting

Matters pertaining to Europe are first considered by the European Board. Upon approval, they are presented to the World Relief and

Mission Committees for financing. As of this writing, projects have been approved which will exhaust the European Building Fund, but further needs exist which we are unable to fund at this time.

New church building for Paks, Hungary

It was agreed that \$40,000 from the European Building Fund will be sent to Paks for the new construction in that congregation. There are still other congregations with financial needs, which will be addressed as time and funds permit.

Opportunities to meet needs in Yugoslavia

A great need exists, in this land of turmoil, for vehicles to enable elders and ministers to provide for the needs of their members. In the past, the costs of these vehicles have been shared by both the Mission and World Relief Committees. We approved \$17,500 for this purpose with the hope that matching funds will come from the April World Relief Meeting.

After discussion, approval was given to contribute \$50,000 to help build a church at Banatsko Novo Selo. Realizing that this name means very little to us in the US, we want you to know that about 130 persons assemble here in a dilapidated building over 100 years old. With many young people among their number, the future of this congregation looks very good. Estimated costs of a new structure are about \$250,000, so more help will be necessary.

Bible distribution program for prisoners

Bro. David Bertsch, who has worked with this program for many

years, reported on the present status. An increasing number of requests for Bibles is coming from prisoners, and we agreed that we should respond to these needs. Written guidelines are being prepared to assist our brethren who are involved in this effort.

RGMMI

The Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India has been supported by our brethren for many years. Approval was given to contribute \$7,000 for this worthwhile work.

Subscription changes for the *Silver Lining*

It was agreed to recommend a change to the Elder Body concerning the financial structure of the *Silver Lining*. Approval for this change was given at the February Conference in Francesville. Individual subscription contributions will be discontinued, and each congregation can decide the means in which their members may cover the expense of receiving the *Silver Lining*, the costs of which continue to rise. A special collection to defray the costs each year will be taken. Should excess funds accumulate, it is possible that some years a collection would not be made.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..."

World population reached 5.7 billion in mid-1995. It is projected that it will reach six billion by 1998. Each month approximately 11.6 million are born, and 4.4 million die, leaving this world to meet their eternal destiny.

Surely this thought should motivate us to send the gospel message to the ends of the earth as we are instructed in His Word. Thank you for your continued support of the mission of this committee. May grace and peace be with all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.



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

They can hear only with their hearts

Our labors of love in Haiti and Jamaica are managed by our Caribbean Board, which is part of the World Relief Committee. Brethren have been involved in Haiti for over twenty years. We assist in building schools, drilling wells and supporting hospitals and clinics. The goal of this work is to assist the underprivileged people in the poorest country in the western hemisphere. In addition to this, for several years one sea container of material aid was shipped yearly to Jamaica, with our brethren assisting in proper distribution.

The Embargo

In 1992, there was a violent upheaval in the Haitian government, to which the USA responded by placing an embargo on shipments to this troubled land. As is always the case, the poor suffered the most. Over the years, hundreds of our brothers and sisters had gone to Haiti on work teams, but the embargo brought this to a halt. However, World Relief funds were still sent into the land, managed by Bob Stewart, with whom we have had the privilege to work, and for whose efforts we have high regard. This cared for some of their needs, but because work team efforts were stopped, the Caribbean Board began looking for other opportunities of service in the area.

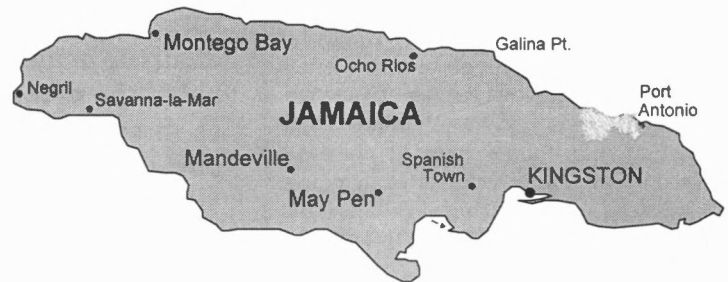
Evaluation team to Jamaica

In the autumn of 1992, an evaluation team of four US brothers went into Jamaica to search out areas where we could be of service. They were led to a school for deaf children, called Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD). As they spoke with the leadership of this organization, the brethren had confidence that real needs were being met. From the first visit to this present time, all efforts have been to support them with humanitarian aid, allowing their own people to bring the gospel in a manner which the children could embrace.

The purpose of CCCD

This organization addresses the needs of the approximately 2,500 deaf children in the island nation of Jamaica. Without assistance, these children become outcasts, forced into various vices just to exist. Most of their parents are unable to send them to school. Many believe their children would receive no benefit anyway and use their meager resources to educate their children that can hear. Most families live far from the school, making it necessary to provide a complete boarding facility. Knowing the scripture states, "So then faith

cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God", CCCD is committed to teaching communication skills in which this can occur. Children, ranging from age 4 to 18, are first taught sign language, and then basic knowledge as in all schools. They learn vocational skills, good manners, courtesy, thoughtfulness, and scriptural values. Hoping that this will encourage them to seek salvation, the school exposes them to the Word.



Work teams to Jamaica

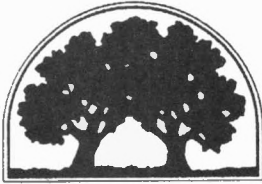
Since our first acquaintance with CCCD, literally hundreds of our brethren have gone to Jamaica to assist in building schools and dormitories for this group. In February of this year, a team of three brothers visited this land to evaluate needs and plan for future efforts. We hope to print a report of this trip in the next issue of the *Silver Lining*. As of this writing, six work teams are scheduled for 1996, involving well over 200 volunteers. As is always the case, when one becomes involved in such a personal manner, he begins to see how very richly he himself is blest. Work team members come home both sobered and enthusiastic, having made a life-changing experience.

Opportunities to serve

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

The work in Jamaica is not possible without the support of our brethren at home. It is not only by going on a work team that you can assist, for there are countless other opportunities. Many necessary supplies are provided by World Relief efforts at home. We want to assure you that they are reaching the needy. Please continue this work. Another rewarding service is financial support of an individual child in the Caribbean. Should you desire to participate in any way, please direct your inquiry to Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. 2nd. Ave., Morton, IL 61550 Phone: 309/266-6263.



**GATEWAY WOODS
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
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219-627-2159

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

**URGENT NEED
FOR TEACHER**

The Apostolic Christian Preschool needs a teacher beginning June 1. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please call for more information: Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205)232-2035.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

The robins have been singing and trees are trying to bud. Spring is here. Another sign of spring is the Easter decorations at all the homes. Easter is a symbol of the new being resurrected as in the flowers, and more importantly, the Resurrection of our Saviour. Our people are enjoying the warm sunshine and being able to take walks, ride bikes or shoot some hoops.

Three of our ladies, Angie Massner, Anita Schuon, and Jane Aberle, are planning to move to their new home this spring. Their new address will be 652 Detroit. They are looking for recipes, watching the remodeling/ shopping for furniture, etc. Lois Baumgartner and Shiela Steffen will be moving to Oakwood Estate and Cindy Virkler will be moving to Linden Estate. They have been busily planning for the move by picking out bed and bath linens, and spending time with their new housemates. Bro. Frank Kyburz celebrated his 80th birthday with an Open House at Hazelwood on March 24. Karen Blunier, Rod Blaum, Eric Ringwald, and Cindy Virkler participated in the Special Olympics Basketball. Congratulations to all!

Our people are excitedly planning for their annual mini vacation to Galena to shop, St. Louis to see the sights camping, Chi-

cago to see a baseball game, Danville to see the Hot Air Balloon Festival or Six Flags. May birthdays for all of our facilities are: ACHH - Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stichling (13), Steve Slagel (13), Allison Given (14), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser (22), Chip Terhorst (22), and Garth Boyer (26). Oakwood - Herbert Stieglitz. 652 Detroit - Jackie Barton (26).

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

As I think of the many brothers and sisters who will be reading this article, I am humbled. Yet I am also encouraged, as it is an opportunity to reach so many that are unable to visit us and are interested in how God is working within our program.

First of all, we want to thank you for your continual support in prayer. We are faced daily with the effects of poor choices of parents or children that lead to sin. Please pray that we can have the wisdom and courage to direct the children and their families toward overcoming or adjusting to specific situations. Many times we get caught in the routine of life and lose our zeal. As discouragement or loneliness sets in, we are once again forced to seek the Lord for strength. God's Word is so powerful to remind us of our goal to glorify Him. Isaiah 61:1-3 has been a focal point God continues to lay before me.

"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



GATEWAY WOODS

**The 20th ANNUAL
Gateway Woods
Auction and Sale**

Saturday, August 17, 1996

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

- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books,
Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books**

We're continuing to send used books overseas. Almost daily we receive requests in the mail for Bibles. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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
March 1996 —	2,159	22,539

*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

me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might

be glorified.”

Isaiah 61:1-3

May we claim the “Spirit of the Lord” and be bold in His service wherever we are placed.

We are grateful for the time and energy of volunteers we had this month. Sis. Janel Frank, Bros. Brandon Rinkenberger, Andy Kaufman, Chad Kaeb, Andy Lehman, and Steve Lehman gave their spring breaks up to help us with painting and other jobs. We

always want to welcome the youthful energy of our volunteers. Many times we are energized by the fresh spark they share in their service.

One method we use to help keep information and options available to the churches is through our local church representatives. A brother and his wife represent an individual church. We held our Annual Representative Meeting this month at the Leo church. This is

to inform and encourage the representatives in ways their church can support Gateway Woods. Presentations were made by the Assistant Houseparents (please see ad), former residents, a long-term volunteer, the Gateway Woods Family Service Director, the Education Coordinator, the Auction Committee and two of our Board Members.

We want to thank the retiring Board Members for the five years they devoted to Gateway Woods. The brothers that are going off the board are Norm Beery (Smithville, OH), Justin Koch (Champaign, IL) and Larry Herman (Peoria, IL). Bros. Glen Rufener (Rittman, OH), Bill Schick (Washington, IL) and Dan Steiner (Tremont, IL) have accepted the new positions. We appreciate all the Board does for Gateway Woods.

As summer draws near, we welcome anyone 18 or older to spend some time with us as a volunteer. We are also seeking someone to be the Volunteer Coordinator for the summer months. Please call Denise Klopfenstein (219) 627-2159 for details on this position.

We welcome Amanda G. and Selena B. into the Fiechter household. We enjoy their personalities and pray for a peaceful transition and a productive stay for them.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Tricia Tucker

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

Psalm 56:3

Each week at the preschool we study a different letter and memorize a scripture verse beginning with that certain letter. Recently, we studied the letter "W". The

Bible verse for W was Psalm 56:3. Since spring has sprung in Alabama, so have the springtime showers. One day during W week at naptime, a very loud thunderstorm struck. Not only did the children have their W verse memorized, they could also live it, proving once again that the Lord's timing is always perfect.

March was a good month at the preschool. As the winter weather subsided, so have the winter colds.

Enrollment is now completely full topping almost fifty everyday. We are able to play outside daily giving the students and teachers fresh spirits. We were even able to take a field trip to the zoo. This made our study of animals complete. We have also studied families, the color purple, letters V and W and verses John 13:34 and Luke 22:42.

With much gratefulness, March has also brought three volunteers.

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 brethern. 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

Five 60 min. Tapes Available:

From European Churches

- 1.) Budapest with guests: Dunavecse, Paks, Nagydorog churches
- 2.) Baja and Ersekcsanak churches
- 3.) Oroshaza with guests: Bekescsaba, Bekessamson churches
- 4.) Dunavecse Childrens Chorus
- 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.) Sis. Dorine Kurkowski
3540 Prairie
Berkley, MI 48072
810/544-2707 | 4.) Bro. Dennis Virkler
Rejoice Records
Ringger Ranch Recording
RR 1 Box 217B
Carlock, IL 61725 |
| 2.) Sis. Holly Barton
35502 Woodfield
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
810/489-1164 | 5.) Sis. Peg Schieler
RR 2 Box 50
Roanoke, IL 61561
309/923-7513 |
| 3.) Sis Harriet Orcsik
2670-5 Meadowbrooke Lane
Windsor, ONT, CANADA N8T2Y4
519/945-9964 | 6.) Bro. Roger Ward
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Send U.S. Funds With Orders

Thank you, Sis. Kara Banwart (Champaign, IL), Sis. Andrea Zeller, and Sis. Hope Steiner (Indianapolis, IN) for reading books, painting shelves, and playing with our children. Even though the preschool does not get many volunteers, everyone who gives a little of their time is deeply appreciated. Please consider us when making summer plans or just feeling moved by the Lord to do His work.

Hopefully, the Lord is gently touching someone's heart to fill the void at the preschool. There is a need for a teacher starting this summer. Every day the blessings are apparent in teaching children the Word of the Lord. Please pray for the Lord's gentle guiding for a willing soul to fill our need. Our children memorized, "not my will, but Thine be done." Please live it.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

My five-year-old woke up the other morning, came running into my bedroom and said, "Mama, guess what ten special things are going to happen today?" He proceeded to have me guess all ten things. I had to think, what a positive attitude! Instead of dreading the day and getting out of bed, this innocent child couldn't wait to start the day because of looking at the ten positive things the day was going to hold. If only we could become more innocent and positive as a child!

We've actually been quite busy and involved in church activities in Athens in the past month. The younger Sunday School children (three years to fourth grade) had a "campout" at the Fellowship Hall one Friday evening. The next day, the older middle and high school Sunday School volunteered their

time and talent painting inside the church. On another beautiful warm Saturday in March, they had a car wash to raise funds for a group trip.

We've had a lot of sickness in this past month. Sis. Naomi Hall's son, Sis. Anais Perry, Louis Kieser, and Woodrow Haganmaker have been ill and would appreciate your prayers.

Sis. Nancy Sizemore's mother, Eunice Ross, of Birmingham, AL passed away on March 18. Their family would appreciate your prayers.

March 16 was the day for the Board Meeting of the Tennessee Fellowship Area. We would like to thank each and every person who has donated time, labor and supplies towards the continuing effort at the Tennessee Fellowship Area.

We are making plans for the annual singing at the Fellowship Area. Please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (205) 232-2035 to let him know of your plans to come, especially larger groups. We can, in turn, plan more efficiently, and make the weekend more enjoyable to all.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Where He leads me, I will follow." A group left here March 9 for Knockpatrick, Jamaica. This World Relief work team went to the Caribbean Center for the Deaf, March 9-16.

Sharing God's love at work to help others are Bro. Greg Gramm, Sis. Denise Gramm, Sis. Christine Baum, Sis. Nicole Baum, Sis. Carmen Langhofer, Sis. Heidi Kokanovich, Bros. Todd and Scott Klopfenstein, Bro. Marshall Witzig, Justin Gramm, Jeremy Ebert, Stephanie and Olivia Gramm, Angie Klopfenstein and

others from Altadena and Bluffton. May God bless your efforts.

A time for Christian fellowship was enjoyed by junior and senior high Sunday School students on February 17-19. Youth came from California, Tucson and Prescott to share God's love and faith. Thank you to all our dear brothers and sisters who so generously gave "what it takes to make it happen."

Once again, Bro. John Kaufman flew to Haiti on February 22-March 2 with a work team. Our churches never lack for willing helpers on these missions.

Our February fellowship dinner and singing was held on the 25th.

We really enjoy our many visitors; some come and some leave, but we've averaged eighteen greetings weekly. Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer reserve space at Coco's for a "no host" breakfast for fellowship for visitors and home folk. Many travel our beautiful state in awe of God's handiwork. A dear couple said, "Every trip to the Grand Canyon is beautiful, but different." Our Heavenly Father did it all and is still doing for us daily!

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

II Timothy 4:7

That good faith got Bro. Harry Roth into his Heavenly home on March 1. This past autumn, Bro. Harry moved to Prescott. His funeral was March 6; burial in our church cemetery.

Our sympathy to Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach on the death of her brother, Ken Dominick. They flew to Oklahoma for his funeral services.

We have really been blessed beyond all expectations with visiting ministering brothers. May the

Lord bless Bros. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Ed Knecht (Portland, OR), and Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL).

We gathered the evening of March 10 to hear the Memorandum read. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen came from Elgin, IL to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich.

"O, give thanks unto the Lord." We have truly had many prayers answered when Sis. Eileen (Bro. Howard) Maurer had surgery at Barrows Neurological Center. Likewise, for Sis. Dorothy Zollinger as an outpatient at Mayos.

Our prayer list includes several too ill to worship at church. Please pray for Bro. Melvin Miller, Sis. Ruth Baer, Sis. Martha Elsasser, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Kathrine Laukhuf and many other shut-ins. Kurt Metzger broke a wrist. There is power in prayer.

Our World Relief monthly projects are very family-oriented and well attended with much accomplished. We are most appreciative to Sisters Jan Elsasser, Sophie Huber, Marie Kieser, Christine Baum and Valerie Knobloch for their hours of pre-planning the many events to enrich other lives.

"The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Psalms 29:11

Note of Thanks:

I want to sincerely thank each one of you, for remembering my 80th birthday and my illness, too. Your prayers, gifts and cards mean more than words can say, May God richly bless you for sharing His love in a special way.

*In Christian Love,
Sis. Martha Elsasser*

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We wish to thank Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) for ministering to us this month. Bro. Jerry, his wife, Sis. Linda, and their children were in our area two weeks visiting her family. We also had visitors from Indiana, Kansas and Missouri. We appreciate all visitors. If Phoenix is too warm, come to Prescott, which is usually fifteen to twenty degrees cooler.

We wish to extend our sympathies to the family of Bro. Harry Roth who was called Home by our Lord the first week in March. Bro. Harry suffered many years with lung disease, but always had a ready smile and was an example to all that knew him in his love and service to our Lord. He spent the last several months in Prescott, moving up from Phoenix to stay with his son.

George Kornia, son of Sis. Elenna Kornia, formerly of Columbus, OH and prior to that Romania, needs our prayers for emotional and physical healing. He spent a few days in the hospital, but is still not well. Anyone who understands the needs of an adult with Downs Syndrome might want to send George a word of encouragement at: 8460 E. Sommer Rd., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. He and his mother have been a welcome addition to our congregation. Sis. Elenna has treated us to many Romanian dishes at our Sunday lunches.

Starting March 13, we will be having Wednesday evening services via phone from the Phoenix service, approximately 90 miles away, at our usual rented facility

at Sunset and Whipple Streets in Prescott. We welcome all to worship and fellowship with us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are always happy to report the visits of ministers from our other congregations. This month we were privileged to hear Bros. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) deliver the Word to us. We want to thank them for making Tucson a part of their schedule!

The Sunday School Bible Class traveled to Phoenix over President's weekend to enjoy two days of activities with the Altadena, San Diego and Phoenix Bible Classes. As part of the traveling group, I can report that everyone had a wonderful time fellowshiping and renewing old friendships. It's always a privilege and a joy to be a part of these weekends. Many thanks to the Phoenix Sunday School for organizing such a fun-filled and blessed weekend!

Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp extend their heartfelt thank you for the many thoughts, prayers and deeds of kindness extended upon the death of her dear sister, Sis. Phyllis Gerber (Bro. Everett) of Rockville, CT.

Doug Bauer (Bro. Don and Sis. Glo) and Bro. Cory Langhofer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy, Phoenix) were involved in an automobile accident recently. The Lord was definitely watching over them and they were spared serious injury. We are so thankful to God that this was His will.

Sis. Martha Blessman continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. It would certainly be nice to see her in church again. For right now, though, we are happy to report she is getting around a little

better.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Joy Nenadov

"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

Greetings to all! What a comfort and joy it is to be at peace with our Lord. Even now as we remember the sufferings and death of our Lord and Saviour, isn't it such a blessed thought to ponder when we found that perfect peace with our Saviour? As Jesus denied Himself and died the cruel death at Calvary so that we could find this peace, may we as His children deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Him. Doing so will allow for that peace to continue in our lives and help us to remember what our Lord has done for us.

Ministering Bro. Peter Petrovic (Escondido, CA) and his family visited us on February 25. We thank Bro. Peter for the inspiring message delivered to us from the Word of God. May the Lord bless him richly.

It's always sad to hear when a loved one is sick and afflicted. Our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois) and Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) were both hospitalized this past month and our prayers have been for their speedy recovery. We're so thankful to see them recovering and in church again. Let's never forget to pray for all who are sick and suffering.

We heard of the engagement of Brian Crockett (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy) to June Ringger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene, Bluffton, IN)

and wish them God's blessings as they plan an August wedding.

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

Psalm 127:3

Little Joel William arrived safely on February 29 and is welcomed by his parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley Luthi, and siblings, Daniel, Lydian and Alyson. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig and Bro. Ruben and Sis. Crystal Luthi (Morris, MN). May God shower many blessings on this dear family.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huette

Rise, O soul and break the bondage
Of the vanities of life!

Journey onward to the kingdom;
Leave the turmoil and the strife!

In this world and time we see
Naught but endless vanity.

To the Saviour's grave now hasten,
Where He lay in calm repose.

Christ in strength by God the

Father

From the grave in triumph rose.
Thus the path of life He made,
With His blood your ransom paid.

In my Saviour's resurrection
There is comfort, I am blest.
In His life my hopes renewing,
In His life my soul shall rest!
Everything I have in Thee,
Life and hope and victory.

Zion's Harp #183

We are so blessed to have been taught and to have experienced the salvation which Jesus brings to every soul who seeks Him.

We are rejoicing as our dear friend, Yasmin Petrovic, has found peace with God. We look forward to her testimony on April 13 and

baptism, Lord willing, on the 14th.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA).

Our Elder Bro. John Klotzle was recently hospitalized but is home again. Recently he was able to come and spend a Wednesday evening in church with us. We are thankful he is doing so much better. God has surely blessed us. We all just pray that he will continue to improve.

Bro. Lester and Sis. Martha Wagenbach (Grandma and Grandpa to our small congregation) were able to spend about a month here. It was very special to have them in our midst and we look forward to their visit in 1997.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

Psalm 133

Our congregation was privileged to witness the uniting of our dear Sis. Magdalena Fortenbacher to Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) on February 25. We pray that they will keep the Lord first in their lives and dwell together in unity. Their parents are Bro. Wal-

ter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher and Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

We are thankful for our Elders and ministering brethren who encourage us to "dwell together in unity" and then enjoy a "good and pleasant" life. Those ministering brethren that shared God's Word with us this past month were Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Dean Messner and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We thank each one that came to support us and enjoyed the fellowship we were able to have. We were thankful also for the many that came from Minnesota on the bus to be here for the wedding.

Anyone who is in our area or would like to visit us, we welcome you. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for directions and more information.

COLORADO, DENVER

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings across the many miles!

At the beginning of March, Kris Braun (Herman Braun, Elgin, IL) moved back to Illinois to finish high school. We certainly miss his presence here and trust that God will be with him. A few weeks after Kris moved back to Illinois, he was in an accident with his truck. We are thankful that his life was spared and that he only suffered injuries, rather than death.

Karl Braun, who also now lives in Illinois, spent time in the hospital this month also. We pray that both Kris and Karl will find God's healing hand upon them.

Helen Powelson is also in need of prayers, as her health continues to decline.

As we look around and see all those in need, we certainly are thankful for good health. We ask each one of you to think of those around you who are hurting and remember them in your prayers.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Dawn Winans - Peggy Bahler

March 13 was a joyous day for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole Gerber, with the birth of their son, Brian Kenneth. His brother, Thomas, and sister, Josie, welcome him. His grandparents are Bro. Everett and the late Sis. Phyllis Gerber and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Aline Bahler.

Peter Hany, Jr. and Kelly Pinar have announced their engagement. A June wedding has been planned. The parents of the couple are Bro. Peter and Sis. Virgene Hany and Dean and Bonnie Kloter.

The afternoon service on February 25 was the first service in our new assembly. We pray the Lord will bless us in our new congregation.

Two precious souls were announced for baptism. They are Deanna Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen) and Mark Luginbuhl (Robin). It is always a wonderful thing to have new lambs added to the fold. We wish them much grace to stay true and faithful.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

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

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

I don't know if the rain is over, but by the time this is being read winter will be gone (I hope) and some of the trees, bushes, and flowers will be blooming. When snow was predicted the first weekend in March, they said we only needed two more inches for this to be the second snowiest winter in D.C. history. We didn't make it that weekend, but we did the next week. This winter sure seemed like a mid-west winter around here.

This month our ministers were Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL). The weekend our Florida visitors were here we had snow and/or cold; the Sunday the Wiegands were here we were enjoying spring-like weather. Our other visitors this month were from Bluffton, IN.

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. 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

Our Sunday School sponsored a fifteen-mile bike trip on March 2 through Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. About thirty people (young and old) made the trip and reported seeing many

birds and alligators. Everyone seemed to have a good time even though it turned cold and the rain poured down.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ken (Sis. Darlene) Hoerr (Peoria, IL). We praise the Lord for bringing him to us to preach God's Holy Word.

College Weekend was held on March 9-15 this year. This is a week which everyone looks forward to each year when around twenty college students from the University of IL come to south Florida to enjoy the warm weather and to fellowship and sing praises to Him. A potluck dinner was held at the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening followed by a singing. The week passed quickly and we look forward to when they will return next year.

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

We are blessed with the fellowship of our northern family; we need to let them all know each and every one of you are so very welcome. It helps us in the summer months when we are but a few. We enjoyed a very nice potluck supper and a singing was enjoyed by all. Sarasota and Ft. Lauderdale were with us and we want to thank all who helped make it so special!

Easter will soon be here. Let us all be thankful to Jesus for what He did for each and every one of us. The question we can ask ourselves is what have we done to help keep the precious name of "Jesus" alive in our everyday walk of life?

We are looking forward to some spring-like weather—yes, even in Florida. This winter was cooler than any I remember in our 22-plus years we have lived here.

There was several brothers from our little church who have

returned safely from a work group in Jamaica, which we are ever thankful for. They helped to build a security wall for the compound where 24 deaf children live. These children are mostly abandoned; their parents don't want them or cannot take care of them. The time spent there was so uplifting to all who went. Their group was 37 and was represented by 17 different congregations. Young and old really worked hard so these children would be somewhat safer from those who do and would abuse them, thinking they cannot tell anyone because they cannot speak. But they have a language all their own. We are a very blessed people who have no disabilities and are so glad to help those who don't have it so nice this side of the grave. I believe they will have a very special place in the Heavenly Home!

Attitude. What is our attitude like? If we awake each morning with the reading of God's Word, doesn't the day go better? We all know it's not what we bear—it is how we bear it that counts. So let's all strive for that kind of an attitude!

Visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Let's all remember that God's eyes are always on us. What does He see in us?

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Vera and Mary Martin**

What is beyond love? The answer is nothing. The love of God was certainly revealed in a day of fellowship on Saturday, March 2, when the Sarasota church provided a chili lunch, bake sale and auction to help raise funds for those who are less fortunate than us. We want to thank our church

and winter residents for their support in this event.

We want to thank all those who have taken time to visit us while in Sarasota and especially thank the ministering brothers for sharing God's Word with us. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

We have been reminded recently in a service that when we pray, let us ask the Lord to deal with us, not as we should be dealt with, but deal with us according to His compassion and mercy. We were exhorted to prepare our hearts for Communion service which is planned for Good Friday night.

We have been reminded in the passing of four souls this month. Velimir Stokov, Yugoslavia (father of Sis. Biserka Krstec {and John}, Sarasota); Bro. Dave Wingeier, Alto, MI (husband of Sis. Bertha Wingeier); Sis. Martha Brenner, Cissna Park, IL (mother of Maryellen {J.C.} Ebach, Sarasota); and Frank Cochran, Sarasota (father of Bobby {and Sis. Paulette} Cochran, Sarasota).

"Though they were dead, yet shall they live; Oh, dry those tears, God has them in His arms", the only One we would want to trust them to. They were only loaned to us. We have given these precious gems back to God. Now they are numbered among the angels.

From the cradle to the cross we would profess to teach them to be brave and to look up to God. Now, with faith in our hearts as they look down on us, may we profess our courage. They will look down on us in loving gratitude.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**Peggy Camp**

This past month, we had the privilege to listen to God's Word brought forth by several visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), William Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Jaye Rinkenberg (Goodfield, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) for allowing themselves to be used in God's service.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman and their three boys, Philip, Samuel, and Matthew. They have moved here from Silverton, OR and we look forward to assembling with them.

If you are in Atlanta over a weekend, please stop in to worship with us. We meet every Sunday at 10:20 at the Renaissance Hotel. The hotel is located off I-85 at the Riverdale Rd. exit. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Don Sellers (770) 381-1395 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Millie Jepson**

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105

We appreciate Bro. Ken Eisenmann and Sis. Sharon coming from Cissna Park, IL this past month and also Bro. Ron Schambach from Elgin, IL. They so graciously ministered to us and we thank them for their faithfulness in sharing the Word of God. How we need that Light for our path of life.

Belvidere church's World Relief group consists of the whole church, from the youngest to the oldest. There are projects for

every age and the smallest children are given tasks to help in the meetings, too. It is really a joy to see the enthusiasm the children have for the World Relief monthly meetings! This past month the group had the special privilege of packing supplies for Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller to take to Haiti.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller traveled to Haiti leaving their family in the capable hands of Sis. Marlene's mother, Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park, IL). Bro. Art worked with an American veterinarian and Sis. Marlene helped in the hospital during their stay there. They felt the blessing of God at the very beginning of their trip when they discovered they were overloaded and were still permitted to take in the needed supplies without any extra charge. All of the church family are anxious to see their slides.

This Easter season we were again taken back to the Cross where our Saviour died, and the tomb where He arose from the dead, in the songs and recitations by the children in their Easter program. Our hearts were stirred as we all sang together "The Old Rugged Cross". The following poem, "No Other Road" asks some questions leading to that Cross:

And is Thy spotless life on earth to end

Ere Thy young manhood has but scarce begun?

Will not Thy Father heaven's guardians send?

Thou art His Son.

Is there no other way to save mankind

Without Thine agony and utter loss?

Is there no road which Heavenly Love may find

Beside the Cross?

There is no path His weary feet may know

But that which leads Him to the shameful tree;

That Great Forgiving Love will even go

To Calvary.

—E. Lillian Lowther

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

I Peter 1:18-19

ILLINOIS**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL****Debbie Grieco - Janice Horner**

"... I am not alone, because the Father is with me." (John 16:32) This is an immense comfort to us, that even though all men forsake us or all our friends have passed away, yet everyone who is in Christ is never alone for God is with us. Dwell on the comforting thought that we are never forsaken, because this is true likeness to Jesus.

"... in me ye might have peace." (John 16:33) In spite of tribulation, nothing can touch the peace Christ gives His children.

"... but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) As believers in Jesus Christ, we are to overcome, even as He overcame, because He who is within us is greater than he who is in the world. (I John 4:4)

May the above verses comfort those who have heartache at this time. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Harsh on the death of her son, Andrew. We also

sympathize with Bro. Steve Virgil in the passing from this life of his father, Robert. May God comfort each member of these families in their time of sorrow.

“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

Sis. Shelley Knobloch (Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Sam Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty) exchanged marriage vows on March 3. We pray that God will give of His richest blessing to them in their new life together. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) was present to minister God's Word on this special occasion. It's always a privilege to hear the Word preached in truth and sincerity.

Our monthly hymn sing was held on February 18. Everyone was encouraged to bring a friend so they could enjoy the beautiful singing and blessings of praising our Lord. The younger Sunday School children shared their talents by singing several songs which were a blessing. How wonderful it is to see their little lights shine for Jesus.

David and Shella Brummitt from Smithville, Texas have made a public confession of their faith and are seeking the Lord's peace in repentance. We are thrilled that the Lord still answers a mother's prayers for her children, even after she has passed from this life. David is the son of the late Sis. Karen and the late Dave Brummitt. Sis. Karen had a legacy of prayer for her sons. We can even feel them smiling from up in Heaven over the wonderful news. Wouldn't we all just love to hug and kiss Sis. Karen and tell her how happy we are?

On March 13, Bro. Ron Heiniger had a special Bible study on social problems of today's generation. In Jesus' time they also had social problems and he encouraged us to live by Jesus' example by following scriptural principles in today's society. Faith in God, fervent prayer, focusing our eyes on Jesus Christ, and fixing our priorities were some suggested ways to handle these issues. Thank you, Bro. Ron, for ministering God's Word so unselfishly to us. May God richly reward you for your love and encouragement.

March 17 was our monthly hymn sing. We thank the Morton Mixed Choir for their singing ability. It was not only beautiful but very inspirational.

As Easter time is fast approaching, let us all remember the real reason for this season, and never forget the words to the beautiful hymn, *The Old Rugged Cross*:

On a hill far away stood an old
rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and
shame;
And I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was
slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a
crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so
despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear lamb of God left His
glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.
In the old rugged cross, stained
with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus
suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

Hymns of Zion #168

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

“...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Luke 9:62

Denying the things of this world daily is really a battle between our human “fleshly” nature and our spirit, which God should direct. Only by God's grace can we overcome our fleshly nature and keep our peace in Him perfect. Sometimes the devil seems to draw us slowly off the straight and narrow path into the gray areas between the world and righteousness. So we must take a look at our spiritual standing each day as commanded in God's Word.

“...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Luke 9:23

I am reminded of the poem “The Church and the World” (author unknown) about how the World slowly convinced the Church to partake of its pleasures once more till “none but the Master who knoweth all, could discern the two apart.” Let us work at self-denial, brethren, so our predicament is not the same as the Church in the poem.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN), Dewayne Dill and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL). Also, on March 8 we were thankful to have Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) with

us for our all-church Bible Study. May God, who is the rewarder of all perfect gifts, bless these dear brothers for their labors.

**ILLINOIS,
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

"Love children especially...they live to soften and purify our hearts." (Feodor Dostoevsky)

As our church continues to grow with the additions of those little bundles who bring so much joy and responsibility for their caretakers, congratulations are in order for Bro. Thane and Sis. Heidi (Gerst) Hanson. On leap day, Chloe Elizabeth Hanson, their second child, made her debut. Daniel Hanson hereby gains the status of big brother. Welcoming Chloe are local grandparents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson, and aunts, Sis. Gretchen Hanson and Sis. Heather Gerst.

During the past month, we have had many visitors. Among them have been ministering Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). Blessing us with their voices, the Inoue sisters from Bloomington sang some special songs for those who were at the February family hymn sing. We thank all of our visitors, whether they blessed us with their mere presence, their sermon, or their voices. God gives each of us gifts that we might share with one another.

With our church being made up of many students, we missed them while they took spring break for a week in mid-March. While some went home to spend time with family and friends, others went to warmer climates for sun and relaxation and yet others went to Jamaica to do work on a World

Relief Project. About nine young people from our student group contributed to a larger work group to help make improvements on the school for the deaf in Kingston, Jamaica. These students report that this was a real blessing and makes them appreciate what they have and how fortunate they are.

We are thankful that our Bro. Doug Mangers has found employment as a civil engineer in the St. Louis area. While we are sorry to see him leave the Champaign-Urbana church where he has grown up, we wish Bro. Doug many blessings from the greatest Engineer of all, our Lord God, as he undertakes this great transition in his life. May he take with him his small church background and help build the fellowship in St. Louis.

"...love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God...for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

As love is in the air and in the hearts of our students, we are seeing manifestation of it in the form of engagements. The Lord has recently brought together two of our students, Sis. Stephanie Roeschley (Morton, IL) and Bro. Clint Heindold (Cissna Park, IL). They plan a June 23 wedding. One of our more recent additions to our congregation, Sis. Hayley Schlipf (Gridley, IL), has been engaged to Bro. Brian Stoller (Gridley, IL). We wish these couples the fullest measure of the love and peace of the Lord as they make preparations to be joined in marriage.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter**

I don't think I learn spiritual lessons very quickly, but I am continually amazed by the "under-

the-surface" situations facing virtually everyone. I am convinced that I should be praying for everyone I meet—and I am also convinced that I need others' prayers more and more as I meet so many with so many troubles, fears, anxieties, and tragedies. People DO need the Lord, and we are the flesh upon His Spirit. Lord, help us to respond more like Thee.

The Spirit comforted and chastised, exhorted and counseled us through the Conference report, read and meditated upon by Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. We were given much to ponder, but one quote that Elder Bro. Earl recollected from his father, Bro. Edwin, was that "the Word is stricter than the church." We must be careful not to take liberties that would be harmful to any other soul; we also must be careful not to forget ALL the words of the Word, instead of just paying attention to the ones that allow us to feel comfortable. May the Lord of the Word reward our Elder brothers in full—and we, by our obedience, give them courage to go forward.

Sis. Trisha Metzger, daughter of Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger of Oakville, IA, has found employment with a family in Darien, being a special teacher and friend to the children there. We are grateful to have her with us; thankful that she has joined us already on occasions as a church family, and we look forward to her fellowship with us as we extend our Christian love.

The pain of parting is seldom greater than when parents must deal with the death of their own child. The Lord has allowed this great grief to come upon Ken and Christina Eckela, for their son, Ken, Jr., has died. Though we do

not understand and we feel helpless in what we can offer them, they have our sympathy, our tears for them, our love and prayers. May the Lord be to them everything—their balm in Gilead—for this is a hard time. He alone can support and understand, for He alone gave up His Son voluntarily so that each of us may truly live.

We were reminded of the value of the Word. Not only should we be reading and meditating daily, but we also have the privilege and responsibility to encourage our children to do so as well. If it becomes a habit with them, there is none that is better. It was shared with us that the Word says all those things that tremble upon our tongue and we feel constrained to keep back. It can convict unto repentance without our words—but not without our examples.

Each day I am confronted with the diabolical control gangs exert over their members. I hate those “organizations” and what they do to many of my students’ lives. For doing what the gang required of them this week (they HAD to do it), four young ladies have ruined this semester and their academic record; one was beaten up, and another was brutalized by her father. A young man mentioned his wish to be a policeman, but he is unsure how to keep his record clean—because of the long arm of the gang with which he feels he must remain affiliated for life. Think of the commitment they have to groups which have only caused them hurt! On the other hand, we have a beloved church, given its authority from Christ’s hand and heaven’s dispensation. We are exhorted and warned for our welfare. What kind of commitment have we made—and kept? Is it for our joy and peace and that of others who see and watch us?

“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 5:6-7

And then one day I’ll cross the river,
I’ll fight life’s final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know He reigns.

“Because He Lives”—Gaither

“...because I live, ye shall live also.”

John 14:19

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Beth Steffen - Joyce Bauer

We are thankful there are faithful brothers willing to preach the Word in season and out. On Wednesday evening, February 21, Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) presented a topical Bible study on Worldliness. He talked of the importance of determining what is “worldly” in our lives and how we can work to eliminate it from our lives. Other visiting ministers for this month were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Alfred Bahler (Remington, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). We thank each one for sharing their time and talents with us.

We rejoiced with Bro. Clarence and Sis. Violet Maul that they could celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on February 24 even though Sis. Violet was in the hospital at the time. And then our hearts were saddened as God took

Sis. Violet Home to be with Him on March 5. Those left to mourn her passing and to comfort Bro. Clarence are their children, Bro. Les and Sis. Marilyn Maul, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul, and Bro. Stan Maul, as well as four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We extend our sympathy to the family of our dear sister, Sis. Martha Brenner, who was called to her Heavenly Home on March 5. Even though Sis. Martha had not been able to assemble with us for some time, we will miss her. She leaves to mourn her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Ellen and J.C. Ebach (Sarasota, FL), three grandchildren, Matthew Gudeman and Jill Schmidt (Florida), and Jodi Fisher (St. Louis, MO), and two brothers, Bro. George Winger and Roy Winger.

Children are indeed a gift from God. We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Julie Walder on the birth of their son, Ryan Andrew, born February 24. Joining in welcoming him home are big sister, Katie; grandparents, Sis. Joyce Bauer, and Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy Walder; and great-grandparents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Marguerite Bauer.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold have taken little Walter Patton, a foster baby, into their home. We wish them God’s blessings in this new parenting adventure.

We extend our best wishes to first-time grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts, on the birth of their granddaughter, Brit-tany Joy, to Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise Weerts (Washington, IL). Also best wishes to Bro. Roland and Sis. Mary Ann Young on the birth of a new grandson, Nathaniel Luke, to Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser (Morton).

God is pleased if we give of our time and talents to help others in

His name. Spending a week in Jamaica as part of a work projects team, March 8-16, were Sis. Elsie Hoffman and Lee, Sis. Carol Heindold, Grant, Bro. Thad, and Bro. Clint, and Bro. Eldon Steffen. We thank you for giving of yourselves for others.

We are grateful that Bro. Bob Greiner's bypass surgery was successful and that he is now recuperating at home. We are thankful that Sis. Mary Hofbauer is at home after a short stay in the hospital.

We rejoice with Bro. Clint Heindold (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Stephanie Roeschley (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn, Morton) who have announced their engagement. A summer wedding is being planned.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Arlene Banwart
Linda Knobloch**

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) have been our visiting ministers this past month. The Bible Class was privileged to have Bro. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) teach them. We thank these brothers for assembling with us and for their willingness to lend themselves to the Spirit.

"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Ephesians 5:24-25

If we strive to follow these instructions from God's Word, peace and harmony are likely to follow.

Humbleness and unselfishness will contribute to the peace we can enjoy, not only in husband and wife relationships, but with all those in whom we associate with. On March 2, Dan Gudeman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn) and Kristi Harbison (Gary and Jeaninne, Winchester, IL) were united in marriage. God's nearness and blessings to Dan and Kristi and their families.

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized. They are Sis. Lula Zimmerman (Bro. Orville), Bro. Lyle Steffen, and Landon Dietrich (Bro. John and Sis. Ranae). We are thankful that Bro. Duane Steffen (Sis. Lois) and Sis. Sarah Dietrich are able to again assemble with us.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

Life brings many opportunities into our path. Some we meet with joy, some with anxiety and sorrow, some with encouragement, others with chastisement, but with all God has but one purpose and that is to strengthen our faith and make us more fit for His kingdom. May we always remember that God means only good for whatever He allows to come into our way, though our adversary would desire that we derive another meaning therefrom.

Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er
burdened,
Freed from sin might live anew.
Strive with zeal and passion
glowing
In the strength of your first love;
Break the bonds of earth that
keep you
From your bright abode above.

Hymns of Zion #47 (various

verses)

The weekend of March 2-3 we sat, as in heavenly places, and heard how two dear souls had learned to strive aright and found mercy unto repentance at the foot of the cross. We welcome Bro. Darren Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Jolene Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) into the fold. May they never seek to reinstate their bonds with this earth but rather diligently strive with the youthful zeal they possess towards the bright abode that awaits the faithful. Present with us for this blessed occasion were Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and ministering brother, Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN). Other visiting brothers this month included Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Mike Leman (Denver, CO). May God bless the efforts of our brothers, willing to give of themselves to feed the flock.

Strive to enter at the portal,
Walk the narrow path of life;
Here we wander in the valley;
Death abounds with toil and strife.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Kilgus both experienced a final farewell within their family circles this month. May they feel our love, support and sympathy during difficult times. How often it indeed does renew our spirit to ensure we are walking that narrow path that leads to the portals above.

Battle 'gainst the pow'r of Satan!
Grow not weary in the fight,
Struggle forward to the kingdom
Of your God in endless light!
Trembling, keep your soul from
falling;

Prize your ransom more and more;

Daily round your mortal body
 Countless dangers hover o'er.

We often take so much for granted in life. It seems that God has clearly reminded our congregation during recent weeks that only one moment of time can change our entire life. Nothing will matter that we had planned, except if our soul is prepared for eternity. Our fervent prayers have been that God's will may prevail in the lives of loved ones who have borne the afflictions of the body: Bro. Don (Sis. Leann) Schambach, Bro. William Banwart and Sis. Lyla (Bro. Richard) Schock. The power of prayer has been so evident and we are so thankful. May we remember, God does mean for good, every thing that He allows to enter our life. It may not be for the exclusive benefit of those it befalls but for us who stand by.

Faith so true adores the Saviour,
 Loves His care and all His ways;
 Does not cherish worldly pleasure,
 Gives to God alone its praise.
 Faithfulness will never venture;
 Of this world it is aware.
 If your treasure is in heaven,
 Then your heart is also there.

Recently we were made aware that Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) and Bro. Chris Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce of Iowa City) have the faith to believe they are to be united in Holy Matrimony. May God grant His infinite nearness as they make plans for life together, remembering that God is faithful to bless them, keep them and provide for all they may need.

Ye who fight, do this consider;
 Strive aright, and trembling stand!
 Daily let your feet move onward
 Till you reach the heav'nly land.

Approaching the Easter season, we possibly spend a bit more time pondering the price our dear Saviour paid on Calvary. Knowing how unworthy we are but realizing His great love and willingness, it certainly does inspire us to strive aright, yet tremblingly stand as we encounter earthly struggles. May we never become complacent or stand still but rather daily move forward, inch by inch, till we reach the heavenly land where we can meet our dear Saviour and express our thankfulness, throughout eternity.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

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

Matthew 28:5,6

What a comfort these words must have been to the followers of Jesus to learn that their crucified Lord had risen from the dead. We can also find that same comfort that Jesus has risen, and that He can be our Saviour and Lord.

We all rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four of our converts the weekend of February 25. They were Angie Kupferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth), Mindy Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Brian Cottrell (Bill, Sis. Judy) and Janel Cottrell (Bill, Sis. Judy). We pray for God's spirit of wisdom and grace to continue with them all of their lives. Sharing God's Word and work with us that weekend were Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bruce Hohulin

(Goodfield, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Tom Leman (Denver, CO).

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Eva Rocke and Krista rejoice in a new addition in their family as Miriam Sandra was born on March 6. Grandparents of little Miriam are Bro. Rich and Sis. Marge Rocke and Bro. Janos and Sis. Eva Szabo (Ersekosanad, Hungary).

Bro. Bill Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Heidi Plattner (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat) of Goodfield announced their engagement on March 10. May God richly bless them and blend their lives together as they continue to seek His guidance.

Our prayers have been with Dale Wiegand (Sis. Friedora) and Sis. Bev Hartter (Bro. John) as they recently have undergone surgery. We also remember Brent Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy) who has had to spend time in the hospital.

Our hearts are saddened to say farewell to Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke who are moving to the Philadelphia, PA area. We pray that God will keep them in the shadow of His wing. Their address will be 7402 Lazor Road, Macungie, PA 18062, and their new phone number is 610-967-0102.

We extend our sympathy to those in our congregation who have recently lost family members. We sympathize with Sis. Salome, Sis. Emma, and Sis. Corine Hartter in the loss of their sister, Ida Meinders, of Roanoke. May God comfort Bro. Milton, Bro. Roy, Bro. Gerald Leman, and Sis.

Marge Rocke in the loss of their brother, Bro. Walt Leman, of Roanoke.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"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

Wednesday, March 6, was a blessed evening as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. They were Marvin Bender and his beloved wife, Clara. We welcome them as our brother and sister in Christ. We wish them God's grace. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Art Bahler in this work of faith.

We were served Holy Communion March 13. May we always keep this evening in remembrance. Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in this holy sacrament.

Other ministers this month were Bros. Earl Gerber, Gary Brown and Greg Stoller, all of Forrest. We thank these brothers for their labor of love.

A precious little boy, Rhett Michael Brucker, was born March 1 to Douglas and Bethany Brucker. Erin, Lane and Cassidy are delighted. Elated grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannette Bahler, and

Harley and Jane Brucker (Reedsburgh, WI).

David and Deann Steidinger are happy grandparents to two grandsons. Steven and Debbie Vaughan are first-time parents to Blake Ed-

ward, born March 6.

Dayton and Teresa Steidinger welcomed a boy, Ethan David, born March 13. He has a brother, Aaron, as a playmate.

Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson are grandparents of Emma Rae, born February 19, to Mike and Jacque Kelson of East Peoria. Ashley and Ryan are happy siblings. May God bless these families as they rear these little ones.

John Roth (Martha) received word that his brother, Bro. Harry Roth, 84, (Prescott, AZ) passed away March 1. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to them.

Our sympathy is shared with the family of Margaret Kelson, 86, who passed away March 1. Her children are: Sis. Jeannette Bahler (Bro. Ralph); Bro. Bud (Sis. Sharon); Joan Merrill (Frank, Naperville); David (Teri, Pineville, NC); 15 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

We have had the following loved ones in the hospital: Sis. Lydia Eisenmann, Eunice Stork (John), Sis. Elaine Mowery (Dale), Sis. Annette Hale (Troy), Sis. Sally Schieler, and Ben Kaisner (Kathryn). May they all feel the Lord's nearness during their recuperation.

Notes of Thanks:

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

The family of Margaret Kelson

A heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy rendered to us during the loss of our mother. God bless you for the deeds of kindness.

The family of Carolyn Fehr

The family of Sis. Della Meiss wishes to extend sincere thanks

and appreciation to our brethren and friends for the many expressions of sympathy and love given in memory of our loved one. God bless you.

We want to express our sincere thanks for all the cards, gifts, phone calls, visits, food and prayers, while little Donita was in the hospital and since coming home! May God bless each one!

Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner and family

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 sisters, nieces and nephews of Sis. Ida Steffen

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."

Psalms 127:1

On Sunday, March 3, services were held for the first time in our new church building. We are thankful we can feel the Lord's presence in our midst and pray that He will continue to bless us as we assemble in our new house of worship.

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

I Corinthians 11:26

On February 21, we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. It was a special evening for us as we knew this would be the

last Communion service held in our old church building. We thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman for assisting Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in this solemn service. May we always remember the high price our Saviour paid for our salvation.

"He is not here: for He is risen..."

Matthew 28:6

As the Easter season approaches, we also look forward to our Sunday School children's program reminding us of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. We can never be thankful enough for the victory won over death and grave that we may have the precious gift of life eternal.

We thank Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Ken Schneider and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly bless them.

February 24 was the wedding day of Eric Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally) and Michelle Bahler (Carlos and Marty, Fairbury, IL). Abby Livingston (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum) and Brian Rinkenberger (Jack and Carolyn Rinkenberger, Fairbury, IL, and Les and Barb Bauman, El Paso, IL) exchanged wedding vows on March 9. May these couples look to the Lord as they begin their life together.

Planning an August 31 wedding are Eric Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Rita Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda, Morris, MN). May God lead and guide them as they make plans to become husband and wife.

Our hospital patients this

month have been Sis. Doris Koehl, Zoe Koehl (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie), Bro. Leroy Koehl, Quinn Ifft (Warren and Sis. Betty) and Robbie Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine). We pray the Lord will restore health and strength according to His will.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson and family in the death of his grandmother, Margaret Kelson (Fairbury, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

A special thank you to all who so kindly remembered me during my hospital stay and since returning home. A special thank you for your prayers. God bless all.

In Christian love, Sis. Rosetta Stoller

I wish to thank all those who remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls during my stay in the hospital and since returning home. Everything was greatly appreciated and may God bless you all.

Sis. Doris Koehl

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Barb Brim

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1:6-7

Is it not wonderful to feel our Lord's love, mercy, and grace lead us through the "manifold temptations" we are accosted with in our

walk on this earth? We are assured a blessing in even the most serious trials if we allow Him to strengthen and refine our faith as He leads us through the fires of life and prepares our souls for the purity that is in Heaven. Praise and glory are His forever!

Our Goodfield congregation was blessed with the addition of a dear young sister to our church family. Sis. Elisabeth Good, having found grace unto repentance, gave testimony of her faith and was baptized this month. May our Lord's love and tender mercies fill your new life.

Another reason to celebrate was given us by the engagement announcement of our Sis. Heidi Plattner (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat) to Bro. Bill Wettstein (Bro. Art and Sis. Donna) of Eureka, IL. God bless and strengthen you both as your walk becomes one.

A lamb was added to our flock this month. Little Evan Levi was born March 4 to Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne Wieland. Older brother, Brice, and grandparents, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Roger Wieland and Mrs. Sandra Buza of Bay City, MI are all rejoicing at this newest addition to their family. May our Lord Jesus Christ keep him always in the shelter of His love.

The Memorandum was read this month and we would like to extend our heartfelt love and appreciation to all the Elder Brothers who work so diligently for the salvation and edification of our souls. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) for their participation in our worship services. We are truly grateful for the wisdom and love they shared with us.

When you've walked thru the fire
 you have no desire,
 to walk down the paths of before.
 When the flames reach their
 brightest, what can only
 delight us, is knowing He's
 holding the door.

That leads always nearer, we see
 ever clearer,
 a place where the flames burn no
 more.
 Where Satan will never, no matter
 whatever,
 escape and torment as before.

The longer we're tested, the trials
 we have bested,
 the more we depend on the Lord,
 He'll strengthen and guide us to
 reach deep inside us,
 and find what within hearts is
 stored.

A perfect peace waiting, His will
 anticipating,
 our total surrender He claims.
 Sweet rest for the soul, life of
 comfort untold,
 when He leads us from out of the
 flames.

So worry no more for what is in
 store,
 or whether you'll survive the heat.
 Rejoice in the trials tho' weary the
 miles,
 your journey is almost complete.

For Jesus is leading our way
 interceding
 till we rest evermore at His feet.
 White robes there await, all is
 love, fears abate,
 as our Lord God in Heaven we'll
 greet.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
 Perry A. Klopfenstein**

In a recent sermon we heard the
 minister make a wonderful con-
 trast between the "doctrine of the

world" (prominent values of unbel-
 lievers) and the "doctrine of the
 Word" (eternal truths). It was
 both enlightening and encourag-
 ing to note the differing value sys-
 tems.

It was pointed out that we as
 believers need discernment to no-
 tice the difference between these
 value systems because Satan is so
 sly in obscuring the differences.

It occurred to me that our for-
 bearers in faith, about 50 years ago
 and before, had a special advan-
 tage in discerning the differences
 between the doctrine of the world
 and the doctrine of the Word. They
 mostly were farmers. In tending
 to the soil, they were far removed
 from much of the worldly influ-
 ence we encounter today.

While less and less of us are
 farmers today-and are far removed
 from the wholesome task of farm-
 ing-we can imitate our agrarian
 forbearers by keeping ourselves
 close to the "soil" of God's Word;
 that is, our spiritual plants can
 thrive if they are rooted in God's
 Word, a rich soil! It is a good foun-
 dation. It is a wholesome pursuit
 to be influenced by God's Holy
 Word!

On March 10, Bro. John Butik-
 offer and Sis. Kathy Taylor were
 taken into the church body. We
 rejoice over their conversion and
 praise God for His presence in
 their hearts. Elder Bro. Don
 Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was here for
 the occasion.

The wedding engagement of Sis.
 Hayley Schlipf to Bro. Brian Stol-
 ler was announced on March 17.
 She is the daughter of Bro. Dale
 and Sis. Vicki Schlipf. His parents
 are Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean
 Stoller (and the late Sis. Carol).

Four of our members were re-
 cently in the hospital: Sisters Ada
 Christensen and Marilyn Schieler
 and Bros. J.D. Maurer and Elmer

Witzig.

On Wednesday evening, March
 20, Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL)
 spoke to our young people (grades
 5-8) on the topic, "Building Values
 for Happiness."

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman
 (Francesville, IN) was here to help
 present the annual Conference re-
 port to the congregation.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
 Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Gotthold Tanner was
 called Home on February 16.
 What a blessing his loving family
 was to him. May our Heavenly
 Father comfort and bless his wife,
 Sis. Anna; his son, Bro. Lawrence;
 his daughters, Lorraine Glaser
 and Ruth Hoerr; his brothers, Bro.
 Adolph, Bro. Paul, Bro. John, and
 Bro. Ben; his sisters, Sis. Adele
 Stahl, Sis. Martha Tanner, Sis.
 Emily Tanner, Sis. Minnie Grusy,
 and Sis. Clara Yackley; his ten
 grandchildren and four great-
 grandchildren, and his other rela-
 tives and friends.

The Lord has drawn two souls
 who shall become one in Christ
 Jesus. The engagement was an-
 nounced of Sis. Stephanie
 Roeschley (Bro. Steve and Sis.
 Lynn) to Bro. Clint Heinold of
 Cissna Park, IL (Bro. Dan and Sis.
 Carol). May God continue to bless,
 lead and guide them in His way.

We welcome Bro. Darin Metz to
 our fellowship as he is now making
 Morton his home church.

We rejoiced in the testimony
 and baptism of two loved ones.
 Sis. Becky Winn and Bro. John
 Zimmerman (Bro. John and Sis.
 Jan) were able to tell us of the
 mercy and love of our Lord during
 their testimonies on March 9 and
 pledged to be true and faithful to
 Him in the baptismal waters on

Sunday, March 10. We welcome them with open arms into the fold.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) for ministering to us God's Holy Word. May the Lord bless his labor of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Cara Nussbaum

Thus united and in concord,
Let us walk the path of life,
Hand in hand, oh may love bind
us,
For each other's welfare strife.
Zion's Harp #237

Unity. How special that word becomes when two souls are united in Holy Matrimony. March 10 was that special day for Sis. Debbie Knobloch and Bro. Duane Steidinger (Francesville, IN). Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch (Bradford, IL), and George Steidinger of Fairbury. We pray that Bro. Duane will feel the love of the Peoria congregation as he too makes Peoria his church. May God richly bless this union of hearts.

A precious baby girl, Jessica Marie, was born to Chip and Kim Hemmer on March 20. Jessica's grandparents are Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Sis. Marian and Bud and Alice Grieves of Peoria.

We wish to thank those ministering brothers who have visited Peoria this past month. We appreciate so much their labors of love. They are Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bro. Curt Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), and Elder Bro. Wendell Gude-

man (Francesville, IN).

Let us continue to be prayerful for those who are and have been hospitalized recently. They include Bro. Bud Fehr, Sis. Karen Dunbar, Bro. Sam Hodel, Sis. Percida Eberhardt, Sis. Mildred Hoerr and Sis. Elizabeth Merkle.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Amelia Asal who passed away recently. Sis. Amelia was a resident at our Peoria home.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Joanna Herrmann

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

John 16:33

On February 17, we had the reading of the Memorandum. We were encouraged to be "up and doing". Our hearts were pricked as we were warned of worldliness in the church, and other areas where we may have grown lax. We thank Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Stoller. May we strive to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22)

Four new names are now written in the Book of Life. On February 24 and 25, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. They are Bro. Bill Wade, Sis. Ann Klendworth, Bro. Blake Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) and Bro. Joe Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray). Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman reminded us that if we are not thankful, we are not worthy. We want to thank him for coming and assisting this weekend.

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8 was the theme of the singles weekend. A special thanks to all who helped make this a blessed time of fellowship. We want to thank those ministering brothers who spoke to us: Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

On March 10, we were encouraged to examine our lives and to take care of anything that would hinder us from taking part in Holy Communion. We were reminded that "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (I Corinthians 11:29)

We want to thank all of our visitors. We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Among those not already mentioned are Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Our hospital patients this month were Quintin Scholl (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Arlene Knapp.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsassner have been blessed with another little girl. Paige Mari was born March 13.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to several of our brethren at the loss of loved ones: Sis. Marie Eberle, at the loss of her sister-in-law, Edith Russel; Sis. Gladys Knobloch, at the loss of her brother, William Hornback; and Bro. Bill Wade, at the loss of his brother-in-law, Ray Benefield.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye

repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13:5

We are so thankful that the Lord is still calling souls unto Him. Chris Wuthrich (Bro. Bill and Sis. Val) and Cory Gerber have answered the Lord's call this past month. May God grant His grace to them both.

Our congregation was blessed with three baby boys this month. Nicholas Jon blessed the hearts and home of Bro. Nate and Sis. Karel Hoffman on February 23. His grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Michaleen Braker and Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanni Hoffman.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Bev Luginbuhl are thankful the Lord answered their prayers with the birth of Samuel Scott on February 27 (I Samuel 1). Happy grandparents are Bro. Joe Aeschliman and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Andrea Harris were blessed with their second child on March 7. Noah Alen was welcomed home by big sister, Samantha, along with thankful grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann (Tremont, IL), Sis. Linda Harris, and Mike Harris of Florida. May the Lord grant each of these parents the wisdom to raise their children in the Lord.

What a blessing it was for our Bro. Walt Leman to be laid to rest after years of struggles. We extend our love and sympathy to his children: Sis. Denise Knepp (Bro. Curt), Marcus Leman of Denver, and Wayne Leman of Morton.

On March 10, our congregation was moved as we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Tom Hoffman to Elder. May the Lord be ever near him and his wife, Sis. Kathy, and their children, Sis. Jill and Aaron, as they take on this awesome responsibility. We also pray

for grace that each one of us may do our part to be a more unified body of Christ. We are so thankful for our dear Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma and pray the Lord would bless them for their many labors of love they have done for each of us.

We are always thankful when we are blessed with brethren from near and far to share God's precious Word with us. This month we were visited by Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL).

We pray for God's strength and nearness for our hospital patients this month: Bro. Dick Bowald (Sis. Mardell), Sis. Emma Legal, Sis. MaryLou Martin (Bro. Lyle), Bro. Don Sauder (Sis. Wilma), and Bro. Earl Bowald (Sis. Martha).

Notes of Thanks:

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our dear children, grandchildren, families, and loved ones from near and far for sharing their love and best wishes with us to make our 50th anniversary such a special day. One we will always remember with precious memories and cherishing thoughts. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Erma Moser

We want to thank all of the loved ones who remembered us in so many ways on our 50th wedding anniversary. Your love and presence meant so much to us. May the Lord bless each one for your thoughtfulness.

*Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoff-
man*

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that ye should follow his steps:"

I Peter 2:20-21

We are always very thankful for our visiting ministers: Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN), and Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Susan, Detroit, MI), Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), and Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). We received much "food for thought" through the efforts of these visiting ministers. May God richly bless them for their labor of love on our behalf.

Our Bro. Fred Beutel was called Home on February 29. We extend our deepest sympathy to his sisters, Kathryn, Sis. Emma (Bro. Al) Aberle, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Emil) Aberle and Sis. Mary Baurer. May God remember them in their time of sorrow.

Hospitalized this month have been Helen Bolliger and Sis. Melba (Jerry) Hangartner. We are thankful they are home and pray God will continue to bless them.

What a fortunate little boy Seth, born December 7, 1993, is to be adopted by our Sis. Anne Zuercher. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher.

Mary Judith was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach on

March 8. She is welcomed home by Paul, Gary, Holly, Lisa, Wendy, David and Emily. May these new babies bring an added blessing to their families.

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

Zion's Harp #163

We rejoice with our new Bro. Scott (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) Sauder and our new Sisters Teresa and Marcia (daughters of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette) Beutel as they made their covenant in the baptismal waters to be true and faithful unto God so long as they live.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

Jesus says "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

A man was carrying a heavy basket. His son wanted to help him. The father cut a stick and placed it through the handle of the basket so that the end closest to him was very short. The end towards the boy was three or four times longer. Each took hold of his end of the stick and lifted the basket and easily carried it. The son was bearing the burden with his father, but he found his work easy and light because his father assumed the heavy end of the stick. So it is when we bear the yoke with Christ: He

sees to it that the burden laid on us is light because He carries the heavy end.

We all have burdens to bear. Some have a very heavy load to bear while others seem to have things in life run smoothly. Despite this appearance of our burdens, when it is our turn to deal with a crisis, we need to ask God for assistance. He is always there, we just have to ask. When we need God, we can always find Him through prayer, singing songs of praise or reading His Word.

My heart goes out to those who don't know about Jesus and how He can take the heavy end of the stick. They try to handle it alone.

God is always there, but I think He waits for us to seek Him. In doing this He wants us to recognize where our help comes from and to glorify His name. Jesus is always willing. May we all learn to work hand in hand with Him as we go through the daily trials of our life.

Our church heritage is so special. We can travel from one church to another and know we will hear the truth from our own ministers as well as guest ministers. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. John Zeller (Morton), Curt Rassi (Tremont), and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) visited us this month. Thank you, Brothers, for allowing the Spirit to work through you so that we can all gain a blessing.

Also, Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) presented a Bible Study on "The Rapture". He based his talk on I Thess. 4:13-18. The essence of this presentation was that we should not be ignorant about the rapture. We should always be ready for none of us knows the time or hour when Jesus will return. What a great thought: being caught up into the heavens with

Jesus where there will be no burdens, but only peace and tranquility!

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Sue Ruppert. She is recovering at home and doing quite well. She wishes to extend her gratitude to all who have been faithful in calling, sending cards, providing meals, and praying. It is wonderful to have a church family to lean on in times like this and she thanks you.

Baptism is an event in our life that one never forgets. It is a time of making a covenant with God. We were privileged to have three souls in baptismal water this month. Scott and Dawn (Streitmatter) Schick, along with their nephew, Billy Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan), were baptized. We pray for each of you that you may continue to seek God's wishes.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

We were blessed to have Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) share the Word with us this month. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was also with us on March 9 as we heard the memorandum.

We have had three new babies join us in February.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie Isch welcomed Kayla Rae on February 17. Grandparents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard.

On February 19, Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch welcomed Ryan Douglas into their family. Grand-

parents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz.

Whitney Paige is the new daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly Baller. She joins Alexa at home. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Sue Baller (Bluffton North) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger are the new grandparents to Courtney Althea. Her parents are Darin and Kimberly Ringger.

A granddaughter, Jenna Rae, was born on February 26 to Bro. Dick and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel. Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonnie Reimschisel (Columbus, OH) are the happy parents.

Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Schwartz and Bro. Homer and Sis. Minnie Aschliman have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We commend them for the loving Christian example they are to all of us.

We pray that God's healing touch will reach those who have been hospitalized this month. They are Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Sis. Brenda Kipfer (Bro. Troy), Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander (Bro. Bill), Sis. Ann Gerber (Bro. Jerry), Whitney Baller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly), Trisha Scheumann (Darren), Sis. Helen Stoller and Sis. Effie Bertsch (Bro. Herman).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

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

Matthew 28:5-6

Let us always remember that our suffering Saviour died on the

cross and shed His blood for our sins. We can also reflect on His love for us as we partook in Holy Communion and renewed our vows to Him. We thank Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for sharing this with us.

We were thankful to hear that three souls have heeded God's call to repentance. May God grant much grace to Jason and Jeni Habegger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene) and Travis Bussel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Cathy) as they make a new beginning in the Lord.

We shared a blessed weekend together on February 24 and 25 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Ashley and Bryce Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan), Tim Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) and Margo Haiflich (husband, Ron, and parents, Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber). We appreciate the labors of our visiting Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). We pray that these souls will always feel God's nearness.

Sis. Lillian Bertsch (Bro. Laurin) and Sis. Evie Meyer have spent time in the hospital. May we be prayerful for these sisters.

"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

Christian Care Retirement Community, located beside our church, has been in operation since November of 1989 and has been a real blessing to our community. Recently we have added nine independent living units and 17 assisted living units. Since the weather is cooperating, we have again been working on a Special Care unit. We are anticipating oc-

cupancy for the independent and assisted units in mid-April. We thank God and pray for continued blessings at Christian Care.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints..."

Psalms 85:8

We have two dear Sisters who we desire the Lord to speak peace to their hearts. Sis. Mabel (Bro. Leon) Wuethrich suffered a stroke and remains in the hospital. We trust the Lord to comfort Sis. Anna (Bro. Lester) Nuest as she suffers bodily afflictions and is unable to assemble with us.

Thankfully, little Josiah Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) is recovering well after heart surgery. Other surgery patients were Bro. Kevin (Sis. Connie) Wuethrich and Bro. Chris Lee (Sis. Ruth) Wuethrich.

We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for bringing forth the Word of Life. He encouraged us to look up the definitions for Galatians 5:19-21.

February 17 was the wedding day for Gary Overmyer (Bro. Dick and Bev) and Kathleen Mckenzie (Nathan and Julie). May they seek the Lord in their marriage.

Bro. Duane Steidinger (George) and Sis. Debbie Knobloch (Bro. James and Sis. Helen) were united as one in the Lord on March 10. May God bless their home.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Leman rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Sydney Anne, on March 8. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman and Ken and Denise Bailey.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Missy Baumgartner
Lauretta Schafer

Greetings of love! Another month has swiftly passed and already we are beginning to see the signs of springtime approaching. Also, at this time of year, we reflect on our Saviour's suffering and the wonderful plan of salvation He fulfilled. May we endure our earthly trials and tests patiently so we may see our Heavenly Father and Saviour someday face to face.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month for lending themselves to bring us the Word. They were Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN).

On February 16, we gathered for a Valentine/Baby shower dinner for little Jacob Hart. The happy parents welcoming him into their home are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeni.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Anna Marie Stoller

The year's at the spring
And the day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven—
All's right with the world!

By Robert Browning

The fresh scent of spring air, newly plowed earth, the song of the robin and the peeking of the tulips, daffodils, and budding of shrubs and trees, give us hope and lovely thoughts.

Lovely thoughts abounded as our Bible Class attended ACYF at

Purdue on March 3. The theme of the day, "God's Formula for Victory", held lessons for students and teachers. God blessed each of us with food for thought and reminded us that to win the battle, we must surrender; to find strength, we must be weak; to gain, we must lose; to live, we must die; and to reign, we must suffer.

Sis. Lizzie Pflederer mourns the death of her brother, Ed Pflederer.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman from Philadelphia, PA.

South Bend Bible Class and teachers hosted our Bible Class on February 25. We were reminded to be totally committed to God.

Ruth Elcock has been absent from our assembly the past two weeks due to a serious back injury. May God provide all her needs and grant her blessings in this affliction.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

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

Isaiah 26:3

How can our minds be stayed on Him? How can our trust in Him be constant?

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Our aim should be to focus on Him and not our desire.

Our hearts are filled with

prayerful concern for those hospitalized. Sis. Minerva Stoller (Bro. Gene) is receiving radiation treatments. Bro. Robert Norr (Sis. Dorothy) is scheduled for surgery. Sis. Wanda Halter has returned home following surgery. Bro. Bill Klopfenstein was released and has attended church services. May they feel God's peace in this trying time.

This peace was with our retired Elder Bro. David Bertsch during his recent trip to Haiti with a work team of eleven brothers, sisters and friends, building a school roof and wiring and painting a child care center.

Bro. Mark Gerber and Sis. Barb (Bluffton, IN) came to share Sunday, March 10, with us. Bro. Brace Wieland welcomed the help in ministering the Word. We thank the Lord for His blessings and admonition provided through our brothers.

Bro. Doyle Frauhiger presented a topical Bible Study on March 13 on "Peer Pressure in the End Times." We were reminded to watch for opportunities to be a light for Jesus.

We appreciate our ministering brothers scheduling the topical Bible studies each month.

The annual Gateway Woods Rep meeting was held at church on March 16. A dinner was served to over 100 people.

The engagement of Sis. Candi Stoller (Bro. John and Sis. Patsy) to Bro. Carlton Schlatter (Smithville, OH) was announced.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Renee Beer - Linda Beer

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee..."

Isaiah 26:3

What comfort to rest on our Lord, to know He will help us through whatever He lays before us. He wants to fill us with His power and strength. It is available if we yield to Him. I'm so thankful we can talk to our Lord anytime of the day and never get the answering machine when we call in desperation.

Bernice (Haab) Wenger underwent eye surgery and Sis. Edith Baumgartner was a hospital patient recently. We are happy to report they are able to be present among us in church again.

We appreciate and want to thank the ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us: Bros. Jeff Streitmatter (Atlanta, GA), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May God fill them with His wisdom as they bring forth His Word.

Bro. Jesse Haab, 85, was suddenly taken from this life in an auto accident on March 12. We are thankful he did not need to suffer with injuries and could go into the arms of Jesus. He had been a widower since 1985 when Sis. Freida passed away. They had no children. Bro. Jesse is survived by his brother, Harley, of New Paris, and Bro. Roy of Bluffton, along with many nieces and nephews. He will be missed but we are happy he could "go Home".

Someone has written of Jesus:
He who is the Bread of Life began His ministry hungering.
He who is the Water of Life ended His ministry thirsting.
Christ hungered as a man, yet fed the hungry as God.
He was weary, yet He is our rest.
He paid tribute, yet He is the King.
He was called a devil, but He cast out demons.
He prayed, yet He hears prayer.
He wept, and He dries our tears.

He was sold for 30 pieces of silver,
yet He redeems sinners.

He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
yet He is the Good Shepherd.

He gave His life, and by dying He destroyed death.

—*author unknown*

Oh, that we could bring glory to Jesus in our lives, who came from Heaven to die such an awful death because He loved us so much. What a promise to be able to live eternally with Him. May He not only be the Saviour of our life but the Lord of our life—controlling our thoughts, actions, and deeds. May we surrender all and place ourself totally in His hands that He can mold us into the vessel He wants us to be. The potter turns his wheel, smooths the clay, dries it in the sun, bakes it in the oven, and finally turns it out of his workshop, a vessel to his honor and fit for his use. Man must continually surrender himself and be pliable to the hands of the skillful potter—our Heavenly Father.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power.
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

—*Van de Venter*

When you put your care in God's hands,
He puts His peace in your heart.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

As I sit to write this month, I once again pray that the Holy Spirit would guide my pen, to the inspiration of all and ultimately to God's glory. Truly our Lord Jesus is alive and that should cause rejoicing in our hearts.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. We thank these brothers for bringing forth the living Word of God.

Sis. Mary Jo Schieler had two minor surgeries this past month and is doing fine. Thanks be to God for His healing power.

Several brothers, sisters and friends from our congregation traveled to Haiti on two different work teams during the month of March. They shared many stories with us and were thankful for the spiritual encouragement and the Lord's blessing and protection.

As spring begins to bud in our area and we think on God's goodness, we also welcome home the "snowbirds". It always brings joy to greet brothers and sisters whom we have not seen for a while.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass so fresh and sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in Heaven, we thank Thee!
—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

It is always a joy to welcome into our midst our loving shepherd, Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley, Milford, IN), and we again thank

him for his efforts in providing that manna from Heaven through the power of the Holy Spirit.

On a recent Wednesday evening we were lovingly exhorted to live a closer walk in our Lord and Saviour. We thank our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) for delivering the conclusions of the Memorandum to us.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer accompanied the Bible Class students to Youth Fellowship services at Purdue University on March 3. Our appreciation is extended to the brothers and sisters of the Indiana churches who planned and organized this event for our youth.

We also wish to thank the Bro. Scott Schafer family for opening up their home for a recent Wednesday evening service.

First-time grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe who welcome Carter Forrest into their family circle. Michael and Susan Beebe are the happy parents, and we send our love and God's blessings to this dear family.

We are thankful for the work experiences a number from our congregation participated in during this past month. Ministering Bro. Bob Beebe and two of his sons, Matt and Mark, spent a week in Haiti on construction work. Ministering Bro. Wayne Lehman, Bro. Rich Gramm, Bro. Otto Schlatter, Jr., David Beebe, and Craig Langhofer traveled to Juarez, Mexico where they worked on various projects.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher
Kenneth Susdorf

Greetings, grace and peace to you all from Northern Indiana.

Spring seems to be in the air! The days are growing longer and

the sun seems to be shining more. We are getting closer to celebrating Easter and our precious Lord's death.

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"

Galatians 1:4

We were brought with a tremendous price. Praise God for His love to us, so undeserving were we.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). Thank you for coming and sharing so unselfishly.

Our fellowship rejoices with Vic and Sue Heinold on the birth of Madison Sue on February 17. They are thrilled with her. Sis. Ruth Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) is the happy grandmother. We wish them God's richest blessings.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Sherice Bahler - Jody Bahler

"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:"

Proverbs 6:23

We are so thankful for our visiting ministers who so willingly come and give of themselves in God's service. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) ministered the precious Word to us. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

A precious little bundle was delivered to Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach. Kaleb John arrived safely on March 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer, and Bro. Gerald

and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. (Oakville, IA). May God grant them grace and wisdom as they raise him in the fear of the Lord.

We are thankful to have Bro. Lloyd Kyburz (Sis. Pat) assembling with us again since his recent accident. We pray that he will continue to feel God's healing powers each and every day.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner
Monica Eisenmann

Funeral services were held in Burlington church for Ted Behne on Thursday, March 14, with Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and the Oakville ministers officiating. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

We thank Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) for lending himself to God's service on Sunday, March 17. He so lovingly reminded us that we should take care of our spiritual body as well as we take care of our physical body.

As we look forward to the reading of the Memorandum and Communion, let us remember to examine ourselves so that we may be found ready and waiting, not wanting.

Sis. Hazel Kuntz is currently residing at the Community Care Center in Mediapolis. We are thankful she could be released from the hospital, and hope it won't be long until she can return to her home near our church where she lives with Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

When peace like a river attendeth
my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught
me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Horatio G. Spafford penned these words soon after his four daughters perished at sea. What a peace we can have when we can trust all things to God's wisdom and will. The death of his daughters followed many other tragedies in the life of Mr. Spafford, but his faith in God remained strong. In verse three of this hymn we read:

My sin, Oh the bliss of this
glorious thought
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it
no more
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
oh my soul.

When we can embrace this faith that it is well with our soul, then we, too, can have this peace that will endure all the trials and struggles of this life.

After suffering a stroke in June of 1994, which left her unable to talk and with very minimal mobility, Ida Frieden could be relieved of her earthly suffering. She is missed by her sister-in-law, Sis. Joy Frieden, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

As I look at the calendar it says, First Day of Spring, March 20. Indeed we are seeing many "things" springing to life as God sends the warm sun and rain. It's so refreshing to watch the new calves and lambs run, jump and play and discover the world around them.

We've enjoyed many visitors this past month, including Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA), and Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS),

Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). Although Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) has retired from the ministry, he and his wife, Sis. Karoline, came to be with us and Bro. Russell spoke a few words of instruction for us. We say thanks to everyone who comes to be with us, but only our Heavenly Father can share the blessings.

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."
Luke 22:44

As we read Luke 22 this morning, I really had to stop and consider the torture and agony Jesus endured while on earth. The agony was so great and Jesus' prayer so earnest that his sweat was as drops of blood. How earnest are your prayers? As we approach the time we remember Jesus' death, I had to think of the agony He suffered as He hung on the cross.

Easter Glory

There was a glorious dawn
On that first Easter Day,
For Jesus who arose
From the tomb wherein He lay.
He was glorified at last,
And paved for us the way,
And proved that for all trials
God, in Heaven, will repay.

Very early on that morn,
At the rising of the sun,
Came three women to the tomb
To anoint God's Holy One.
Then to their amazement,
An Angel did descend
And rolled the stone away
To reveal He did ascend.

Jesus first appeared to Mary
And caused her to rejoice,
And then to His disciples
Who loved to hear His voice.

He led them out to Bethany
Where they were by Him blest,
And after He instructed them,
Went to His Heavenly Rest.

He sitteth on His Father's right
And has a great desire
That we with Him might also be
And to Heaven's joy retire.
For us He intercedeth
And guides with watchful eye
That we may live to meet Him
In glory bye and bye.

—Henry Kipfer

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We've had a very eventful month! We thoroughly enjoyed all of our visitors this month, and thank each of you for gathering with us.

Our congregation gathered to hear the conclusions of the general and mid-winter Elder Conferences. May we take their message of concern and encouragement to heart and strive daily to keep our eyes on the Goal—our Heavenly Home. We appreciated Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Butikofer (Elgin, IA) coming to share the reading and exhortations with our Ordained Deacon, Bro. Joe Gerst.

As Bro. Paul is retiring soon from the Eldership, we fondly extend our thanks to him and his wife for faithfully and willingly serving our small congregation. Our prayers go with them as they turn the pages in the Book of Life and follow God's direction in another phase of life. Our prayers also go with Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) as he assumes these duties. May we each strive to be obedient sheep so that we can be a joy and not a burden to our shepherd.

That same Sunday, the betrothal of Bro. Christopher Eland

(Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce) to Sis. Kay Lyn Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, Elgin, IL) was made known. We wish them God's blessing and direction as they follow God's leading in planning for their marriage. May their foundation in Jesus Christ be that third strand that will bind them closely together, "not lightly rent apart."

Our Bible study this month was on our relationship with God. As we considered the Scriptural analogies used to describe this relationship, Father-son, Master-servant, King-subject, and Shepherd-lamb, each of us evaluated our own relationship and things we could do to improve it. One of the "gauges" of our relationship we discussed was our feeling of peace, and one of the ways to prove our relationship is our relationship with our brethren. May we never be too busy in our earthly pursuits to be aware of what our gauge is reading or to prove our love through our dealings with our brother.

IOWA, LESTER

Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

God's wonderful creation is so evident to us as spring unfolds before us again this year. With the thoughts of spring, we immediately relate to Easter and Christ's death and suffering at Calvary. May we each make that journey with Christ and bear the cross of self-denial daily that we may attain our heavenly goal.

Winter has caused health problems for many from the congregation. We are happy to see faces of loved ones in church once again who have been confined to their homes, especially our elderly ones. Sis. Julie (Bro. Blair) Metzger spent some time in the hospital recently but is once again at home.

Sis. Pauline Schambach is now making her home at Lyon Manor in Rock Rapids. Our prayers are with her and her family as she makes this transition in her life.

Sympathy goes out to Sis. Kathy Metzger with the death of her aunt, Alice Wittmer, of Bern, KS.

Blake Wysong, son of Sis. Janet Wysong, is a recent graduate of Mankato State University. We wish him God's guidance as he seeks employment.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner

Debra Wagenbach

Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz are thankful to have two brand new grandsons. Brayden Thomas was born on February 27 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz and was eagerly welcomed home by his older sisters, Kelsey and Alyssa, and grandparents, John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach. Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner, Trevor and Erika are happy to have Tucker Charles join their family circle. Bro. Virg and Sis. Barbara Massner were out of town when their little grandson, Tucker, announced his arrival on March 17.

Congratulations to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. on the birth of their 15th grandchild, Kaleb Jon. Kaleb was born on March 6 and is the first child of Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN).

Life sometimes becomes difficult in the lives of those we love. Sickness enters in and oftentimes loved ones are taken from our midst. My uncle, Ted Behne, got sick with cancer, but by the Lord's grace and mercy, his soul was healed of the eternal sickness of sin. As he slipped from this life at the age of 52 on March 10, my

thoughts turned to the parable of the labourers in Matthew 20:14 "...I will give unto this last, even as unto thee." Though his time to serve the Lord on earth was very short, we have a blessed hope that he is forever with the Lord and we can go to meet him there one day. He is survived by his wife, Monica (who has also begun the pathway of repentance); his children, Kris, Laura, and Robert; his mother, Louise; his sister, Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach Sr.; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. The prayers of loved ones in our behalf have surely reached the heart of God. We have known the God of all comfort. (II Corinthians 1:3)

We rejoice with Bro. Floyd Rowell (father of Sis. Barbara Moser, Morton, IL; Linda Gerst; Phyllis Walk, Texas; and Bro. John) and Sis. Ione Stoller (mother of Earl Jr.; Bro. Dan, Rockville; Bro. Ed and Steve) as their engagement was made known to our congregation on March 17. May God be near them and their families as they take this important step of faith in their lives.

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

We want to thank Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and his wife and family for visiting our congregation and preaching God's simple truths to us.

Our prayers are extended to Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) in the passing of her sister, Marjorie Tracksel, of Pulaski.

Children are fashioned tenderly
by God's great hand of love.
Then reaching down,
He gives us these blessings from
above.

The Lord has blessed Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein with another precious son, Blake Daniel, on March 14. He is enthusiastically welcomed by his brothers, Nathan, Caleb and Derek, along with grandmothers, Sis. Verna Wettstein (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Claribel Anliker (Rittman, OH).

"...Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him."

Isaiah 57:19

How thankful we are for a God so far-reaching that we can all be given this priceless gift of peace, if we will but ask.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

The weekend of March 2 brought Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) to our congregation. May he, along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm, feel God's nearness and direction along with the support of our brotherhood as they read the Memorandum. On March 10, we also were blessed to have Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) in our midst. May God bless these dear brothers as they proclaim His precious Word in its truth and purity.

Our hospital patients this month have been Deanna Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita), Bro. Albert Banwart (Sis. Betty), Sis. Frances Zaugg, and Bro. Dwaine Schmidt (Sis. Lucille). We are thankful that God has touched them all with His healing hand.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to Dawn Grimm and Jimmy Hanselman as they plan a June wedding. Parents of Dawn and Jimmy are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm and Don and Rita

Hanselman, all of West Bend.

Also announcing their engagement are Scott Banwart and LeAnn Nieland. Parents of Scott and LeAnn are Benjamin and Betty Banwart and Craig and Nikki Nieland of Manson, IA. We wish God's nearness and blessings to both of these couples as they make their wedding plans.

On Saturday, March 9, we were privileged to host the annual western region World Relief meeting at our Fellowship Center. We appreciated all the efforts and work put in by many brothers and sisters alike. We want to thank those who traveled the miles to share in their many experiences that they have been through in the various work projects in the World Relief program. Surely, God will bless those that can give of their material blessings and time.

KANSAS, BERN

Holly Meyer

Lori Baumgartner

Jesus, knowing that He soon would be leaving His disciples to die upon the cross, gave them this instruction...

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

John 16:33

To the believer in Christ, this scripture is a beautiful reminder that in Christ we can have perfect peace. Trying to obtain an inner peace from what the world has to offer will bring spiritual failure and disappointment. Christ told the story of the prodigal son who chose to live a riotous life of self-indulgence. The son soon realized that the only way he could attain

inner peace was to return to his father and be willing to serve rather than to satisfy his own selfish desires. We, as believers, can be overcomers and find that perfect peace if we strive to live a life of service to our Heavenly Father rather than a life of self-indulgence.

During this past month we were thankful to have Bro. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) assemble with us and minister God's Word unto us.

Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with Sis. Jana Gruber (Todd) as she has recently undergone surgery and will be taking radiation treatments. We just pray that the Lord will grant her an inner peace amid the uncertainties that lie ahead for her and her family.

Bro. Brian Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda) has recently returned home from a trip to Haiti where he used his time and talents to serve on a work project there.

Alice Wittmer passed from this life on March 13. She is survived by her husband, Harlan; one daughter, Susan Traw (Iola, KS); and two sons, Ron (Bern) and Larry (Colony, KS). We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to each of them and their families.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Tammy Sinn

On February 28, we assembled together for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for assisting in this work. May we each make the necessary changes in our individual lives that will strengthen the body of Christ and give us a greater hope of eternal life in Heaven.

You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently
prayed.

But you cannot have rest
Or be perfectly blest,
Until all on the altar is laid.
Is your all on the altar of sacrifice
laid;
Your heart, does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest and have
peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and
soul.

Gospel Hymns #810

KANSAS, KIOWA

Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

"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

What a wonderful, comforting
promise our Lord has given us! As
we celebrate the Lord's triumph
over death, let us savor not only
the eternal gift He has promised
us, but also the gifts He has left for
us while we are still on this earth.

Our hospital patient this month
was Bro. Tom Farney who is well
and back to normal activities.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

Our sympathy goes out to the
family of Bro. John Hoffman
whose soul is now at rest. He just
reached his 104th birthday in De-
cember and made it known that he
was ready to go Home. May we all
find comfort in the thought that he
is now with the Lord.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Mary Kay Wenger

Jeff and Tamra Emert of
Topeka, KS were blessed with a
son, Tate Joshua Emert, on Febru-
ary 17. His brother, Kyler, is de-
lighted with the new arrival as well
as grandparents, Bro. Jay and Sis.
Marilyn Kellenberger and Darryl
and Judy Emert of Sabetha.

Requiring hospitalization were
Sis. Peggy Strahm (Bro. Marvin),
Sis. Ruth Hertzell (Bro. Frank) and
Sis. Esther Terry (Bro. Charles).
May God's strength and healing go
with them.

Our visiting ministers were
Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Con-
gerville, IL), Darrel Stoller (Bern,
KS), and Don Wagenbach (Wash-
ington, IL). We thank them for
assembling with us.

Our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti
(Kansas City, MO) has kindly ex-
horted us to examine ourselves as
we prepare for Holy Communion.

We wish to express our deepest
sympathy to Bro. Carl (Sis.
Sharon) and Leona Grimm (Dave)
in the death of their sister, Alice
Wittmer. We have the consolation
of knowing that God is aware of
our every sorrow and bears each
burden for us.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Derek Funk

Dear restless heart, be still; don't
fret and worry so; God has a
thousand ways His love and help
to show; just trust, and trust,
and trust, until His will you
know.

Dear restless heart, be still; for
peace is God's own smile, His
love can every wrong and sorrow
reconcile; just love, and love, and
love, and calmly wait awhile.

Dear restless heart, be brave;
don't moan and sorrow so; He

hath a meaning kind in chilly
winds that blow; just hope, and
hope, and hope, until you braver
grow.

Dear restless heart, repose upon
His breast this hour; His grace is
strength and life, His love is
bloom and flower; just rest, and
rest, and rest, within His tender
power.

Dear restless heart, be still; Don't
struggle to be free; God's life is
in your life, from Him you may
not flee; just pray, and pray, and
pray, till you have faith to see.
(Edith Willis Linn)

Here at college it seems we are
in the in-between stage in life. We
are in school, but yet we are work-
ing for the day when we will be
done and on our own in life. Often
we can sit and wonder what that
time will be like. More often than
not we sit and fret and worry about
it. If we could only remember at
these times that God is in control
and we need not worry or fret over
these small matters, how much
more at peace we will be.

The semester is flying by now. It
seems that the semesters run by
the breaks we have. One week till
spring break, then after that six
weeks till summer break and so
on. This semester we have been
fortunate to have many minister-
ing brothers with us. To bring us
the Word was Elder Bro. Gene
Marti (Kansas City) and Elder
Bro. John Lehman (Bern), Bros.
Lloyd Kraft and Bill Emch
(Gridley-Lamont) and Bros. Gary
Hertzell and Doug Grimm (Sabe-
tha). Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha)
was with us for a Bible study on
gentleness and kindness. We
thank these brothers and their
families for the time and effort
they put forth. We have been
blessed by all those who come and
worship with us on these Wednes-

day nights. May is approaching and that means our annual spring picnic is coming. We enjoy the fellowship at this event and would welcome anyone who is willing to come and share in God's love with us. This will be held May 8. For more information, contact Wendy Edelman at 913-532-9086.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

Romans 14:19

While we may not be able to do much about international peace, we each have an opportunity to be peacemakers in our small circle-be it in the family, the workplace or school.

Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) served us from the pulpit this past month.

Sis. Gussie Wullschleger was a recent hospital patient. It is good to hear her report that she is feeling much better.

Several in our congregation have suffered personal loss as members of their family were called into eternity. Floyd Beyer lost his sister, Mildred Rodgers, of Gridley; and Bro. George Greiner lost his brother, Charlie. Charlie resided in Iowa.

On February 23, Joe Gallatin departed from this life. Sister Kathleen ministered to him in their home with the help of her daughters, Laurie and Sis. Sara, and Bro. John Schrader. They gave testimony to the effect that the many prayers offered for them sustained them through this difficult time.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

A special thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Don Wagenbach (Sis. Marie, Washington, IL) and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI). We thank these brethren for sharing the weekend with us, and for those who came with them.

Since we are a small group, we appreciate those who are able to visit us. Please don't hesitate to call if you would like information about places to visit in the Bluegrass State for a family vacation.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Melanie Kaeb - Michelle Oesch

When peace like a river, attendeth
my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll.

Whatever my lot, Thou hast
taught me to say

It is well, it is well with my soul.
Though Satan should buffet, tho'
trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my
helpless estate,

And hath shed His own blood for
my soul.

Hymns of Zion #55

Our hearts were saddened this past week as our dear brother, Dave Wingeier, was laid to rest. He will truly be missed by all and we have a prayer in our heart for his wife, Sis. Bertha, that she may know the Lord's great comfort. For their children also, Bruce and Tammy Wingeier, Larry Wingeier, Stan and Elaine Wingeier, and Sharon and Terry Zimmerman, as they say good-bye to their earthly father. We pray they will turn to their heavenly Father that the circle may be unbroken someday.

It feels so good to hear the birds singing as it gets closer to spring here in Michigan. Their song lifts the heart and gives it hope after the cold heaviness of winter. Henry Beer describes it well in his poem "A Token of Spring".

The day is so dark and so gloomy,
The clouds are so heavy and drear,
Yet suddenly off in the distance
I hear a sweet song of good cheer.
It is the first token of springtime
The ground with the snow is still
white;

Oh, could I transcribe the sweet
melody

Before the small singer takes
flight.

I know not if it be a robin,
A blue bird perchance it may be;
Whatever the name of the singer
Its song is a blessing to me.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman wish to thank each one who helped them after Bro. Lyman's surgery and recovery. Whether it was a meal, a card of encouragement, your visits or prayers, each one was much appreciated.

I found this thought in a book I was reading and it encouraged me to be more thankful for the little gifts that God blesses us with every day. "The first breath of the morning, the first handshake from a friend, the first "good morning" from a spouse, the chance to be healthy, the opportunity to work-all of it a gift from God!" (*Lewis B. Smedes*)

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

We were saddened at the passing of Aaron Pashak in Alto, MI. Survivors are two brothers, George (Kay) Pashak and Bro.

Dean (Sis. Connie) Pashak of Auburn, MI; a sister, Sis. Myrna (Bro. Carl) Steffen of Alto, MI; an aunt, Sis. Kathryn (Bro. Ronald) Wackerle; two uncles, Bro. Lawrence (Sis. Lena) Wieland, Wilford (Creola) Wieland of the Bay City, MI area; and many nieces and nephews. We wish God's blessings, love and comfort to those left behind, but our Lord knows how to care for us best.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer of Detroit MI have had a son, Caleb Benjamin. He will come home to join a sister, Carrie. Caleb's grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorothy Ramseyer of Bay City.

We were blessed to listen to our Memorandum being read to us. Here to help our Elder Bro. Andy Virkler was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy, Junction, OH) and part of their family. Our Lord saw fit to have Elder Bro. Bill expound very wonderful messages unto us.

Bro. Eugene Meylan (Sis. Carol) underwent a very serious double bypass heart surgery. Bro. Gene is doing quite well and we wish our Lord's healing power to him and also to others who are having sickness of body, mind, and soul. Only He can heal if we but trust and pray.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Lynette Moser - Holly Barton

Hallelujah, What a Savior!

"Man of Sorrows," what a name
for the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Guilty, vile and helpless, we;
spotless Lamb of God was He;

"Full atonement!" can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Lifted up was He to die, "It is
finished," was His cry;
Now in Heav'n exalted high;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Tabernacle Hymns #258

I heard recently that "Hallelujah" is an adoring exclamation that means "Praise the Lord!". The word is found in the Scriptures only in Revelation, where saints and angels alike use it again and again in worship of God and the risen Lamb. Although we have so much to praise our Saviour for in this present season of hope and renewal, I believe we won't know the fullness of gratitude for our salvation until we reach Heaven. May "Hallelujahs" resound in our hearts now and throughout eternity! We also rejoice with Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret, Kitchener, Ontario) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) who were united in marriage on February 25. May they feel God's blessings upon their union. Sis. Linda Shaw injured her leg some time ago and Sis. Lorene Maibach (Elder Bro. Ben) has been ill as well. We pray for God's comfort and healing for them, and may we who are experiencing the blessings of health remember to never take them for granted! We are again looking forward to our annual Benefit Dinner for Woodhaven. This year it will be held on Sunday, May 19, with a pork chop dinner and singing by the choir and other groups. Visitors always make this a special day, so we invite anyone who is interested to join us!

Reminder: Detroit's Silver Lining dues will be collected in April. Thank you for your prompt assistance.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

A number of our brothers, sisters and friends from both Winthrop and Minneapolis traveled by bus to Kitchener, Ontario, Canada to attend Bro. Clint Schmidt and Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher's wedding. We are thankful that God protected them during their many miles of travel upon the highway. May God richly bless Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie as they walk the path of life hand in hand.

Bro. Damon Knobloch recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in Animal Science and has found employment with Holden Farms, Inc. of Northfield, MN. We are so thankful that Bro. Damon will be staying with our Minneapolis congregation.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Anthony Fehr (Sis. Lila) on the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Carolyn Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori Rumbold are the blessed parents of a precious new daughter, Kalie Lauren, born March 1. Katlyn and Tyler are excited to have a little sister. May God give them the grace to raise their children to His honor and glory. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Alan and Sis. Carol Schrock (Congerville, IL).

We thank our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) for visiting and sharing God's precious Word with us this month.

We express our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori Rumbold for their time and service in teaching Sunday School. Their replacements are Sis. Bonnie Rocke, Sis. Diane Stewart (substitute), Bro. Leo Banwart

and Bro. John Wiegand (substitute). May they feel the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they teach our precious youth.

We are all anxiously waiting spring after a long, cold, snowy winter. Along with spring comes Easter, when we think of how Christ suffered and died on the cruel cross for your sins and mine. So with the Easter story is the message of hope for those who are in Christ.

*EACH SPRING GOD
RENEWS HIS PROMISE*

Long, long ago in a land far away,
There came the dawn of the first
Easter Day,
And each year we see that promise
reborn
That God gave the world on the
first Easter Morn.
For in each waking flower and
each singing bird,
The promise of Easter is
witnessed and heard,
And spring is God's way of
speaking to men
And renewing the promise of
Easter again.
For death is a season that man
must pass through
And, just like the flowers, God
wakens him too.
So why should we grieve when our
loved ones die,
For we'll meet them again in a
"cloudless sky".
For Easter is more than a
beautiful story,
It's the promise of life and eternal
glory.
—Helen Steiner Rice

SELF-DENIAL

The act of denying oneself; forbearance from gratification of one's desires. Self-denial is one of the foremost attributes which the Christian is urged to cultivate, taking as the perfect model the Master himself. Most of us are bet-

ter educated and have incomes far greater than any generation in the history of mankind. Because of our increased income, it is so easy to seek our own pleasures in buying material things and build elaborate homes. We also have more leisure time than our parents who often worked 60 and 80 hours per week. The Lord God has blessed us abundantly. We need to practice self-denial daily. Give to the poor, help those that are in need, visit the sick and lonely and you will build treasures in Heaven. "He answered and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise". (Luke 3:11)

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Linda Schmidgall
Maxine Sauder

What a thrill it was for me to approach my tulip bed and see their tender, green stalks protruding the dark, cold soil. It brought a smile to my face to recognize them as a sign that the harshness of winter would soon end and spring was approaching. I've wondered since if I am as sensitive to the signs of the times from a spiritual point of view. Do I know what Christ told us to look for that would indicate His return? Am I looking and listening for those signs with anticipation? Even more certain than another spring season is Christ's promised return.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Matthew 24:30

Our prayers are with Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Koehl as they have been united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner. May they find strength, joy, and contentment in the three-fold cord that binds their hearts and lives together.

Also planning to be married this summer are Brad Fehr and Kristi Ritter. Their parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr and Ron and Diane Ritter. We pray God's blessings upon them as they take this step in their lives.

Our congregation was blessed with the preaching of God's Word from several visiting ministers this month. We express our appreciation to Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). As always, but probably not expressed enough, is our appreciation of the faithfulness of our home ministers.

Sharing several thoughts on "self":

Whatever the center of my life, will also be the circumference...whether it be self or Christ.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deut. 6:5). Then there will be nothing left of "me".

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only
believe;
Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only
believe.

Hymns of Zion #292

In this time we live in it seems that we don't place our trust in the

Lord like we should. There are so many things in our daily lives to distract us from our Christian walk that we sometimes forget to look to Him for our guidance. If we could only have faith in Him in all things in our life, anything is possible, especially peace and contentment. Is there anything more beautiful?

“And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

Matthew 19:5-6

On February 25, many of us were blessed to be able to attend the wedding of Bro. Clint Schmidt to Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher in Kitchener, Canada. Our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie. May the Lord grant His blessings on their union. We would like to take this time also to make a special welcome to Sis. Maggie and we pray that you can feel the Christian love and friendship here in our congregation.

Our surgical patient this month was Bro. Marvin Messner. May our Lord grant him a speedy recovery.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our children, Todd and Kim Moser, and granddaughter, Heather, for putting on a surprise 25th anniversary gathering for us. We would also like to thank all the loved ones who came to share the special evening with us and for the cards and gifts. May God richly bless each and every one for your kindness and caring.

*In His love and ours,
Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri Messner*

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Joan Fehr - Jamie Marti

On February 19, Nealey Rene'e was welcomed into the home of Monte, Lisa and Halley Thompson. Happy grandmother is Sis. Thirza Thompson.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Renee Hari on the passing of her father, Bill Hari (Sis. Verla), of Silverton, OR. May God's comforting hand be upon her.

Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) was with us the weekend of February 24-25 to assist our Elder Bro. Gene in the reading of the Memorandum. We enjoyed having Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel with us and welcome them back.

Our church invited guest weekend was held March 3-4. We appreciated our many visitors and hope that they come visit us again soon.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martha Kellenberger

Becky Marti

We enjoyed our many visitors this past month. We especially want to thank Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) for being willing to minister God's Holy Word to us.

Bro. Leonard Marti (Sis. Evelyn), Jacob Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa) and Elizabeth Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) each spent a short time in the hospital. We are thankful they have recovered and have again been able to assemble with us.

Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera Frieden have been blessed with a precious

baby girl. Kami Rose was welcomed home by big sister, Katie, and grandparents, Sis. Bernice Frieden (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Raymond Luthi.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Thadd Walter

Greetings to all in the name of Jesus Christ and God, the Father and Creator of all! It is truly a blessing to be able to correspond with so many churches across the land. We are able to read the news and exhortations of many loved ones, some in churches we have never been to, and rejoice that the Word has affected so many. God has allowed mankind to advance technologically through the ages.

The first printing press was used to bring the Bible to the masses, and now we find ourselves with the technological capabilities to communicate across the oceans in mere seconds. To some, this allows more leisure time, others use the extra time for work. How do we spend this time that God has given us? Are we wise stewards of God's time?

This month's theme is "self-denial in an age of self-indulgence". The Coliseum in Rome is a reminder of an age of entertainment and self-indulgent practices. Ironically, many Christians, denying themselves for their faith, died at the hands of the Romans. Jesus said, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 16:24-25). The Christians in Rome fulfilled this verse quite literally. Though we may never be called upon to forfeit our lives for our faith, we are still commanded to become dead to self, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the

flesh with the affections and lusts." (Galatians 5:24).

Another way to look at self-denial and self-indulgence is in the way we communicate. Sometimes when two people come together to exchange ideas or thoughts, it is difficult for them to communicate because each person has trouble letting go of his or her idea, but after each has set aside their idea or thought, they are better prepared to listen and absorb what the other is saying. They have denied themselves, in a sense, in order to better receive the other. So it is with God, for if we completely surrender ourselves to Him, we will be able to receive Him fully.

We wish to thank the many visitors that worshipped with us this month. We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) for allowing themselves to be God's servants in the Word. May God bless all of you in the coming month.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Rusty and Amy Adrian

How thankful we are for our dear Elder brothers who have the oversight of our most precious church. On March 16, we had the privilege of listening to the Memorandum. As the time draws closer to our Lord's return, may we pray for and encourage our church leaders to always sound the warnings that are needed to keep our church unspotted from the world. We extend a special thanks to Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) for coming and assisting our dear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in the reading of the Memorandum.

It was a special time for our congregation this past month as we had the privilege of partaking in Holy Communion together. As

each one searched their hearts for the true peace we receive through serving Jesus Christ, our thoughts were directed towards that solemn occasion at the last supper. May we each day of our lives search our hearts in a way that the cares of this life will not choke out that true and peaceful spirit of the Lord.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Charlene Sutter (late Bro. Dick) and Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie) who had surgery this past month. May God's healing hand be with each one.

Also, our heartfelt thanks goes to Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL) for coming and sharing God's Word with us. May God bless him for his willingness to be used by our precious Lord.

The weekend of March 16 and 17 was a special weekend for our Bible Class students as they were able to travel to Peoria, IL and be with other Bible Class students from Indianapolis and Bloomington. We thank the Lord for His traveling mercies and for providing the opportunity for our students to build relationships with other students through the wonderful fellowship we have in our church.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN- NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

Faithful until death remain!
For the crown of life be striving.
Break through bonds of woe and
pain,
In His promise e'er confiding,
Which through grace is kept in
store
For thee when thy journey's o'er.

If this treasure you await,
In the conflict grow not weary.

Peace abounds in Jesus' path,
Though the way seems often
dreary.

We must toil through sweat and
pain

If the promised prize we'd gain.
Zion's Harp #105

Our Sis. Augusta Einbeck was called from this life on February 22 at the age of 102 years. She remained faithful to God through her last days even though she was unable to assemble with us for some time. She was able to stay in her own home until her final few days on earth and enjoyed the visits of loved ones in her home. Sis. Gussie has now reached the promised rest given her through the suffering of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, so many years ago.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Esther (Bro. John) Rauhe and Bro. Bernard (Sis. Elvera) Martin. Bro. Ted (Gertie) Herzig was hospitalized overnight following heart catherization and as of this writing is waiting the time when he will be scheduled for heart surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this time. We are thankful for health returned to our loved ones and pray that Bro. Ted will also see God's healing power given unto him in the days ahead.

As the Easter season has now passed, it is our prayer that all who have been recently reminded of the suffering and death of our Lord for our sins will take advantage of His great sacrifice. May each of us who have taken advantage of the love of God remain true and faithful throughout each day of our lives.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett Greetings from Akron. We had

the privilege of hearing the testimony of conversion and peace in our Lord that Dan Relgin shared with us. Dan had previously attended the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene). We welcome Bro. Dan into our congregation. It is our prayer that he would continue to feel God's leading. We were thankful for the labors of visiting Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) that evening.

We also appreciated visiting minister Bro. Merle Hartzler's (Rittman, OH) inspired message earlier this month.

Our prayers were with little Grant Walder (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie) as he was hospitalized recently.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

What joy I feel, what peace is mine
As I my all to Thee resign!
Redemption Lord, Thou did'st
achieve...

Hymns of Zion #259

We rejoice with our friend, Debbie Sauder, as she has experienced the joy of the "peace that passeth all understanding". Now as Debbie prepares for baptism, we pray for many more souls, young or old, to feel the need to heed the call and repent of their sins.

It was wonderful to see Sis. Theresa Hunyady (Bro. Andy) back in church after a long winter's absence. We pray she will continue to feel God's healing hand upon her and that she can attend church more often now that the weather is beginning to get warmer.

Big brother, Jordan Reim-schisel, welcomed a new sister on February 26. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to

Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonny Reim-schisel at the birth of their daughter, Jenna Rae. We are thankful for the Lord's protection as little Jenna was rather eager to enter this world at a much earlier time than expected.

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) with us to share in the reading of the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN). We certainly appreciate the labors of these brothers and their wives.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

We enjoyed a blessed weekend February 24 and 25 when one of our young men, Sam Manz, gave his testimony and then was baptized and added to the fold of believers. We were touched by his expressions of joy and thankfulness for his redemption, as Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder on Saturday night. May Bro. Sam maintain his zeal and uphold his end of the covenant which was erected in the baptismal waters on Sunday.

Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN) was our guest minister on a Wednesday evening. His compassion for others reached out to young and old. May God bless him and his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and their family during his years of retirement from the ministry.

Two young couples have announced their engagements. Mark Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Kathy Leatherman. Marvin Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) is engaged to Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori, Latty, OH). May God keep them all safe and add His

blessing to their marriage plans.

"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame." (Hymns of Zion #168). The words of this old favorite hymn of many denominations serve as a sober reminder of that dark day when Jesus gave up His sinless life for us sinners. What a relief that we don't have to despair, for the Bible assures us that three days later He arose victorious over the grave and still lives, interceding for every soul that we might all spend eternity with Him. May you have a meaningful Easter.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our thanks to all who sent cards and gifts to us during Sis. Betty's surgery. A special appreciation and thanks to all who prayed; we feel God has richly blessed us. Your love will always be remembered.

Alvin and Betty Manz

OHIO, LATTY

Joyce Klopfenstein
Kathy Sinn

Several visiting ministers have assembled with us during the past month. They include Bros. Walt Steffen and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We enjoyed their visits and invite them to assemble with us again. May they continue to be used in God's service, as should we all.

We pray for God's healing hand on behalf of the following brethren in our congregation. Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Loren) was hospitalized during the month. Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl) submitted to surgery. Both of these sisters are currently at home, but continue to need our prayers. Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann) has expe-

rienced difficulty with his health. May Bro. Rex feel our thoughts and prayers as he recovers at home.

May God comfort Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein and their family circle during this time of loss of Sis. Desma's grandfather.

May Sis. Mildred Stoller and Sis. Florence Stoller (Bro. Bill, Sr.) feel the comforting prayers on their behalf during this time of loss. Their brother and sister-in-law, Harold and Laverne German, passed away suddenly.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Rager have experienced a house fire during the past several weeks. Even though the house was mostly destroyed, we can be thankful that no lives were lost. May they feel the strong support of the brethren during this rebuilding time.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Irma Stoller and Sis. Ann Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray) at the death of their uncle, Bro. Jess Beer (Milford, IN).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:"

Acts 14:15

The apostles preached this message unto the brethren in the churches they visited and our ministering brethren do likewise today. This month brought us visits from Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH). Elder Bros.

Bill and Ken were here to support Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in the reading of the Conference Memorandum. How thankful we can be that we not only hear the same message from week to week but also from year to year as the Conference report is read. It is our prayer that each of these brethren will receive God's richest blessings for their labors in our behalf.

February 22 was an important day for Bro. Doug and Connie Boliantz. Their fourth son, Zachary James, was added to their family. Josh, Erica, Jesse and Caleb are happy to welcome their new little brother. May this new baby be a blessing to each of them.

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toils are
ended,

With them shall ever be!

Hymns of Zion #122

For me, the hardest part about writing this article is when there is a death to report. It is a time of sorrow for those who have lost their loved one. But if the loved one's life has been made ready, it can also be a time of rejoicing that the loved one is now free from the bonds of earth. Such is the case with Sis. Dora Sauder who went to her eternal rest on March 5. While we wish to express our deepest sympathy to her husband, Bro. Ora; daughters, Sis. MaryAnn (Bro. Dan) Domka, Betty Ringer, Wilma Fidell; and son, Randy (Bindy); we also rejoice with them that she no longer suffers any earthly pain.

We also wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer (Bro. John) in the passing of her mother. May both beloved families feel our constant love and prayers during this time.

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

I Cor. 1:3

This is one of the kindest things one person could wish upon another. We rejoice with Chad Griffey who has found peace with God and man. May he ever look to our Father as he makes every decision in life.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

Have you ever tried to explain to someone who has not had the experience, what peace is? In the world, there is a measure of understanding of what peace is. I firmly believe though, that unless a person has experienced peace with God, they really cannot understand peace to the full depth of the word. It is with a prayerful heart that I wish each and every one of you, your families and friends, that wonderful peace that really cannot be explained with the lips but must be understood with the heart.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Linda Schar

Michelle Dotterer

We have so much to be thankful for this month. Matt and Darlene Csapo are our two new converts. Our congregation also rejoices with Sis. Carla Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce), Bro. Nate Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), and Sis. Cynthia Nussbaum (John) who were baptized March 10. Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and

Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) were the visiting ministers who helped in this important day.

On March 7, Thomas Vernon was born to Tim and Tammy Morris. Thomas' older sister, Tara, welcomed him home. His grandpa is Vernon Riggenbach (late Sis. Martha Jane).

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized. They are: Bro. Ernest Hartzler (Sis. Pauline), Ken Rupp Sr. (Sis. Lillian), and Walter Marquart (Betty).

During the Easter season, let us be extra thankful for the peace and hope of salvation that comes through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

I Corinthians 14:33

Note: Our new telephone area code is 330.

OHIO, SARDIS

Renee Miller

Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa Indermuhle were given a son on March 9. Mason Eric was welcomed home by "big" sister, Mariah. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim Brake. We are thankful for a new life and are excited to have a new baby in our church family.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

Edith Miller

Margaret Blough

Our hearts were filled with joy when we heard that Gina Stoller, Kim Luginbuhl and Susan Dotterer have repented and found the

peace of God. We look forward to witnessing each testimony and baptism in the near future. Their parents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl, and Keith and Sis. Linda Dotterer.

Several from our congregation have been in the hospital recently, including: Sis. Lou Riggenbach (Bro. Glenn), Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer (Bro. Andy), Bro. Denny Nieman (Sis. Kay), Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave), Kelly Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose), and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Bro. Bob). We pray for God's healing touch and a quick return to good health for each one.

We were delighted to hear the engagement of Bro. Carlton Schlatter to Sis. Candy Stoller (Bro. John and Sis. Patsy) from the congregation in Leo, IN. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Candy into our congregation and wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they prepare for their life together!

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) recently shared the Word with us as was given to him by the Holy Spirit. We appreciate his visits and his willingness to be used by the Lord.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard

Edie Fetter

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Romans 5:1

We recently heard how a life of self-denial is the only way to true peace when Sarah Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee) gave her testimony of faith in Christ and was baptized March 16 and 17. We welcome her

as a dear sister in the Lord and pray that this peace will be with her always. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) willingly brought forth the Word to us that weekend.

We enjoyed a recent visit from Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and his family. May God ever bless those who speak the Word with His wisdom and grace, that the hearers may be blessed.

We have recently added the personal PA/FM hearing device, by Williams Sound, to our church sound system. If you are planning to visit us in the future and you use the device at your home church, it should be compatible with our system. We welcome all visitors to our congregation.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

Why come ye at break of morning
To the Lord's grave in such deep
mourning;

Who'll roll the heavy stone away?

'Tis away; oh, do not murmur!

Ye faithful ones, come now, draw
nearer,

The stone is gone, oh look
there-in!

See angels in the cleft!

Bring joy to you bereft.

Why seek with tears the Master
here?

He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!

Hymns of Zion #45

Greetings! Even a beautiful hymn cannot truly express the great joy we feel at Easter time. Such a precious gift we were given, such a bright promise! Many of us have very busy lives; but how good it is to pause and contemplate the things that really matter and that we should focus on. And so it was also very good to hear the reading

of the Memorandum.

We all need to be reminded, and surely the unity of a body of believers is very important, even in a world like today where one could so easily be distracted and pulled off the right track. We thank our Elder Brethren for their loving guidance and concern.

We are thankful to have our dear Sam Feucht worshipping with us again after a brief hospital stay. His undaunted cheerfulness and optimism are always an inspiration to myself and my family, and I am sure, to others as well.

This past month we have enjoyed many visitors, who as always, are very much appreciated! Among them were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Sis. Kathy (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Art Metz and Sis. Betty (Silverton, OR). We thank them for their efforts in ministering to us.

Note of Thanks:

I really appreciated the many prayers, cards, letters, phone calls and visits at the hospital and at home during my illness. God bless you all and thank you. It meant so much to me.

Sam Feucht

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

As the Easter season approaches, may we reflect with thankful hearts the great price Christ paid for us upon Calvary. May we think of His resurrection as we view all the new growth and blossoms of springtime.

On February 24, we assembled to hear the Memorandum. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) was able to be here to share this responsibility with Elder Bro. Art. May the Lord bless

him for once again serving our needs.

After 25 years of faithful service, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess) has announced his retirement from the ministry. May he feel the Lord's nearness and blessings as he now sits among the congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Verla Hari as her husband, Bill, suffered a severe stroke and passed from this life. May the Lord comfort Sis. Verla and her daughters, Sis. Renee Hari (Kansas City) and Kathleen (Mrs. Lance) Ashburn, as only He can.

Sis. Michelle Zollinger (Bro. Todd) has recently been hospitalized. We pray she will soon be feeling better and able to assemble with us once again.

March 16 and 17 was a weekend full of blessings for our congregation. We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls: Sis. Lori Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), Sis. Tonya Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda), and Bro. Curt Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen). Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) was present to assist Elder Bro. Art with this blessed occasion. Also present were ministering Bros. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Glenn Riggerbach (Sis. Louise, Smithville, OH). May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their willing service on our behalf. As we were lovingly reminded, may we, the sheep, examine our lives that we may be good examples to the lambs that have been added to the fold.

The same weekend Bro. Clarence retired, we bid farewell to Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol Kaufman and their three sons, Philip, Samuel and Matthew. They are moving to Atlanta, GA. We will

surely miss them and wish them the Lord's blessings as they settle into their new home and assemble with the Atlanta congregation. Our loss will be their gain.

We rejoice with Amanda Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) as it has been made known to us that she has found peace with God and desires baptism.

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**

Franz Soni

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Acts 2:38-39

After a church supper on Saturday, March 11, we heard the testimony of Ann Waibel. Sunday was a special day as Ann was baptized into the faith and we could greet her as a sister. We wish her God's blessings as she walks in His footsteps. We thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman on this special weekend. We would also like to thank Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for sharing God's Word with us. May God richly reward these faithful servants.

We welcome Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke who moved to this area from Eureka, IL. We look forward to having them worship with us and have them a part of our church family.

A group of Philadelphia brethren visited this correspondent in

the hospital and sang Christmas carols for the patients over the Christmas holidays. It is such a blessing that we can share such rich fellowship.

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to express my gratitude for the prayers, cards, gifts and many visitors during my hospital stay. May God richly bless you all.

Bro. Franz Soni

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the prayers and expressions of love on our behalf since the birth and passing of our dear little Isaac. May God bless you all.

In Christian love,

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda, Joel and Bonnie Isch

Don Gudeman and Sis. Mary from LaCrosse, IN. We also had the privilege of spending a Sunday with Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore from Athens, AL. We had visitors from LaCrosse, IN; Tremont, IL; and Atlanta, GA. May God bless them for their efforts to be with us.

Lord willing, we hope to hold services on April 21 (Congerville, IL); May 5 (Akron, OH); May 19 (Indianapolis, IN); June 2 (Tremont, IL); and June 23 (Detroit, MI). The June 23 service will be arranged around Father's Day.

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, we encourage you to come worship with us.

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.

We praise God for calling two precious souls to Him recently. Dave and Shella Brummitt, who live in Smithville, TX, have repented and turned their hearts to Jesus. Dave is originally from Bloomington, IL. We pray that God will bless their new lives in Christ.

Please check with our TX contacts to confirm schedules if you are planning to be in the area. We do have some schedule changes.

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 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 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:

April 21 - Princeville, IL
May 5 - LaCrosse, IN
May 19 - Cissna Park, IL

Central Texas Schedule:

April 14 - Champaign, IL at Brummitts
April 28 - Pulaski, IA at Zeltwangers
May 12 - Smithville, OH at Martins
May 26 - Holiday - no service

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Kristen Hohulin

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

We never know what God has in store for us tomorrow. We have to put our whole trust in Him and be content with whatever happens.

I never knew the Lord would have the plans He did for me to move to Tennessee. Each day He enables all of us to see how He directs us on the path of life, teaching us to be content wherever God takes us. Through His love and grace we learn the value of Christian friendship and through the love and support of other congregations, we learn the contentment of life in Tennessee.

Nashville has been blessed this month with visiting minister Bro.

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL
Christine Kaiser
Kim Kaiser

The Easter message does truly humble our souls. It also gives us all a renewed hope and fresh outlook on our spiritual lives. May God bless your spring days with a bright outlook of new life in Him.

Three ministers have brightened our Sunday services in Dallas. Bros. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), and Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL) shared Christian fellowship and God's Word with us. Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Sis. Vila, Morris, MN) spent the weekend in Round Top to serve and fellowship. Also, Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) came up to San Antonio for church at Everett and Dorothy Martin's home. We are grateful for all the time and effort put forth by our Texas visitors. Thanks so much.

Silver Threads

A Lazarus at our Doorstep?

Everyone is familiar with the story Jesus told of the rich man and Lazarus, but sometimes we tend to think that is in the past, and no such examples occur in our day and time. This article is intended to demonstrate a similar situation today, and although no full names or locations are identified, the story is true in all details.

In many small towns throughout the US, there exists an independent druggist who is struggling to continue making his living meeting the needs of the community in which he lives. He owns only one drug store, and often encounters severe needs among the people of the town. This story is just one of many which could be told.

In the spring of 1995, a truck driver whom we shall call Jim (not his name) suffered an infection of unknown origin in his left foot. A man of very modest means, Jim lived in a mobile home with his wife and three children. The doctor prescribed some modern day antibiotics which we all know are very expensive. Lacking the funds to fill the prescription, Jim hoped the infection would go away, but it did not. Becoming desperate as the problem worsened, Jim finally approached the

local druggist mentioned above. This man has an agreement with the treasurer of one of our local Apostolic Christian Charity Funds that when a need arises, he will request assistance. He did call for help, and by working together, they were able to provide Jim with the needed medicine, but unfortunately it was too late. Without going into great detail, the final outcome was that in order to save his life, Jim's limb had to be amputated in the fall of 1995.

During the time of trauma, naturally the family was affected. Jim had little income, and his wife fell victim to severe depression. Feeling without hope, Jim wrote some checks for groceries which exceeded his bank balance, and these were finally given to a collection agency. Having fallen behind on his property taxes, Jim also received a notice that his little mobile home would be seized by the sheriff. When Jim shared these desperate needs with the druggist, our brother met with them both, and all parties involved agreed to a plan whereby the immediate needs could be covered using funds from the brotherhood. At

that time, Jim was virtually at the end of his personal resources. The situation looked hopeless to him, but the meeting resulted in beginning a program to restore the family to self-sufficiency over time. The bad checks were paid in the original amount, as were the taxes. When he was hopeless, Jim received some hope, and when he was helpless, he received help.

A Christmas time, members of the local church who were made aware of the tragic situation provided clothing for Christmas presents, and food received through World Relief channels was given to the family. Medicine costs continued to be covered by the Charity Fund. Jim's wife, having received courage to continue, took training to qualify her for health care work, and the situation gradually improved. In the interest of saving space, many details are omitted.

However, early in March, 1996, Jim's wife informed the druggist that she has found gainful employment, and Jim has an artificial limb which gives him a hope of going back to work, with the goal of self-sufficiency becoming a

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

We were blessed with many visitors this winter. It was a joy to hear some of them say, "We plan to be back next year." We enjoyed having our winter residents with us.

"Behold, how good and how

pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalms 133:1

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bro. Carroll

Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We want to thank these ministers and their wives for their visit and the ministers for bringing us God's Word.

Silver Threads

reality at last. The druggist stated he had never seen her so happy. She even offered to begin paying on the bills covered in the past, but this was declined. Hearts are warmed by seeing how a boost at the right time can make the difference between hope and despair.

Looking back on the year's effort, with gratitude and credit to Almighty God, it appears that this has been a case in which a Lazarus

lay at our brotherhood's doorstep, and was helped to help himself. It must also be stated that such needs exist virtually everywhere. At a time when great efforts are being put forward to assist the needy outside the country, our brethren are still deeply committed to meeting needs right at home. One must not look too far to find those needs, and when any of our brethren see such, they

should be encouraged to bring them to the attention of those in the local church responsible for meeting such needs.

This is truly fertile ground for the fulfillment of the scripture which says, "*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 Appointment Time

Some time ago an appointment was made,
To see my doctor today.
I made the call several weeks before,
"Come on in" he did say.

He gave me a time, and made me a date,
The appointment I wrote down.
So I got all ready and hopped in my car,
And was on my way to town.

I arrived at the office a few minutes ahead,
Many people were waiting there.
I strolled to the window and signed in my name,
Then walked back to my chair.

The receptionist held up the sign-in sheet,
And gave me a puzzled look.
"I cannot find an appointment for you,
Your name's not in the book."

"I have your name on the sign-in sheet,
That's all I have on you.
I looked in the book, but your name's not there,
I cannot send you thru."

As I turned around and walked toward the door
Her voice did whisper to me,
"Too late today for an appointment to make,
There's no time left, you see."

When our own appointment with God arrives—
(for He is our Great Physician)
Will our name be in His appointment Book?
Or will we be just signing in?

Let's "examine" ourselves before that date,
Before our appointment with God.
For He knows all our ills and how we feel,
On this earthly path we trod.

He will heal us from our disease of sin—
(the healing power's from Him)
His blood is all the prescription we need,
To make our life "fit and trim".

So give Him a call—right now, today.
Let God write in your name.
So your appointment time and the
Sign-in sheet will be the same.

by Bro. Bob Moser

“USE TIME WISELY”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Dennis Warner of Lester, IA

Psalm 16 and John 14:1-17

When we read here in the Old Testament Scripture, in the tenth verse, we can truly see what God's will is for all of His creation; every one of us that sojourn here on the earth.

We read here in verse ten where He says, “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” (Psalm 16:10)

We know, don't we, dear ones, that it really has always been the will of God that there would not have to be a single soul that lives here upon the earth that would have to, after their life is finished, find that they have not obtained salvation, and then have to go into everlasting hell, everlasting punishment and destruction.

You know, we really cannot quite comprehend, can we, what eternity is like and just how long it really is in our finite mind? Because we are just so used to, in our life that we live, thinking and counting time in minutes, in days and in hours.

We talk about how old we are and we speak about that in years of time. We tell time on the clock on a wall by the hours and minutes in a day.

But just to think of a place where there will not be anymore the passing of time. We just cannot comprehend that.

The Psalmist wrote about it in another place. He said that, “The days of our life are like the breadth of our palm.” When we stop and think about it, he was talking about the width of the palm of our hand.

We would just compare that to how long eternity is. If we could just think about a line that went from one end to another with no ending at all, then look at just the width of our palm in comparison to eternity. He spoke there and said that that is how long the days of our life really

are.

We can experience that ourselves because we can see as time goes by how oftentimes the expression is made, “How quickly our lifetime passes away!” We often speak about it. We just cannot comprehend the passing of years and how quickly they go. Then our life is taken from us and so we realize full well, don't we, when we see how short our life is here upon the earth?

You know, it does not matter, dear ones, what we are like when we are young. When we are in our youth, oftentimes, we are strong. When we are in the young days of our life so oftentimes we feel like we really have control of things.

We have our plans and we feel like we know what tomorrow is going to bring. We have a lot of confidence in ourselves because of our youth and because of our strength. We really feel like we ourselves might be in control of the things of our life.

But, you know, we only have to look at the aged, we only have to look at those who have become sick in life, we only have to attend a funeral sometime where there might be a soul, even a young person, that was taken out of life very, very quickly, and then we can just see full well that that can be taken from us in a very moment of time. We can become very frail and then in the end our life can be taken from us.

So when we think about our life, when we think about the frailty of the life that we live, and then when we think about eternity and how long that is, and then when we think about the two places that were described here in the Scripture — in the Old Testament time, it talked about hell, and in the New Testament, we read about heaven — there is only just going to be those

two places that are going to be there in eternity.

There are many, many souls who do not like to even think about that or to visualize that there is going to be just those two places when our life and time is finished. Yet when we read this Scripture, the Holy Word of God here, we recognize full well that when our life and time is finished, there are really just those two places that will await us in all eternity — either heaven or hell.

So God, in seeing that and knowing that that is the way it is going to be, provided that there could be, dear ones, a way for us that we could escape the destruction of hell. We read about that in verse eleven, “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11)

So we have to be so thankful. Now, with this knowledge that we have about the frailty of our life, about eternity, about heaven and about hell, God has provided a pathway for us that we might be able to achieve and we might be able to obtain that heavenly goal which lies beyond this life and time.

We just have to stop and think, dear ones, what would our life be if it wouldn't be that God would so clearly show this to us? We know many people today in the world who would have to fall into this category that we read about here in John, chapter fourteen — many people today who have troubled hearts and many people today who have concerns about things in this life. But we also believe that they have concerns about their souls.

Yet if they are never exposed to the true gospel, if they are never exposed to the Word of Life and Truth which we have before us here this morning, then all they have is a troubled heart — that gnawing feel-

ing within them that something is not right with their life, but really not knowing what it is or what to do about it.

We have to be so thankful, in our beloved faith that we have found, that this Word of Life and Truth has always been preserved for us so that we truly know what the path of righteousness is.

Last night we heard the testimony of four dear souls. Each one of them said that they always knew that they wanted to repent — always knew! Even though they were young (they are young in life) this was something that they always knew.

How did they know this? They knew it, didn't they, dear ones, because they had been exposed to the Word of Life spoken and directed by the Holy Spirit. They knew it because in their homes, their parents had had that same experience. There they saw brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. They spoke about their Sunday School teachers last night. They knew it because they were in Sunday School when they were young already. There the Word of Life and Truth was spoken to them in clarity.

That Word, dear ones, stays with us, doesn't it? In our unconverted days, we might truly try to reject the Word of Life. We might try not to pay attention. We might try to think of other things. We might try to fill our lives with the things of this world.

But, dear ones, if that Word of Life and Truth is spoken, it truly does find it's way into the heart. It always doesn't bring forth the fruit as early, sometimes, as in others. Yet it lingers there and it causes just what we read to happen here in the New Testament Scripture. It really causes us to have a troubled heart.

A troubled heart, dear ones; isn't that when we come under conviction? Isn't that really when we recognize that we are not right with

God, and we are not standing in His favor? We recognize full well that we are living a life of sin and unrighteousness and that we are separated from God. Can we think of anything else in this life that is more fearful than to be separated from the living God?

Here we have God in heaven who is truly reaching out to all of His creation. We read in the Scripture that His arm is not shortened. It is reaching out to each one as the Word of Life is spoken here.

Then we have mankind on the other hand. We find that separation (that we heard about last night) between the two. That separation is really our sins that we commit ourselves.

In this life, there are so many things that we can make excuses for. There are so many things that we can blame other people for. But there is nothing that we can do with the sins that we commit in this life. There is not anyone else that we can blame them for. There is not any place else or anything that we can do with the sins that we commit.

Each and every sin that we commit adds itself to our life. It becomes a weight, an additional weight every time we go out and commit a sin. It is added to our life and becomes a part of our responsibility. It becomes an additional and added weight to our life.

Is there any wonder, that as time goes by, that we all experienced, finally, the weight and load of our own sin? How it pressed down upon us and kept us and separated us from the living God?

Then we have to be so thankful that this pathway that we read about here in verse eleven was provided for us. We have to recognize, dear ones, that at the beginning of the pathway, there is a straight gate.

There is an entrance way that God provides that we can all enter into the path. We read about that

here in the New Testament Scripture. The entrance way into the path is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

There is no other way that we can gain access unto this path of righteousness, other than through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We read here in John chapter fourteen that He went to prepare a place for us. He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

What did He have to do to prepare the place for us? He went out to Calvary and there on the cross, His body was broken for us and He suffered the pain and anguish of the cross.

Then He took upon Himself the sins of the whole world — for all of us. In that way, His shed blood which flowed there after His death, there was provided for you and for me forgiveness of our sins and redemption that we alone could find through Him.

So in that process of His crucifixion, when His shed blood flowed there for the forgiveness of our sins, there He prepared a place for us.

Dear ones, that place will only become ours and we can only occupy that place and avail ourselves of that place, if we take advantage of the blood of Christ that was shed for us there.

There are many, many souls today who believe that the acts of Christ of giving His life and shedding His blood on the cross, is just sufficient for all and that it pays the price regardless of the life that we live or what we do or how we act as we go through this life.

There are many souls who are deceived today to believe that the blood of Christ can cover all of the sins that we might commit in this life.

Dear ones, this Word of Life tells
Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

us clearly and plainly that the blood of Jesus Christ can only avail itself and only be useful in our life and beneficial to us when we ourselves ask God and come to Him and surrender ourselves to Him through a true repentance and conversion.

If we don't go through that process, if we don't make that beginning, if we don't seek to enter into that gate which is Christ Jesus on that narrow pathway of life, then that blood that was shed there for the forgiveness of our sins, avails us nothing in this life and we continue to go through our life and the sins that we have committed are with us there.

We read here in the Scripture that He said, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3)

So we see again that it is the will of God and of His Son, that He would be able to come again and that He would be able to take us Home and provide for us that heavenly mansion. Again, dear ones, the only way that that can be afforded unto us is if we go

through the process of a true repentance and a true conversion.

We always have to marvel when we read the Scripture here of how it was with His disciples who walked with Him, were able to listen to His ministries and who had the Lord by their side at all times.

Yet, Thomas, even after He had made the promise, "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Then we read here and the Scripture goes on to tell us that Jesus told His disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life:" (John 14:5,6)

Dear ones, in this world in which we live today, we need to hear the truth, don't we? We know the enemy of the soul is the author of lies. He is the one who has lied to man-

kind ever since the fall of Adam and Eve there in the garden.

He is the author of lies and deceit. He is the one who told our first parents a lie about the fruit of the tree. We read the consequences of that.

We can see down through the Scripture, down through the ages of time, that he has always lied to mankind. We stop and think about ourselves, about the days when we were unconverted ourselves and how he lied to us.

He is so subtle and he is so deceptive. He would never say unto us, "Don't repent throughout your entire life." But what he would say to us is, "Don't repent today, but you can always repent tomorrow." So he would have us put it off. In that way it becomes even a more tremendous greater deception to us, because if he would just come out and try to say to us that we should not repent at all, we would know that that was wrong.

Think of the deceptiveness of the enemy of the soul who just tells us to put it off until tomorrow. "Don't do it today; wait until a more convenient time."

He can take souls, as we go through life, and he can keep doing that. We see that experience with so many souls. That goes on and on through time. Then we find that there are souls who reach a high age in life and the enemy still continues to tell them to wait until another day.

What happens then? We know, dear ones, what happens. The heart becomes hard. It becomes as hard as stone. Those sins that we spoke about that are committed — that weight and load of sins — just think, a whole lifetime of sins that accumulates, and then it starts to look to us like too big a load, too big a burden, too big a problem to be able to confront.

Yet, we know that God is merciful. We know that anytime that we

would just surrender ourselves to Him and seek Him out, no matter what our age in life would be, He would give us grace to be able to repent.

Oh, let us be aware, each one, dear ones, that Satan will lie to us and he will not tell us the truth. Let us stop and think about it. What if Satan were to tell us the consequences of our sin. Would it make a difference in our life if we knew? Yet, we know and we realize that he never does that, does he? He never speaks to us and never tells us what the consequences of our sins are going to be.

But God in heaven and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and this Word of Life that we have before us here, here we find the truth spoken unto us.

Then He went on and He said that He was the Way. We realize, don't we, dear ones, that He is the only way in this life? We are taught so often that there really are only two paths that mankind can go on—the way of truth and righteousness, and the broad way that leads to destruction.

Here we are taught clearly and plainly when the Lord told His disciples, "I am the Way." Then He went on and said that He was the Light. When we stop and think about that, it is really true.

He is the only way that we have access to life eternal in heaven. He is the only way that we can gain access to that heavenly home and mansion to be able to spend eternity with Him. So, indeed, He is the Light.

It goes far, far beyond that because He also provides for us in this life many wonderful and spiritual blessings that we can only find in Christ Jesus. We should stop and think about all the gifts of life that God gives to us as we walk this narrow pathway as brothers and sisters in faith.

We heard about it last night. A

part of the life of Christ is to be at peace. It is to be at the point of life where we don't have to say, like we read here in the first verse, that we have a troubled heart. Rather, we can have a heart that is free from being troubled.

We can have a heart that is not one that is filled with fear and uncertainty as we go through this life. So we can have that peace that abounds in our heart. That is a part of having the life of Christ here below.

We have the fellowship of the saints which we are so very thankful for, where we can come together as we do this morning and meet each other as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus and we have the support of each other so we don't have to walk this way by ourselves.

We think about that so often-times when we are pressed down by the tests and trials of this life. We can speak to our brothers and sisters and they can be an encouragement to us. We heard last night that they can even admonish us, come to us, help us and give us advice that we need to stay on the narrow pathway of life. There we find the wonderful gifts of the life in Christ that we can experience as we go through this life.

Then we read a little bit further, or we could have read further on, where He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. We think, dear ones, how it is to have the life in Christ, where He can provide for us His Spirit, a part of Christ here upon this earth that can actually indwell our hearts and be within us, that can actually lead, guide and direct us through this life and be a source to show us the way that we should go so that we can stay on the way that is in Christ Jesus.

Then, what a source of comfort that is for us as well. We stop and think how it was with the disciples there, and how He went on to say, "I will not leave you comfortless."

(John 14:18). Think how they must have felt when He left and they were by themselves.

Dear ones, we never have to be by ourselves on the way of Christ, His life, here on this earth, because we always have the gift of the Holy Spirit which He provides for us so that we can stay on the straight and narrow pathway and we can feel the comfort that He provides for us.

Then we read down here in the last few verses that we read about another precious gift that He gives unto us in verse fourteen. "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." (John 14:14)

Dear ones, then we read further on, and He tells us in verse fifteen, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). You know, dear ones, this is truly the way that we can show that we love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and that is, to keep His commandments.

There is no better way that we can really show our love and appreciation for what the Lord has done for us than to keep His commandments that He provides for us.

That way we can really show our true appreciation to Him for what He has done for us. If we stop and think about it, there will come a time, and we read about it in the New Testament Scripture, when our life and time is finished, the record of our life is going to be opened there.

That is going to be a perfect record. That is going to be a record that is kept by God. That is going to be a record wherein He sees everything that we do, know all the thoughts that we think, and the very intent of our heart for all things are recorded.

One day we will have to stand in judgment. Placed before us will be the Book of Life which is the instruction which shows us what we should have done as we went through this life.

Also, at the same time, there will

be shown to us the record of our life itself. There we will see whether or not we have kept the commandments of the living God.

We are so thankful, dear ones, again today, that we have had placed before us the truth and the Word of Life, that we have before us. We also have to be thankful that God also provides for us the opportunity, today, to enter into the straight gate.

We know and we realize that there will come a time that that door will be closed. We read about it in the Scripture, but we cannot really comprehend or imagine what it will be like when there are troubled hearts who want to enter in and want to be able to find salvation and the door of grace will be closed. Yet we know that that time will come.

Some folks may say, "Well, time has gone on. Years have gone by and it has been talked about so many times, maybe ever since we came to church. Yet time goes on and it is still available and open yet today."

Then, dear ones, we also have to think about this: maybe Christ will not come in our lifetime, maybe the door of grace will not be closed, but at the same time it could well be that our life might be taken.

We read in the Scripture that God is not a respecter of persons. (See Acts 10:34). So we know full well that we really need to live every day of our life as though it might be the last day.

We have the promise here, as Christ tells us clearly and plainly, that there is a house prepared for us. There is a place that could well have our name on it, but we can only obtain thereunto if we seek Him out through a true repentance and conversion.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

In 1977, a 68-page book was published entitled, *A Treasure of Praise*. This was an account of the Zion's Harp hymnal that described our church's hymnal and its historical origins. Excerpts from this book will appear in the Silver Lining during the next few issues.

The Zion's Harp hymnal has cut through a wide swath of time. While it's true that distribution of the official bound copies of the book we now recognize commenced only in the middle of the 19th century in Europe, fragments of the hymnal's contents, both the hymns and the musical composition, date as far back as the 15th century before the inception of the Protestant Reformation, which began in 1517.

The Zion's Harp, as known today, was first printed during the years 1853-54 on the request of Bro. S.H. Froehlich in Switzerland. Up until this time, various booklets and compilations of hymns had been used in one form or another in the meetings of the Evangelical Baptists.

To obtain a more general understanding of the actual beginning of this beloved and cherished hymnal, one must go back to the early stages of the 19th century.

On November 11, 1764, a little baby girl was born in the Russian town of Riga. This Latvian city today has a population of over 600,000. The girl's name was Juliane von Kruedener. She was the daughter of Herman von Vietinghoff, a Russian imperial privy councilor, a man of rationalistic views and a leading free mason, and of his wife, Anna Ulrica, a strict Lutheran.

After a fashionable education, she was married at age 17 to Baron von Kruedener on September 23, 1782. He was then the first Russian minister at the court of Courland. The marriage proved to be an unhappy one, since the husband was conscientious and retiring, while the wife was restless, flirtatious, and given to frequenting the cosmopolitan fashion centers of the world.

She lived a free lifestyle and eventually

found herself far from God. During a sojourn in Riga in the summer of 1804, Juliane experienced conversion, an occurrence which nothing in her past life seemed to make probable. Her experience was deep, and the change in her life profound. In language we can readily understand, she experienced a "true repentance".

Yet, from this time forth, a seemingly unwholesome, nervous "religiosity" came to be the dominant element in her character, and through its extravagance, reflected a cloudy mysticism like that of the Chiliasts of Baden, Alsace, and Wuerttemberg with whom she cultivated relations of intimacy.

An interesting footnote to the history of Baroness Juliane von Kruedener is that she attempted to convert the Czar of Russia. In 1815 she was granted an audience with Czar Alexander which lasted for three hours at Heilbronn. So captivating was this woman that he became a constant "guest" at her Bible classes in Heidelberg and Paris. Before long, however, Alexander turned away from his new friend whose persisting associations with unsalutary elements rendered him distrustful.

Her repentance, having occurred at the outset of the 19th century came about at a time in which much theological change and maneuvering still lingered in Europe. It was a time when the Reformed churches were continuing to be threatened by "pietistic" and "anabaptist" groups, who were opposed to a dead orthodoxy. Essentially, the authority and influence of the Protestant State Churches were on the wane—they had been since the early 17th century.

Replacing them, to a degree, was the further development of the "free church", which among other things challenged the concept of the union of church and state. The free church also encouraged the doctrines of sanctity, repentance, adult baptism, coming out from the world and living a life of holiness, and a literal interpretation of the Bible.

Frau Kruedener traveled extensively throughout Switzerland promoting Bible

study and worship. She personally financed many projects to aid this work. One such project was the collection and printing of hymns to be used in her church and Bible meetings.

Why was it necessary to collect new hymns? First, in the context of religion in those days, the relationship between the established and legally sanctioned state Protestant churches and those outside this church (i.e. the "free churches") was a partisan and combative one in the most literal sense. In most cases, organized opposition and blatant disobedience to the will of the state church was often met with force and persecution, and if not, at least harassment was prevalent. This situation was nothing new in Europe, for a similar dispute arose three hundred years earlier between Ulrich Zwingli, an avowed Protestant and a leader of the original Protestant Reformation (but a firm supporter of the state-church concept) and Conrad Grebel, a noted leader of the often ill-fated Anabaptist movement.

Several public debates took place between these men who held to differing religious views. In fact, these differing views still lingered centuries later in the time of Frau Kruedener, and in large part still exist today.

Thus, in this context of strife and conflict, the use of a hymnal of the established state church outside one of their official services was prohibited. As a result, it became necessary for those holding their own "independent" religious meetings to print hymns to be used in these meetings, which in essence were considered outside the official sanction of the state church and consequently illegal. Frau Kruedener saw this need, and along with her followers, acted accordingly. So, with the recognition of a need for hymns, the gathering of special hymns which eventually found their way into the Zion's Harp began.

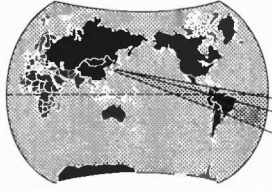
Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More on the Zion's Harp history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“What is Death?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Have you ever been asked the question, “What is death?” Or have you ever asked yourself that question? Death is something we all anticipate although it is generally taboo to talk about it openly. I prefer to think about it, to talk about it, and to research it insofar as possible.

I would define death for humans as the experience of leaving the body and moving on. It is the separation of the spirit (the real me) and the body, which returns to dust. The book of Revelation, 20:14, speaks of the second death, which is really something to fear. “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” The word “death” in this quotation must refer to those who have left their bodies without the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ. That is very sad. It is separation from God for eternity. But there is a better way and a better place, which we should all seek after with all our heart, soul and mind.

What sensation do we have when we die? The Apostle Paul spoke of being “caught up into Paradise” (II Cor. 12:4), which was probably at a time when his spirit left the body, temporarily. The sensation I expect is one of going up, with a tremendous feeling of well-being.

The Apostle Paul probably had his experience at the city of Lystra about which it is written, “Having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.” (Acts 14:19)

We look to the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth.” (John 11:11). Sleep is a condition in which one is not aware of what is going on around him or her. I assume that his body was asleep but that his spirit was very much awake and was called back into the body by the Lord Jesus Christ.

In regard to Lazarus, the beggar, it is written, “The beggar died, and was carried by the angels into

Abraham’s bosom.” (Luke 16:22). I like that idea of being carried by the angels. I pray now for the angels to hover around and about me to protect me from evil spirits. If they carry me to Abraham’s bosom when I die, that sounds good to me.

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” (II Cor. 5:8). Here Paul did not explain how we would feel when we absent ourselves from our bodies, but I have the conviction that we will soar off into space to a new home in the spiritual world, somewhere beyond the stars. Then after we get our new resurrected bodies, things will be even better and we shall participate in God’s wonderful plans for the future, throughout eternity.

Let’s continue this discussion when you and I both get to Heaven. Then we will have had more experience as to what death is.

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THE OLD "COUNTRY CHURCH" IN ELGIN, IOWA

In 1866 a white stone church was built approximately two and one-half miles east of Elgin, which cost a total of \$1,600 to build. Prior to that services were held in the homes.

About 1900 a wooden frame section was added to the original stone structure.

In 1955 the wooden section of the church was moved to a knoll on the southern edge of Elgin and in 1972 a new brick front, entrance and carport was added, plus other extensive remodeling has been done through out the years.

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