

A black and white photograph of several tall palm trees, likely Coccothrinax palm, against a cloudy sky. The trees are the central focus, with their fronds reaching towards the top of the frame. The sky is filled with soft, diffused clouds. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, dark silhouette of a pine tree.

The Silver Lining

They Took Branches of Palm Trees...

May 1996

And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days.
Leviticus 23:40



Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.
John 12:13

The Seven Words Of Jesus - Can we rejoice in them?

Almost a month has passed since we set aside a special time in our life to remember the suffering of our precious Lord and Saviour. The realization of impending death, the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, the trial, the outcry of the Jewish people against Him, the scourging, the crucifixion, feeling forsaken and our sins all contributed to our Lord's sorrow and suffering. Our heart aches with tearful sorrow as we think upon the passion He had for us, even when we knew him not. Can we rejoice in that?

Let us walk, as best we can, to Calvary and try to feel the love and sacrifice He had for us. There is no way we will ever be able to say that we know how He felt, however we can try as best we can to remember His pain.

Jesus, on Palm Sunday, rode into Jerusalem as the King of the Jews with all of the people shouting "Hosanna; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." Our Lord felt no pride on that ride into Jerusalem because He was the Son of God. We can believe that He felt pity for God's creation, because He knew how mistaken these people were in that they believed finally here was a King who would be able to feed them, clothe them, and heal them. We believe that is why the Lord said, "My kingdom is not of this world: ..." They also thought that Jesus came to deliver them from the cursed rule of the Romans, who was the occupational rule over them. It never did come about as they thought it would.

The week following that triumphant ride into Jerusalem was a week filled with sadness for our Lord. He chased out the money changers from the temple as His hurt turned to righteous indignation. He was angered at the deterioration of worship during that time and how far those who were supposed to be religious rulers had missed the mark. Jesus knew what lie ahead of Him in the next few remaining days of His life and He was in deep sorrow for the sin of the world for which He came to be the sacrificial lamb.

After the Last Supper was partaken of and they went out after singing a hymn, our Lord went to the Garden of Gethsemane for to pray. He knew that Judas had betrayed Him and our beloved Lord knelt and prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done." We could weep when we

think of Him there all alone sweating great drops of blood. Our prayer of thanksgiving ascends to Heaven in thanksgiving as we read how God sent an Angel from Heaven to strengthen our Lord in that time of agony. Then He was seized and placed under arrest. Not because He was powerless, but because He knew what lie ahead and for what reason He came to Earth.

The trial and mocking were a far cry from the triumphant ride into Jerusalem a few days earlier. Next after questioning came the cruel scourging by the Romans, which was designed to make a prisoner confess to the crime even if the prisoner was innocent. Scourging was carried out in this manner. First our Lord was stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head. While the Jews had a law that prohibited more than forty lashes, it is doubtful that the Romans abided by that law. Can we see the Roman legionnaire step forward with the whip (flagrum) in his hand. This short whip consisted of several heavy thongs of leather with two small balls of lead fastened near the ends of each. That heavy whip is brought across the bare back of Jesus, cutting His precious flesh to shreds. First one blow and then He was asked if He was guilty as charged. If the prisoner answered yes the blows would stop, but the prisoner would then face the punishment of his crime. There is no doubt that Christ could not answer yes, so the lashes came one after another until the centurion determined that Jesus was near death. He is then untied and left to fall to the pavement half alive and ever so hurt. The shame our Lord endured was greater far than any tongue or pen could ever tell.

After all of this cruelty and shame, the Son of God was asked to carry a cross that was more than He could bear. He sank under the load as He walked, stumbled, and fell to the ground. Having finally arrived at the site of crucifixion, our Lord was nailed to the cross and was raised toward the sky. His flesh and bone pulling against the nails as He hung from the cross, was pain not to be compared to the pain of feeling the load of sin upon Him. However we would never want to diminish the physical pain He felt as the horribly cruel death by suffocation came upon Him.

In all His pain, He had compassion when He uttered the first recorded sentence as He

watched the soldiers cast lots for His vesture. "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." The second utterance came as He addressed the repentant thief, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." The third was spoken to our Lord's grief stricken Mother, "Woman, behold thy son!" and to John, "Behold thy Mother." The fourth cry was, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani" which is interpreted, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The loss of tissue fluids, the dehydration, the pain from lack of air started to take its toll on Jesus. Even before the cross, Jesus was beaten to near death, which may have contributed to His quicker than normal death. As He hung gasping for air, He spoke those fifth recorded words, "I thirst." The sixth was little more than a tortured whisper, "It is finished." Last came those promising words, which was the seventh spoken, "Father, Into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

Seven words, however an eternal story; can we rejoice in them? These words would have little meaning if our Lord would not have arisen, but He did arise and we await His return to earth as the bridegroom adorned for His bride. We, His bride, being adorned with a precious white robe, which is to be unspotted from the world awaiting our Saviour. Can we rejoice in those words?

The Silver Lining

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 1996

When The Pain Won't Go Away

There are times, even in the life of a sincere child of God, when events happen in our lives that cause us such intense pain that despite fervent prayer, the pain seems as if it just won't go away.

Perhaps something has happened to us or to someone in our family or to someone who is very close to us and we are tempted to ask "why?". We pray and still the pain and anguish linger. We search God's Word and can't seem to find the answers. We plead with God for courage to go on and our prayers seem almost as mockery.

In such situations we may be tempted to ask "Where is God when we really need Him?" "Why do I feel so separated from Him when I have sought Him so diligently?" In very distressful situations we can even get to the point where we feel lost and separated from God. Prayer and reading God's Word become more difficult at the very time when we need to feel the comfort and consolation of His promises the most. We also may feel guilty about our feelings, thinking that surely we are displeasing God and that no one else could ever understand how we feel.

There are examples in the Word of God that tell us that this is certainly not a new problem. Faithful servants of God have experienced this situation for many generations. For example, King David felt this separation as recorded in Psalm 10 when he asked the Lord why He stood afar off, especially in time of trouble. Likewise, Isaiah felt that God had hidden Himself (Isaiah 45:15) and Elijah felt alone and feared for his life (1 Kings 19:14). Perhaps when we feel so alone and separated from God we need to remind ourselves of God's reassurance to Elijah that "...I have left me seven thousand in Israel that have not bowed unto Baal..." (1 Kings 19:18).

Even Christ felt deserted and separated from God at His most severe trial as He cried "...My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46).

When we feel this separation and aloneness, it seems as though it will never end. Again, David asked, "How long wilt Thou

hide Thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?..." (Psalm 13:1-2). Habakkuk (1:2) and Zechariah (1:12) also felt the effects of prolonged trial.

Although realizing that others, even those who were pillars of faith, have felt similar pain may give us a bit of reassurance, it doesn't stop the pain. What can God's people do in such situations?

We can find comfort and encouragement in God's Word and from God's people. Special passages of Scripture such as Psalm 23, Psalm 46, The Sermon on the Mount in St. Matthew's gospel (ch. 5,6,7), and many other places offer encouragement to a discouraged soul.

The Word of God contains many promises that are so beneficial in times of distress. Christ has promised to intercede for us as He did for Simon Peter when He said "...Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not..." (Lk. 22:31-32). We have been promised a way of escape in 1 Cor. 10:13 that "...God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape..."

Also, in times of distress we should not overlook the comfort we gain by visiting with loved ones in our families and in our precious brotherhood. Satan would like to convince us that it is a sign of weakness or a lack of faith if we need to share our burdens with others. If Satan is successful in keeping us from this counsel, he has robbed us of a powerful source of comfort, for we know that when we share our burdens with those we love they can become lighter. Proverbs 18:24 reminds us that "there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 encourages us in that "Two are better than one; because they have good reward for their labor. For if they fall one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." All of these passages of Scripture remind us of the value of walking in sweet

communion with fellow believers.

Time can also be a powerful ally in our battle with discouragement. We are reminded in 1 Peter 1:6 that our trials are not going to last forever but rather they are for a season "...though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness..." and "...in his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

Although we need help from others in time of great distress, we also are required to put forth effort to get help. It is necessary that we do things that will help us when the load is heavy. "Seek the Lord and His strength..." (1 Chr. 16:11). "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" (Mt. 7:7). "...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you" (James 4:7-8). "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5). Believe in the Lord for "...all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

God's people can find comfort, as David did long ago, that even in the darkest hours, God does not forget nor desert His people. We would do well to study Psalm 77 as the psalmist describes deep distress and anguish and yet in the end he is comforted because he found that God "...leddest Thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

If we continue to seek the Lord, if we continue to trust in His healing powers, if we continue to walk in His ways, if we continue to serve Him with all of our heart and soul and mind, if we continue to do what is right based upon His Word even when we do not feel like it, the Lord will lead us through the valley of the shadow of death. He will not lead us to this valley and then leave us helpless, hopeless and vulnerable to Satan.

He will be our refuge and strength and even when we are at our wit's end, when we cry unto Him, He will deliver us out of our distresses.



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

Romania-A historical perspective

Longer ago than anyone can document, civilization moved westward from the "Cradle of Civilization" now called the "Middle East" into the European nations, the borders of which always seem to be in question.

An East European country

Looking at a map of Europe, one finds Romania at the far eastern point, bordered by the Black Sea. Through the centuries, this portion of the earth has found itself host to many different peoples, cultures, and changing of borders. However, the circumstances that affect us the most today are those presently in existence. In this brief article, we hope to acquaint you with the land and the people of Romania.

Statistical facts

The total land area of Romania is around 89,000 square miles, slightly less than the state of Oregon. Its borders touch Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine, and the former Yugoslavia. About 135 miles of its territory borders the Black Sea. The area known as Transylvania touches Hungary and has been a source of controversy between the two nations for years. Many Nazarenes live here.

East of the Transylvanian Basin lie the Carpathian Mountains. These rugged mountains form a natural border between Romania and Moldavia, a former Soviet Republic. The Transylvanian Alps lie to the south of it.

Climate and land use

The climate is considered temperate, with sunny summers of frequent rain, followed by cold, cloudy winters with snow and fog. About 43% of its land is fertile, lending itself to agriculture. Another 3% is in permanent crops with around 19% in pastures and

communist government, this struggling land is attempting to restore civil order. An encouraging sign observed by our brethren in 1995 was the presence of new, clean filling stations along the main routes. Some included showers.

The people

Of its population of around 24 million persons, some 55% live in cities. 80% claim affiliation with the Eastern Orthodox religion, 6% Catholic, and the rest in varied denominations. Approximately 90% are Romanians, 8% Hungarians, 1.5% German, the balance being of several mixed origins. Genuine gypsies of ancient ancestry are often observed traveling along the roads in their ragged wagons drawn by undernourished horses.



meadows. Traveling through the land yet today, one sees the stalwart farmers toiling in the fields much as their ancestors have done for centuries. Cattle are grazed along the roadsides during the day, watched over mostly by old women.

Roads and Travel

The main route from the Balkan states to Ukraine runs through this country. Somewhere around 44,000 miles of roads traverse the land. Most of these roads are in poor condition, and less than half are considered to be paved by our standards.

However, particularly in the mountainous areas, Romania is very beautiful. With proper development, it could become quite attractive to tourists. After the fall of an oppressive

Living Conditions

While inflation still is very high, it is hoped that this will finally stabilize. In our latest "Update" newsletter, costs in relation to wages were noted. Because of these high costs, we continue to send a sea container of foodstuffs and clothing each month from our Bluffton Distribution Center to our Romanian brethren. Around 2,000 members and friends are beneficiaries of this help.

None of this would be possible without your support and countless hours of packaging food and clothing. In addition, the Mission Committee has sent hundreds of thousands of dollars to build and repair churches. Thanks for your gifts and prayers that have made this possible.



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

Bible Class students travel to Jamaica to erect a building

In March, a group of Bible Class students and their sponsors from Roanoke, Illinois, traveled to Jamaica as part of a work team. Their purpose was to erect a building for the *Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf*, which as its name states, is a school for deaf children. The Caribbean Board has been supporting this effort for many years. The young people wrote down their thoughts, some of which are printed below.

Comments from the viewpoint of the teacher

"As a Bible Class teacher, I felt a responsibility to go, but at first the trip was way out of my normal "comfort zone". However, as the trip approached, I knew that everyone including myself would gain more than we would give.

The trip was a real eye-opener for all of us. There is no way you can learn of another's plight so effectively as seeing it. The country seemed to have poor and wealthy with no middle ground as we are used to it.

The work was very rewarding. The school needs so much done, that one really feels that it is a benefit. Needs include basic repairs and maintenance as well as major improvements which we provided.

The trip was a spiritual renewal for myself. I can get over-focused on self, business and earthly goals. This trip was a time to work for, learn of, and share Almighty God. I feel it was good to be removed from my normal routine and refocus my spiritual goals and life.

The deaf children "stole" all our hearts. The hardest person would have a difficult time turning from their love. They also display such a deep love for our Lord through their singing and love. It was a true display showing that one can be so very happy and content with few material possessions and a physical handicap. With the Lord, one is whole.

The trip was an opportunity for converted and unconverted to assess one another and grow in faith. The benefits of helping others, making new friends, learning

of the struggles of others, and having time to reflect on these things far exceed the cost and hard work that go along with the trip." (M.R.)

Comments of Bible Class students who participated

"Something about the trip that touched my heart was the program that the children put on for us. The fact that they showed such love was unbelievable. They did not know us, and knew that we would be gone after a week, but they still considered us as good friends. I will never forget the experiences I had during our week in Jamaica" (C.A.L.)

"Sharing this experience with all that went brought us together as a team that really worked together and never complained. Seeing all this poverty made me very thankful for all God's blessings he has given me. And seeing how content the Jamaicans are in spite of their living conditions and simple lifestyles was a lesson for all of us to be content. It was a real blessing." (B.S.)

"When traveling to Jamaica with my Bible Class, one thing stands out in my mind. It was the greatest time of my life. Having the chance to travel to a third world country with people who share my beliefs was a benefit rather than a burden. All the teens and adults along were eager to work and to get the job done. I recommend that every church takes a group to do this work. It is something you will never forget". (J.R.)

"When I first arrived at CCCD in Kingston, I felt very sorry for the children living there. To me they were deaf, poor, and faced with many challenges. I thought that they had very little future in their lives. But after living in Kingston for a week, my attitude totally changed. We had a chance to see Kingston and learned more about the city and country. We observed severe poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, litter, and many people just wandering around. We were told of the large percentage of unemployment and the problems of theft and violence. Inside of the CCCD the children's physical needs were always provided for, along with their spiritual needs. As long as they were inside the walls, they were safe and clean. These children had so much faith and a great love for the Word. I realized that being deaf was a blessing for them. If they had been hearing children, they may not have ended up in such a wonderful place as CCCD. I first had thought that they had very little future in their society, but they were better off than many of the Jamaicans. These children were giving their lives to the Lord and had hopes of Heaven. What better future is there?" (R.N.B.)





**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**

Spring is a beautiful time, full of life and warmth. As we settle into the warmth of the springtime sunshine, let us each remember the love and warmth of another son-shine, Jesus Christ. He is so close to our minds having just gone through the time of remembrance of His footsteps the last week of His life, then His cruel death on the cross and the shedding of His blood. Joyfully, we also remember how He arose from the grave on Resurrection Sunday.

The beginning of April was still chilly enough to keep us indoors for a good part of the time. The 32 residents training for the Special Olympics Track and Field events were outdoors only when the weather permitted. The event will be May 11 at the Morton High School track field.

We have residents who enjoy horseback riding with a group called Central Illinois Riding Therapy. Those riding enjoy this experience and benefit greatly in many ways. We have other residents in activities sponsored by nearby park district programs. Both the water and the music programs are good and enjoyable experiences for those who participate. Another treat is a visit from the Therapy Dogs. These well-trained canines easily befriend and their presence is a bright spot in our days.

On March 30, a Sunday School group from Princeville again came to hold an Easter egg coloring party. We sure had a good time. Not only did we have an abundance of beautiful eggs to eat, but

the party consisted of some special treats and a friendly, cheerful atmosphere.

We are still anticipating a few resident house moves that will probably take place in early May. Along with those moves we will welcome some new residents at our large ACHH building.

June birthdays for all our facilities are as follows: ACHH -Dale Plattner (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger (15), Rodney Blaum (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23), and Lyle Steffen (24). Oakwood Estate - Doris Hutchison (18). Linden Estate - Sharilyn Rowell (19), Chip Johann (22). 200 E. Hazelwood -Harold Miller (7).

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

We are excited to see the signs of spring everywhere: the sun is shining, flowers are blooming, children are riding bikes, walking and playing. Spring is also a time to think of planting gardens and fields. A gardener knows that when he plants vegetable seeds, he should expect to harvest a vegetable, not a fruit or a flower! This also holds true in our lives: "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:8). We spend quite a bit of time teaching children to consider the potential consequences or benefits of their actions. Many of them come here bearing the consequences of their own poor choices, similar to the Israelites as written in Hosea 10:13: "Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way..." As they learn to take responsibility for their actions and the resulting consequences, they



GATEWAY WOODS

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

Saturday, August 17, 1996

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

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	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
April 1996 —	3,092	25,631

*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

can also learn to "sow" actions that will result in fruit that is sweet rather than bitter.

Ruth Reinhard has moved on after spending several years working as our Foster Care Coordinator. All of us appreciated her quiet efficiency and her ever present encouragement and smile. We wish Ruth well in whatever path the Lord would lead her on from here. We welcome Sis. Jan Baumgartner from Leo who has been hired to fill the vacant position. Sis. Jan previously worked as a Houseparent

and has a great deal of knowledge and experience in working with children and families. We're glad to have her back on board with us!

During the past month we have welcomed Jessica T. to the Graf's and Shane C. to the Schrock house. We also wish Ashley A. and Brandi W. well as they have moved on from our program.

We rejoice with Robin Esslinger who has chosen to accept God's gift of salvation and seek a new life through repentance and conversion. Recently, Robin was able to give her

testimony and was baptized in Pulaski, IA.

Special thanks go out to Sis. Tonya Wieland (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Betty Schlatter (Chicago, IL) who spent time volunteering this month. As we look forward to summer, we encourage anyone 18 or older to consider spending a week or more working with us. We appreciate all of the extra help volunteers give us to make the hectic summer months run a little smoother. If you are interested in volunteering,

please call Denise Klopfenstein at (219) 627-2159.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:8-10

God created us in His image so that we might bring glory and honor to Him. Sin has brought death and destruction to all people, but God in His great mercy provided a way for us to be reconciled to Him through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Nothing we have ever done or could do could make us deserving of salvation; it is simply a gift of God's love and grace. God lovingly draws us to be reconciled to Himself so that we can have fellowship with Him and bring honor to His name by living lives of obedience.

So often in our work here we are reminded that real change in the lives of family and children can only be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit bringing new life through salvation. Although our work here is difficult and draining, we count it a privilege to be called to work together in His service, "Holding forth the word of life..." (Phil. 2:16). Please continue to pray for us "...that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power, That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified..." (II Thess. 1:11-12).

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL**
Athens, Alabama
Tricia Tucker

Easter was one of our monthly themes of April. Since this holiday is the most important to a Christian's

walk of life, every day the students were told the Easter story. One day just at the crucial point where the soldiers were nailing Jesus to the cross, one child exclaimed, "Those are bad men! Send them to time out!" Little did he know that each and every one of us also hammered the nails. Praise be to God for His glorious sacrifice at Calvary.

During April we also studied plants, the color green, and the letters X, Y, and Z. The children not only planted flowers for their "mamas" but also helped to plant the preschool garden. This will bring much excitement in the months to come as the students watch the plants grow and reap their efforts by eating the vegetables.

The weekend of April 20 and 21 was our semi-annual board meeting. Brethren came from across the land to offer guidance and support to our preschool. There is much appreciation felt towards the prayers offered in behalf of this event.

PRAYERS NEEDED: The preschool is now in need of two teachers beginning this summer at the preschool. The summer enrollment is now set at 41 and currently have only two teachers. If you are interested or know of anyone, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 or the preschool at (205) 233-0591.

The preschool also needs many volunteers to help in the summer months so the staff may take vacations. Some duties of volunteers may include reading books, washing toys, painting shelves, playing with the children, and showing God's love. If you are considering one day or one month, please let it be known by contacting the phone numbers listed above.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Pam Moore

Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clarann Lynn have had joy and sorrow in their lives in the past month. Bro. Buddy's grandmother, Connie

Simms, passed away in March. However, as they gave up one member of their family, another member was added to their family. Buddy Allen Lynn (Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clarann) and Jessica Haynes were married on March 30 in Huntsville, AL. We pray for God's blessings on their marriage.

On Easter Sunday, the younger Sunday School classes had an Easter Program. The letters, JESUS IS ALIVE, brought the message of Easter to each of us.

We hope to see many of you at the Tennessee Fellowship Area for Memorial Day weekend. Please call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035 if you plan to bring a large group so that we can be better prepared.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Eccles. 3:1

Bro. Melvin Miller's "time" came March 23 when he entered Heaven's gate to be with our dear Heavenly Father. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich was assisted by Bros. Bill Dotterer, James Emch and Greg Gramm with funeral services at the church on March 26. Internment was in Resthaven Park Cemetery, East, in Phoenix. Bro. Melvin died 51 years after his dad on the same day of March. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Bertha; daughters, Barbara Alexander and Connie Rients; and sons, Larry, Donald, Terry and Dean; 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Melvin was a "light" to all, shining until the very last. His encouragement helped many of us. May we find comfort and strength in our daily walk with Thee, Lord; our dear brother is missed. Bro. Melvin would appreciate very much leaving a legacy of "gentle kindness—one for another" at all times. It is possi-

ble as we are called to bear one another's burdens.

Slides of the trip to Knockpatrick, Jamaica's Christian Center for the Deaf were shown on March 31 by Bro. Greg Gramm in the congregational room. The mountainous terrain traveled looked to be a "project" in itself, plus other work accomplished. There is much yet to be done at the Center.

Our Sunday School classes and teachers had a lovely Easter program of singing and Scripture recitations on Palm Sunday. Just seeing all those beaming faces was a joy, yet we were appreciative of their sharing God's love.

March 31 was also special to us in Phoenix, as Bro. Bob Dotterer and Sis. Laura Brake were married in Sardis, OH. There was a wedding reception for them in Phoenix on April 14. His parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. We welcome Sis. Laura and pray God's blessings on this dear couple for many happy years.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

"We need Thee every hour." Our need for prayer goes on and on and our "Thank You, Lord" list is full of praises to Him.

Bro. Clarence Beyer and Bob Rebec had hand surgery, Bro. Ron Herr and Sis. Gerry Beyer had eye surgery, Bro. Gordon Greenbank, Bro. Chuck Kieser and Sis. Sharon Dotterer had out-patient studies. Sis. Eileen Maurer is able to attend church. Tricia Lawson had a tonsillectomy.

The World Relief monthly meeting was April 11 in the congregational room.

We welcome Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum and little Coby who moved here from Tucson.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger welcome Clint Ryan into the family fold. His parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid (Brad-

ford, IL).

What joy to see many of our former Sunday School youth (70-80) in church this past month.

Spiritual certainty produces stability in life. A Christian is never off duty.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Visiting ministers for the last month were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Andy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich who served us Holy Communion along with our Deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp. May God bless their efforts toward the Tucson church.

We said farewell to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum and their son, Koby, this month. They have moved to Phoenix. So although we will miss them, we will be able to see them often, we hope! May God watch over them in Phoenix as He did in Tucson.

Sis. Yvonne Lehman is back in Tucson for an indefinite period. We welcome her back and pray that the Lord will watch over her as she is separated from her family.

We have had a few very warm days (high 80's) and even hit 90 degrees one day, but I am thrilled to report summer is not here yet! Our days are warm and sunny and our evenings are beautifully cool and breezy. We feel very fortunate as we hear of April blizzards in other parts of the country.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joy Nenadov

"...Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen..."

Luke 24:5-6

What beautiful words to hear in the ears of those who have been redeemed. As we went up to the mountain early Easter morning and

stood overlooking the valley below, we truly rejoiced and lifted up our voices in song to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! In this peaceful setting we were reminded of the great plan of salvation which had been made possible on that Easter morning many years ago. We then gathered together for breakfast and fellowship.

On March 17, we were exhorted and reminded, through the reading of the Memorandum, of the way we should live as children of God. We were warned strongly against allowing worldliness into our lives and the church, remembering that although we must live in the world, we must not be a part of it. May we strive to live holy and obedient lives in submission to the perfect will of God. We thank our Elder Brother for his labor of love to us.

We want to remember Sis. Janelle Klotzle (David) in our prayers in the passing of her grandmother, Ann Nuest (LaCrosse, IN), on April 4. May Sis. Janelle and her family find comfort in knowing their loved one is safe in the arms of Jesus.

A special verse for all mothers is: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (III John 1:4)

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

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

To me is given boundless mercy,
A gift that I did not deserve;
Such wondrous love, it is so
marvelous,
That such for me should be

reserved.

But since I know, I will rejoice,
And praise Thy mercy with my
voice.

Zion's Harp #220

Our congregation rejoiced as we had the privilege to hear the testimony and witness the baptism April 14 of Sis. Yasmin Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic). May God continue to be by her side with every step she makes in her life and may He richly bless her. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bro. Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA) were here for the blessed event. Our small church was full with visitors, family and friends. We thank all who came and invite them back again soon.

Following the testimony Saturday evening, we partook of Holy Communion. We felt so blessed and close to God and our Saviour. It was truly a blessed and beautiful evening.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Marguerite Bauer (Cissna Park, IL) spent about ten weeks with us here in San Diego. We enjoyed them so much and look forward to their next visit.

Elder Bro. John Klotzle recently read the Memorandum to us. We thank him for his loving labors on our behalf. Hebrews 13:17 comes to mind: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for this is unprofitable for you."

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..."

Isaiah 61:10

We praise and thank God for the joy He gives true believers. Our strength for each day is the joy of the Lord. (Nehemiah 8:10)

Part of our joy in Christ is the fellowship of brethren. We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andrew Virkler (Bay City, MI) for their labors in ministering the Word of Life to us. We also thank our other visitors for coming to visit us here.

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

Eccles. 3:1-2

We extend our prayers and sympathies to Bro. Wayne Saddler on the death of his earthly father, Robert Saddler. We pray that God would comfort his family and especially his mother, Beatrice.

We welcome all our brethren and friends to visit us here in Kitchener. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information and directions.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Greetings across the many miles! We were delighted to hear our Sunday School children recite their verses and sing their songs at the Easter Program. The 18 students we have in Sunday School now sure seems like a multitude compared to the small handful we had a few years ago. May God keep these thoughts in the minds of our dear children and bring them to fruition as they reach the age of accountability and may He bless the dear brothers and sisters who have given their time and effort to teach the dear children.

We enjoyed the visitors we had over spring break and invite all to come visit us and God's beautiful handiwork here in Colorado. May God bless and keep you all safe and

in His care throughout the days to come.

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

April 9 was a joyous day for Barry and Glenna Luginbuhl, with the birth of their son, Brent Alden. His brother, Bradley, welcomes him. His grandparents are Lillian Luginbuhl and Bro. Alden and Sis. Marion Reutter.

Ron and Kelly Moser were blessed with a son, Luke. His brother, Michael, welcomes him home. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser.

Three new souls were added to the fold on April 14. Sis. Alma Lanz, Sis. Deanna Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen) and Bro. Mark Luginbuhl (Robin) gave their testimonies on Saturday evening, April 13, and were baptized the following day. We want to wish them much grace to walk this new path of life.

Visiting Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) assisted Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan with the testimonies and baptisms. We truly appreciate his labor of love and wish him the Lord's richest blessings.

Believing it was God's will, Bro. Matthew Couzans and Sis. Catherine Virkler's (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) engagement was announced. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Julia Bourque. We want to wish her God's mercy.

It has been requested that we include our new telephone area code. Our new area code is (860).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"As snow in summer..."
Prov. 26:1

It isn't summer yet, but we had snow on the ground at the same time

the cherry blossoms were at their peak. As the snow was falling, the five day forecast was calling for 80 degrees later in the week. The Lord provides us with a variety of weather.

“...this do in remembrance of me.”

Luke 22:19

We were privileged to join the Philadelphia congregation to partake in Holy Communion. What a blessing when we can remember what the Lord has done for us. Two of the three ministers this month reminded us how much of each of the Gospels takes place the week or so before Jesus gave His life for us.

Our ministers this past month were Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). While we are grateful to all our ministers and their families for coming to serve us, we are especially thankful that Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane gave up the Easter holiday with their family to be with us. May God bless all these families.

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**

Mother's Day - the day every year we stop and think about our wonderful mothers. To those whose mothers are no longer living, it's time to stop, revive, and review the fond memories we have, i.e. learning

about God at our mother's feet, childhood incidents, the example she taught, and the countless deeds of love and kindness. To those who are fortunate enough to still have their mother with them, it's time to remember all of these things and then stop to take the time to tell them how much we love and appreciate them and their unselfish concern for our well-being. And to those dear ones who have given so much of themselves being a special aunt or acting as a beloved mother to the motherless, we give a special thanks.

On Easter Sunday we enjoyed our traditional Easter picnic at the Fellowship Hall. Much effort was expended in organizing the egg hunt and games for the children and in planning for the delicious food. Our thanks to all who participated.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA) in our midst during this Easter season. May they be blessed for their service to the Lord.

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

Sis. Bernadine Messner was called Home, as the Lord called her dear mother Home. She was 93 plus years and it was a blessing, as her last years she was in a nursing home.

A mother plays such a very important part in the family life; there is no higher standing or any other job more important to God for women to fulfill—to raise our children to love and serve the Lord! Many mothers spend a lot of hours on their knees asking God to call their children into His service. And no matter how old the children are, we never stop, for God has promised He will answer our prayers if we pray believing!

We were blessed to partake of Communion and we want to thank Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) for assisting our home

Elder, Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). May God bless you and yours for serving so faithfully. They also took Communion to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Yergler, as they were both unable to be there. Elder Bro. Ed encouraged them some day we won't have the sickness we endure in this body, but we will have a "new" body, and not for a number of years, but for eternity!

Being a small congregation with just one new baby, Shelby Baum (Bro. Rob and Sis. Angie), each week we see the change in her. From being so helpless to reaching out and trying to stand, we all enjoy watching this child and are ever thankful her parents see the need at this young age to bring her to God's House. In this world we see so many babies' lives being taken from them because it's not convenient for their parents. Someday, God will demand an account for this lifestyle!

Can anyone answer this question for me: What has the Easter Bunny have to do with Easter?

When Jesus obeyed His Father and finished His short life on earth to have the tomb empty, let us never forget what He did, every day of our life, and be a thankful people always.

Our other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Bob Meyer, Jr. and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless them in this life and much more in eternity!

Note: Mid-week services will be canceled until further notice.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Vera and Mary Martin**

May is a beautiful month in Florida as we can see God's promises renewed again and again as we look around at His wondrous creation. It is also the month that we set aside a special day to honor our mothers. For those of us who have been privi-

leged to be raised in a Christian home with the love of a Godly mother, we have many reasons to be thankful.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is the closest thing
that we may ever know,
To the love that Jesus has for us
as we travel here below.
A mother's love is selfless and pure
As it stands the test of time,
How I thank the Lord—He gave
To me a Godly Mom.
Someday we'll see Christ face to
face,
We'll rejoice with one another;
But the closest thing we'll know
down here
Is the love of a Christian mother.

We have just finished passing through another blessed Easter season and we again remembered Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection by renewing our vows in a Communion service on Good Friday night, and early Sunday morning, before our regular church services, with a sunrise service on the beach. The theme of the CROSS was explained by Bro. Randy Gasser and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III as **C**hrist's **R**econciliation through the **O**bedience of believers by **S**uffering for our **S**alvation.

Our congregation has again decreased to a small group again, and we want to thank our winter residents for their love and support through the winter months, wishing them God's guidance with a safe return, and look forward when we again can worship together.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter III (Atlanta, GA.)

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for all the love, prayers and cards we received during the hospital stay, and the kind expressions of sympathy and memorials in the loss of our dear husband and father, Bro. Dave Wingeier.

Sis. Bertha Wingeier and family

We want to thank everyone for your love, prayers, cards, letters and phone calls during Willard's heart surgery. The love and kindness that we felt from the entire church will never be forgotten. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Willard and Sis Eloise Bahr

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Peggy Camp

We are always grateful to the brothers who come and share with us God's Holy Word. This past month we thank the following: Bros. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller and family as Bro. Linn's mother, Sis. Minerva Stoller (Leo, IN), passed away. May God comfort them in their loss.

Our prayers go with Bro. Tim Lawson as he has moved to California to begin a new job. He was a special blessing to our small group and will be greatly missed.

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

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Millie Jepson

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to

put confidence in princes."

Psalms 118:8-9

As the Word of God is being preached each Sunday, our prayer is that many will see their need of salvation before the day of grace comes to an end. The turmoil and tragedies that seem more prevalent these days indicate we should "look up...for your redemption draweth nigh". Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) were the visiting ministers this past month assisting Bro. Dean Steffen. We thank them all for their labor of love.

Elder Bro. Nate Steffen served us at the Communion service and what a privilege it was to come apart from the evil and distracting world and meditate on His great love for us. We never tire of that precious time for remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice for sin. "Alas, and did my Saviour bleed, And did my Sovereign die, Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?"

My whole salvation then is to Thy credit,

To Thee alone, O, Son of God and man;

My ransom is achieved through Thy own merit;

I take as a free gift the purchased crown.

So this must then conclusive be,
That Thou, my slaughtered Lamb,
my all in all shall be.

Zion's Harp #184

As school days are coming to an end and the summer activities are being planned, we encourage you to visit the church here in Belvidere. We have appreciated all of the visitors in the past and the innovative ways of including Belvidere church in their trips and reunions. On the Sundays we have picnics or pot-lucks, all are invited to stay and fellowship with us. "Pleasure is the flower that passes; remembrance, the lasting fragrance."

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

We've been blessed with the addition of another healthy baby to our congregation. Morgan Olivia Musselman arrived on March 30, much to the joy of her parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynne Musselman. She is welcomed by siblings, Zachary and Molly, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman (Pulaski, IA) and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner (Oakville, IA).

Also thankful for God's blessings are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Charlene Knobloch as they announce the arrival of their first grandson, Justin Kris, on March 15. His parents are Brett and Angela Knobloch. Justin has a big sister, Megan, who is anxious to show him "the ropes." This young family lives in South Bend, IN.

Children truly are a blessing from the Lord and we know that with blessing comes responsibility. The child belongs to God and is given to the parents only as a stewardship. We pray for these dear parents and grandparents as they raise Morgan and Justin in the shelter of their Christian homes and instruct them in everything essential to please God.

Our Sunday School children presented their Easter program to us on Palm Sunday, March 31. The theme that was woven throughout the scripture readings and songs was "Jesus Lives." It is not only through the cross but also the empty tomb of our risen Redeemer that we have the promise of eternal life. He conquered death for us and is now seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. Bro. Kevin Knapp had the inspirational message in which he emphasized that Jesus knows us individually by name, even before we knew Him. He calls each of us by name as He did Nathanael, Lazarus at his tomb, and

Mary Magdalene in the garden. Each of these individuals responded to His call immediately, and we need to answer Him as they did.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Revelation 3:20-21

What a wonderful promise is that.

We received much encouragement and blessing as Bro. Dennis Kaufmann delivered our Good Friday service in the power of the Holy Spirit. Further blessing was received as our choir lifted up His name in praise.

The Spirit's presence was evident again as Bro. Kevin Knapp spoke during our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, and then as the choir and the two groups "Heart to Heart" and "Four His Glory" inspired us through song. We were thankful for our many visitors and the opportunity for all to hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sis. Jana Knapp was hospitalized this month, but we are thankful she is now at home recuperating. We pray for God's healing hand upon her.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

"...this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:25

It is good to be reminded every year of what the Lord has done for us. So often our focus gets narrowed down by the things of this world and the hustle and bustle of life, that what Jesus did for us on the cross is dimmed in our minds and hearts. Yes, Easter is a good time of year,

and we were reminded of our Lord's death on the Cross on April 5 by our children at the Easter program. Then we were reminded again on April 10 at our Communion, where the solemnity of the occasion brings the price that has been paid for our salvation into sharp focus. We want to thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for coming to help and for being with us that night.

On April 2, Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid were blessed to receive a baby boy, Clint Ryan, to add to their family. He joins his sister, Kayla, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger. May God grant us the grace to raise our children to know Him.

Jenny Tanner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn) and Ben Beaver of Peoria were united in marriage on February 17. We pray God will bless their union together.

Bro. Darwin Stahl and Sis. Robin Steiner (Princeville, IL) were married in Princeville on March 24. Their parents are Sis. Charlotte Stahl and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner (Princeville, IL). May the Lord who brought them together continue to bless them and keep them in His care.

On April 14, we were also able to witness the marriage of Bro. Joseph Beer (Remington, IN) and Sis. Heather Wohlrab. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer (Goodfield, IL) and John and Bev Wohlrab (Kewanee). We pray the Lord will also bless them as they begin their new life together. We will miss Sis. Heather and invite them to come back and visit us often.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich and their family as they mourn the loss of Bro. Ed's sister, Sis. Minerva Stoller (Leo, IN). May the Holy Spirit comfort their hearts in the days to come.

We are so thankful for all the visiting ministers who came to share God's Word with us. They were

Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ken Schneider and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Jaye Rinkenger (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). May God bless each one of these dear brothers.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

As I write this month's article, my topic focus has changed from my original idea. Just after I first sat to write this, the disaster warning siren sounded and we had to head for our basement. The radio reported several tornadoes in the area, with one headed in our direction. As we sat in our very crude basement hearing the winds blow and the siren sound repeatedly until it was silenced by a loss of electricity, we were reminded of the power of God to direct the winds. Emotionally, we were mostly calm but just a little anxious to know what was happening with nature. When we emerged after the time for the warning had passed, we learned that Urbana (eight miles west of us) and Ogden (five miles east of us) had both suffered significant damage. For several hours, ambulances and rescue vehicles went through town on the way to Ogden, where one woman lost her life, more than a dozen people were injured and many buildings were damaged or destroyed. We are thankful that those we know in our congregation were spared as this stormy weather moved so close to many of us. We ask for prayers for those whose lives were turned upside-down in such a short time on a wet night in April. We trust that the Lord will help us help them. Incidents like this can help us be more thankful for what we have and take so for granted.

On Saturday, March 23, our college students hosted their annual appreciation dinner for their par-

ents and the church. Many attended and enjoyed this dinner and evening of fellowship provided by the young people. On that weekend, we were pleased to have two visiting ministers with us who have children here as students: Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL). Thank you, students, moms, and dads! The following Saturday, we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum.

With the Easter season, our Sunday School students presented their program which focused on the pain that Jesus suffered for us. Although our Lord suffered physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, he endured it all "...for the joy that was set before him..." (Hebrews 12:2). It was very clear that we have a gift of salvation. This was again brought to our minds by ministering Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) at Good Friday services and again on Easter Sunday. We thank our Sunday School students and teachers, Bro. Ben, and our own ministers for reminding us of this season that is so much more than chickens, eggs, and blue bunnies.

Our annual business meeting was recently held with 45 members in attendance. This marks the end of terms of services for some and the election to service for others. In the Sunday School, Bro. Darren Plattner and Sis. Tina Fehr will be replaced by Bro. Patrick Meyer and Sis. Shelly Kaeb. Trustee, Bro. Melvin Walder, is replaced by Bro. Eric Schieler, and ushering Bro. Chad Kupferschmid's position will be assumed by Bro. David Bauer. Sis. Marcia Koch's kitchen committee duties are being passed on to Sis. Kathy Clarkson. We thank each and every one of these people for their time and efforts over the past two or three years, and wish those assuming new positions God's blessings.

As a person who works with high school students on a daily basis, a special thought and concern comes to me at this time of year. Although it is always appropriate to pray for

our youth, this is a special time of year with many of the spring activities such as prom and graduation. It seems that this time of joy and celebration too often turns to tragedy and sadness for high school students due to accidents. Try to remember to pray that those youth in your area will take care and make wise choices especially at this time of year.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"There is so much more room to write on a blank page," I can hear the Lord whispering to me. "If you have already made the decisions, I have less room to create glory, to involve you in situations where people need to see Me through you. Please give me the pen, please give me the space of your life. In the pages that are left, I have so many plans for My work. You are important to that work. Perhaps it is not as glamorous nor as spotlighted as you would have chosen, but I need you with Me inside of you. I need to be reflected in your thoughts and words and deeds, for you to be the best servant and child you can be for Me. Please give Me all the remaining pages of this Book of Days that I have first given you. Then My story can be seen again as a living epistle. And it's a great idea to tell all your friends: I need every one to be part of My library, to 'let the whole world know.'"

"...our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:"
II Corinthians 3:2

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) spoke on the topic of Christian service on Wednesday, April 10. For me, it was such illuminating preparation for Holy Communion on Friday evening, April 12. He mentioned a brother's reaction to incarceration for the faith: "I was counted worthy to suffer for Him." Truly, everything I am doing or thinking pales in comparison to that statement of

faith and joy. Our congregation was again united by our bond at Communion, carried out by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Lenny Meyer. We also appreciated the Wednesday evening ministry of Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA). May we remember all of their wonderful exhortations.

Our memorable occasions of the month include the birth of Rachel Joy, first child and aptly-named daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky Kiefer on March 28. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Delores Kiefer (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill (Elgin, IL). May this little bundle of multiple blessings always be well loved by us, her church family, as well as by all of those special family members, and may we all be prayerful and supportive to her parents as they look to the Lord for guidance and strength.

There also was an announcement of the engagement of Sis. Valerie Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) to Bro. Kurt Leman of Francesville, IN (Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman, also of Francesville). We join them in rejoicing about the Lord's wonders in creating this prologue to Christian marriage. May they be wrapped in His pure and holy love as they anticipate the merging of two paths of Christian service in one. (And we will add prayer to our delight.)

Sometimes I find that I have been looking at a Bible verse without understanding. Such was the Old Testament idea of "an eye for an eye." (Exodus 21:24). I was thinking of the judgment it implied; I have now read that it was for mercy: if only an eye was injured, only an eye could be injured "in retribution." Somehow I am rebuked. When Christ chides, saying "For ye have the poor with you always..." (Matthew 26:11), He did not mean that we have no responsibility to those who need our help, but NO THING, NOTHING is to be more important to us than our relationship with Him.

I must confess that while my husband rides the waves like a cork, I have been finding the waves smashing—and I don't mean in a good sense. I think that my "sinking" feelings have a lot to do with Peter's situation when he stepped out of the boat to come to Jesus. I have had trouble with my spiritual eyes. They have wandered around among the stresses and fears with which I struggle, rather than concentrating on His power and all that He can accomplish when I let Him be my sole focus. After all, coming to Him for life eternal is my direct goal for being here.

Each of us has a purpose; each of us will have our own call. "The banquet table's ready up in heaven, It's supper time upon the golden strand. Come home, come home, it's supper time: The shadows lengthen fast, Come home, come home, it's supper time; We're going home at last." (Melodies of Praise #123)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

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

Romans 10:15

We are thankful God has sent many ministers to our congregation this past month to preach the gospel, to read the Memorandum, and to serve us Communion. Among them were our Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). May God bless each one of these ministering servants for their efforts and their labors of love.

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were touched and reminded in a

special way of what Christ did for each of us as our Sunday School children brought us the message of Easter. We pray that each of them will someday kneel at the cross and acknowledge their need for a Saviour.

We appreciate Bro. Tim Martin from Roanoke, IL for coming to show us the World Relief slides. They were a reminder to open our eyes and hearts to the needs of others.

"...labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

We rejoice with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores Knapp over their new granddaughter, Rachel Lynn, born March 22 to Dawn and John Elmen-dorf. May they share many happy years together.

Just as the Lord gives life, He also takes life. Our love and sympathy goes out to people in our local congregation who have lost loved ones. Melvin "Bud" Allen of our area passed away April 1. He is the brother of Sis. Maxine Hari.

A funeral was held for Sis. Anna Nuest in Francesville, IN on April 8. Sis. Anna was born in Cissna Park. Her sisters and a brother who live in the Cissna Park area are Sis. Louise Manz, Sis. Helen Lackey, Sis. Esther Steiner, Martha Farney and Ben Farney.

Sis. Esther Yentes left this earth on April 11 for her Heavenly Home after a brief illness. She is the mother of our Sis. Carol Heinold.

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

Philippians 4:7

It is our prayer for each of you that God will grant you peace in this time of sorrow.

Notes of Thanks:

The Elmer Bauer family would like to express their thanks to all who remembered them when they experienced the death of their dear wife, mother, and grandmother, Sis. Elsie. May God bless each one for their kindness.

The Elmer Bauer family

A heartfelt thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy, the love and the prayers shown toward us during the loss of our loved one, Sis. Violet. It meant so much to each of us.

The Clarence Maul family

A sincere "thanks" for the get well cards, the flowers, gifts, and especially for the prayers and visits during my recent surgery. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Bob Greiner

A heartfelt thanks to all who so kindly remembered me while I was in the hospital and since I am home. The prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and food were much appreciated. May God bless you.

Sis. Naomi Knapp and family

In closing, I have some words for thought. Martin Luther said he had only two days on his calendar, "today and that day". May that be the desire of each of us to live today for that day!

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Arlene Banwart
Linda Knobloch

GOD'S GIFT - MOTHER

M - any be the gifts:
 Perchance silver or gold,
 Lands, a fine house
 Or great jobs that we hold.

O - ft we take them for granted;
 This blessing He shares —
 May we pause to give thanks

For one that's precious, rare.

T - here's one that outweighs;
 Rates above all the others.
 The rare gift that He gives —
 Our dear Christian mothers!

H - er price far exceeds
 The bright gem, ruby stone.
 Her labors are endless
 To the poor, to her own.

E - xcelling in love;
 She is wise, she is kind,
 Forgiving and guiding
 All; God's pathway to find.

R - ight! "Favor's deceitful,
 And beauty is vain";
 But the fear of the Lord
 Will yield lasting gain.

S - ome mothers have gone
 To their rightful reward;
 Some are yet with us —
 Share your love; Praise the Lord!
 —by a Sister in Faith

Three families in our church welcomed new babies. Firstborn child of Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda Steffen is Nathan Jay born March 26. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen and Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht (Eureka, IL), and great-grandparents are Bro. Ed Steffen and Opal Mooberry (Eureka, IL).

Welcomed by Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily Wettstein, Henry, Reuben, Amber, Joel, and Dale is Carmen Joy born April 14. Her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein (Eureka, IL).

Sarah Kay arrived April 15 to bless the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman. Jacob, Abby, and Molly welcome their new sister. Bro. Gene and Sis. Carrie Hartman and Dayton and Wilma Springer (Eureka) are the grandparents, and great-grandmother is Sis. Loida Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

This past month we were thankful for Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle

(Sardis, OH) and Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) who proclaimed God's Word to us.

Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion) is recovering after a fall, Anna Rinkenberg (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) is recovering from ankle surgery, Sis. Mary Steffen (Bro. Ed) is recuperating from surgery, and Sis. Mary Schrock (Bro. Byron) from back problems.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Renee Anliker - Debbie Sauder

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

This promise we, with heart and
 will;

Give grace our promise to fulfill.
Zion's Harp #25

A quiet Saturday evening, March 23, we, God's children, gathered to partake of Holy Communion. It is always a blessing to be in God's house, with God's people, but participating in this blest sacrament surely leaves us with an overwhelming appreciation for our dear Saviour and heritage of faith. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) as he assisted Elder Bro. Nathan and Bro. Ron in serving us the emblems of our Saviour's death as well as abundant manna from the Word. May God richly bless the many and faithful efforts of our watchmen on the wall as He also grants us the grace to fulfill the promise to be faithful we each have made.

We are thankful Sis. Lucile Knupper's surgery went well and God has seen fit to lessen her suffering and pain. May the Lord continue to strengthen and heal her, according to His perfect will.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

Matthew 13:45-46

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that a dear couple has swept until that pearl of great price (salvation) was found and now have begun to seek the Lord in repentance. May God bless and direct Tom and Gail Rhodes as they begin their journey of faith with the grace and faith sufficient to lay a firm foundation, pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Tell Mother I'll be there,
In answer to her prayer
This message blessed Saviour to
her bear.

Tell Mother I'll be there,
Heaven's joys with her to share,
Yes, tell my darling Mother I'll be
there.

—*Charles Fillmore*

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

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Dori Blunier

"...Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

St. John 12:24

This time of year as we prepare the soil for planting, may we examine our hearts to see if they are always receptive to God's Word. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) spent a special weekend with us as he helped our Elder Bro. Ervin serve us Holy Communion. He reminded us that weekend that "You can't

plant a seed in a rock."

God has blessed Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann Blunier's lives with a new little son. Austin Dean was born April 1 and is welcomed home by big sisters, Miranda and Jodi. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier and Bro. Harry Rocke.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Gandell in the death of her husband, Paul Gandell, on March 21. He has two children, David of Fairport, NY and Ruth Gideon of Evanston. May God bless Sis. Dorothy for her faithful support of her husband during his long illness.

We also pray that God will be the Comforter of Bro. Don and Susan Jones in the death of Susan's father, Jerry Butler, of Pekin. He passed away on Friday, April 12.

Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Trent Meiss (Iowa City, IA), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), and Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) all ministered to us in the last month. We appreciate their work in the Lord.

We welcome Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm who have recently moved to Eureka and are now a part of our congregation.

Our prayers are with those who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Linda Vierling (Bro. Jim), Sis. Clara Bach, and Bro. Eli Fisher (Helen).

High school graduates this year are Sheila Blunier, Teresa Blunier, Sis. Heather Beutel, Ryan Carr, Lisa Hartter, Darin Kupferschmid, Kevin Kupferschmid, Sis. Holly Leman, Jeff Rocke, Matthew Schmidgall, Brenda Stoller, Sis. Jenny Stoller, Brian Vierling, and Sis. Cynde Wettstein. We pray for each one that they would remember to seek God in all aspects of their lives, and may God keep them in the shadow of His wing.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

O blest the child whose mother
lives

Such exemplary life,
Who bears her cross in weal and
woe,
In earthly toil and strife!
A Mother, virtuous and true,
Excelleth by her worth
Rich gems of gold, or rubies bright,
Which are esteemed on earth.

—*Bro. Henry Beer*

May God bless all our mothers, especially those who by their prayers and guidance and God-fearing examples have influenced us to serve Him.

New life is bursting forth upon the earth in the beauty of springtime. And God has also granted new little lives to four families in our congregation.

First-time parents, Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr, were blessed with a baby boy, Aaron Michael, born March 19. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and William and Helen Fehr, all of Forrest.

Brandon Jeffery was born on March 25 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal Cargill. His brother, Johnathon, 3, and grandparents, Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill (Elgin, IL) welcome him home.

A little brother, Troy Eugene, came to join Sarah, 4, and Heidi, 2 1/2, on April 7. Parents are Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis Fehr. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr are Troy's grandparents.

The home of Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman was blessed with the arrival of Megan Rae on April 12. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel and Bro. Fred and Sis. JoAnn Edelman (Bern, KS). May all these precious little souls be raised in the fear of the Lord.

We were blessed to once again have visiting brothers minister unto us: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and on Easter Sunday, Bros. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) and Ben Wiegand (Philadel-

phia, PA) who shared the joyful Resurrection message with us. May the Lord reward your efforts.

"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

Many of us were present at Forrest on March 24 when our Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha and the late Myrna) was united in marriage with Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill). We heartily welcome Sis. Sara to our congregation and wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

We also rejoice with Shirley Zimmerman and John Kilgus (Forrest) who have announced their engagement. Their wedding is planned for August 31.

Our prayers and thoughts have certainly been with Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and their family (Forrest) who recently suffered an auto accident. We are so thankful that they are regaining strength and pray that God will continue to be near them.

Thought for the Day: We think we are in the land of the living headed for the land of the dying, when in reality we are in the land of the dying headed for the land of the living.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold

March 24 was a special day for Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha, Fairbury, IL) as they exchanged wedding vows. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

Dedication services for our new Forrest church were held April 14. We want to thank Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Art Bahler (Fair-

bury, IL) for taking part in this special service. We truly appreciate our new edifice and are thankful that the Lord has so richly blessed us.

We also want to thank Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) for allowing God's Holy Spirit to teach us through them. We also appreciate Bro. Duane Kilgus's (Fairbury, IL) willingness to share God's Word with our Bible Class students. May God bless these brothers for being willing servants.

We rejoice to hear that Lynn Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) has turned to the Lord. May she feel God's nearness and grace as she goes through this time of repentance and conversion.

We wish John Kilgus and Shirley Zimmerman (Fairbury, IL) God's blessings as they have announced their engagement. May they put their trust in Him as they take this important step.

Our hearts were saddened when we heard that loved ones from our congregation were involved in a serious accident on their way to church. Our prayers were immediately with Bro. Gary, Sis. Jane, Sis. Tami and Troy Brown and Jesse and Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette). We are thankful Sis. Tami, Troy, Jesse and Jordan escaped serious injury. Following surgery, Sis. Jane has been able to return home and we are thankful she is regaining her strength. After being critically injured and also having surgery, we were happy to hear that Bro. Gary has improved enough to be moved from St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, IL to St. James Hospital in Pontiac, which is much closer to home. We pray that they may continue to feel the Lord's nearness during their recovery.

Again, tragedy has struck loved ones in our congregation. Patrick

and Kristi Pruitt (Ron and Vicki Schaffer) were on their way to school when they were involved in a serious accident. We are thankful that Patrick was treated and released. At this time Kristi is in critical condition. Our prayers continue to be with her and her family.

Other hospital patients have been Don Stephens, Bro. Ben Traub, Bro. Roger Honegger, Sis. Laura Knapp and Sis. Brenda Leman. May these loved ones feel God's healing power.

Four families in our congregation have been blessed with little bundles of love. Clayton John has joined the family of Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel. His brothers and sisters are Rhonda, Calvin, Jaylin, Kinsey and Shannon. He is a grandson of Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Walter Teubel (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Kent, Sis. Paulette, Jesse, Jordan, and Amanda Zimmerman welcome Pete Raymond into their family. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

Big sisters, Brooke and Kyla, are happy for a new little sister, Talia Sue. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Kim Kupferschmid. Happy grandparents are Robert and Cherie Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin welcome Kati Arlene into their hearts and home. Her brothers and sisters are Scott, Andy, T. Anne, Heidi, Joseph, Betsi, Benjamin, Kristi and Jonathan. Kati's grandparents are Sis. Tillie Rudin (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman.

May God bless these parents with wisdom to raise these precious children in the fear and admonition of Him.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Louise Honegger, 84, who passed from this life into eternity on April 12. We sympathize with her husband, Bro. Perry, and her children; Brenda Johnson (Nome, AK),

Joan Moser (Manito, IL), Verna Rieches (Cissna Park, IL), Jack (Lafayette, IN), and Walter (Otterbien, IN).

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Eldora Walter in the death of her daughter, Beverly Paul (Urbana, IL). May God's bountiful love fill the emptiness left in the hearts of these loved ones.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our dear children, relatives, and friends for their cards, gifts and best wishes for our 50th anniversary, both here and Florida. It was appreciated very much. May God be your rich rewarder.

Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen Leman

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Barb Brim

"When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observelying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

Jonah 2:7-9

These words spoken by Jonah of ages past are part of a beautiful promise which holds as true today as any time in history. If it seems that everything in our lives has failed, there is yet one eternal truth to which we cling, "Salvation is of the Lord." Praise to His name forever!

Our Goodfield congregation was once again blessed with the addition of two new brothers into our family of faith. We thank God that His salvation has been extended to include our new Bro. Steve Rocke (Audrey) and Bro. Phillip Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) and pray that many more will yet heed His call. God bless your new beginnings.

We send our thoughts and pra-

yers of love to a dear elderly brother of our church family, Bro. Elmer Bauman, whose health continues to be a concern, and also to our dear young friend, Jerry Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda), whose recent injuries are still very serious. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to hold you fast to His breast as God's will is completed in both of your precious lives. We love you very much.

Thanks are extended to Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Wes with our Communion service held on Good Friday. Surely the Lord's presence was felt by all who attended this most holy of services.

Sunrise services were held Easter morning in the fellowship hall to commemorate the crucifixion and renewed life of our risen Lord. We want to thank all who participated in this beautiful hour of worship. We also thank our many visiting ministers who shared in God's services with us. Thank you, Bros. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) for the time spent with us sharing the Lord's blessings.

The Lord's Spirit shared this poem with a dear soul who anonymously, for to give Him the glory, shares it with us.

Behind the Scenes

Behind the shepherds in shadows
dim

There was a cross appointed Him.

Behind the Star of Hope, the fear
Wise men hiding nails and spear.

Behind the wondrous, celestial
light,
A blackened sky with fear and
fright.

Behind the manger a cross did
stand,
Torture awaiting by human hand.

Behind the gold, myrrh,
frankincense,
Thorn-crowned, alone, died the
"Innocent".

Behind it all, God's plan fulfilled
Heaven drew nigh, "peace, good
will".

Behind the Babe, the Man we see,
Paschal Lamb sacrificed ev'n for
me.

Behind the birth this death: I see
My sin, my guilt; yet Grace so free.

Behind the scene in Spirit view
Great love portrayed for me and
you.

He did so much! What will we do
with Jesus?
Forsake, deny or serve Him true.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

We certainly rejoice here in Gridley over our many new converts, and our recently baptized brothers and sisters in faith.

The front benches of our church are filled with young people who are following the Lord. Truly, we can say, "Allelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him..." (Rev. 19:6-7)

May God keep these dear souls in His tender care. May each newly converted person, in simplicity and sincerity, draw nigh to God. If they do, they can find a wonderful promise: "He will draw nigh to you."

Over the years, babes in Christ have been given simple and wise advice across the churches: (1) Read and pray each day and (2) Be humble, meek and submissive.

Recently, I thought of some addi-

tional advice that is very simple. Our pre-school Sunday School classes often sing the children's song entitled, "Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes." Its contents are yet instructive for each of us regardless of the age of our spiritual walk. Our converts, and all of us must be careful what "our eyes see, our lips say, our ears hear, our hands touch, and where our feet go." Because the Father (above) is always looking down on us in love.

Sis. Lucille Stoller fell and fractured her arm and her leg. She is confined to her home but is improving.

Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein had surgery on her wrist and is recovering nicely.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein became the parents of their second child, a daughter, born on April 19. She was named Mindy Kay. She has a brother, Brandon, 17 months. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein, and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet Nuest, La-Crosse, IN.

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Emily Stoller observed their 64th wedding anniversary on April 3. They offered the following comments: "We wish to thank our many brethren and loved ones for the cards and expressions of love at the time of our 64th wedding anniversary. Your love is greatly appreciated. May God bless each and every one of you."

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Recently a group of young men from our Bible Class sang the song "I Want My Life to Tell". With graduations approaching, we hope and pray that each of our high school and college graduates would consider these words as they plot their course of life.

To wealth and fame I would not
climb,
But I would know God's peace

sublime,
And everywhere - and all the time,
I want my life to tell for Jesus.
I want my life to tell for Jesus.
I want my life to tell for Jesus.
That everywhere I go,
Men may His goodness know,
I want my life to tell for Jesus.

Gospel Hymns #761

Sis. Esther Yentes was called to her eternal reward on April 11 at the age of 86. May our Heavenly Father comfort her two daughters, Loretta (David) Robinson, and Sis. Carol (Bro. Dan) Heinold; her five grandchildren and her other relatives and friends.

Sis. Florence Strunk passed away on April 18 at the age of 88. May God comfort and bless her two brothers, William and Alvin; her two sisters, Sis. Kathryn (Chris) Rassi, and Sis. Hilda (Walter) Bauer; and her many nieces and nephews and friends.

We recently voted for new Sunday School teachers and we wish God's wisdom and direction for them as they begin these important duties. They are Sisters Sheri Daniel, Cindy Witzig and Brenda Kaiser. The Brothers are Brent Braker, Fred Funk, Doug Getz and Roger Spangler.

Congratulations and wishes for God's continued blessings are in order for Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Vi Funk as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends gathered with them to wish them God's best.

We gathered together to partake of Holy Communion on April 20. It was a sacred evening, meditating on our Saviour's death and resurrection and all that He has done for us. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for helping our Elder Bro. Joe Braker serve Communion.

The Morton congregation appreciates the visiting ministers that bring God's Word and fellowship with us. This month they were Bros.

Lester Huber (Lexington, KY), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS).

Note of Thanks:

We have been comforted and encouraged by your many expressions of sympathy at Bro. Gotthold's passing. Your prayers, cards, visits and gifts of sympathy are sincerely appreciated.

Sis. Anna Tanner and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Cara Nussbaum

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

Zion's Harp #89

"The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross." What a special song. It always causes me to go to Calvary's Hill and try to imagine the pain and agony our Saviour bore for us upon the cross. As is the custom in Peoria, we had Holy Communion on Palm Sunday. It is always a memorable day; time to go to the cross as a congregation and hopefully emerge with new strength and zeal to serve our Lord more faithfully. We thank Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Chuck with this service.

We were also blessed as the Sunday School recently put on their annual Easter program. We want to thank all the teachers who worked so hard to prepare the children for this program.

God has chosen to call Home two dear brothers who assembled in Peoria for many years: Bro. Toby Schneider and Bro. Sam Hodel. Our sympathy to their families. May God comfort them all.

Our prayers go out to those who have been hospitalized recently. May God's healing hand touch Bro. Frank Ferraro, Sis. Ruth Hartman,

Bro. Bud Fehr, Henry Binkele, Sis. Karen Dunbar, Sis. Ruth Knepp and Sis. Emma Wilhelm.

Elder Bro. John Lehman, (Bern, KS) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), visited Peoria recently and were willing to lend themselves to bring us the Word of God. We thank them for their efforts and pray that God will richly bless them.

As Mother's Day is celebrated this month, I want to take this opportunity to encourage mothers everywhere. A mother's job is an awesome responsibility; one that at times causes great distress and at other times, overflowing joy. May God give you the courage to face what each day brings.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

On the weekend of March 16 and 17, we were again given the privilege of hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our new sister, Tiffany Wieland. Sis. Tiffany is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland. We want to thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) for their labor of love.

"Cares of the World", was the title of our all-church Bible study. We want to thank Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for sharing with us; may God richly bless him.

March 24 was the wedding day of Bro. Darwin Stahl (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Robin Steiner. Bro. Darwin is the son of Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford) and Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen Steiner.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) for assisting Elder Bro. Joe Stoller with Holy Communion on March 30. We were reminded that as the children of Israel at the time of the Passover, we are to be ready "...with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand..." (Exodus 12:11). We were encouraged also to stay within the household of faith, as they were told that "...none of you

shall go out at the door of his house until the morning." (Exodus 12:22)

On that following Sunday, we heard the Easter story, as told by the Sunday School children.

"And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you."

John 16:22

We cling to this promise as we laid to rest our dear Bro. John Leuthold. Bro. John was diagnosed with leukemia a year ago, and passed away March 30. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Shirley, and children, Bro. Steven (Sis. Lois), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Doreen), Sis. Jean Streitmatter (Bro. Paul), and Sis. Jane Rieker (Bro. James). We also extend sympathy to Sis. Marie Menold (Bro. Leonard) and Sis. Martha Kieser (Bro. Loris) at the loss of their brother.

We wish to remember Sis. Roma Rumbold in our prayers, at the loss her father, Bro. Sam Hodel, of Peoria. Bro. Sam was a resident at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Peoria.

Our hospital patients this past month were Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily), Bro. Bob Wieland (Sis. Nancy), and Bro. Loris Kieser (Sis. Martha). Bro. Loris was recently diagnosed with cancer. Let us hold up our dear loved ones in prayer that they may face the future with the peace and comfort of God's nearness.

May is the month we set aside a day to show our love and appreciation for our mothers. We are thankful for our Godly mothers and their example. Three mothers in our congregation have been blessed with children again.

Clayton James Grassi was born to Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl, on March 20.

On March 29, Phillip Andrew Braker was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey.

The Lord has entrusted two dear

children to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam Graham. Emy Joy and Joey will join brothers, Joshua and Justin.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere, heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all for the overwhelming outpour of your love and compassion, and deeds of kindness shown me during my surgery and recovery. May God bless each of you in a special way.

Sis. Arlene Knapp

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!
By the power of Thy Spirit
A new man Thou didst create.
...Dearest child, we bid thee
welcome

In our blessed brotherhood:
From the wild tree thou art grafted
On this holy tree and root.

Zion's Harp #34

March 23 and 24 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcome into our brotherhood Jim Ott (Lorna), Peg Schroeder (Ron), Jill Hodel (Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy) and Zach Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie).

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL).

We welcome two new little ones to our congregation. Jenna Jean was born to first-time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Beth Moser, on April 3. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa Moser.

Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy Knapp are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Connor Douglas. He was born April 9 and was welcomed home by big

brothers, Kirk and Kendall. Connor's grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp (all of Eureka, IL). May God bless and provide for these parents as they love and raise their children in the Lord.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients: Bro. Richard Moser (Sis. Erma), Ron Hinrichsen (Jean), and Steven Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie).

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and the many deeds of love during my stay in the hospital, Eureka Apostolic Christian Home and since returning home. It was all truly appreciated.

Sis. Dorothy Pfister

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

The family of Walter Leman

We want to thank all of the loved ones who remembered us in any way, including our dear children, grandchildren from near and far, for sharing their love and best wishes with us to make our 50th anniversary such a "special" day. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Jean Kupferschmid

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

We had the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion March 30. E-

lder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder in this Holy sacrament. We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

The weekend of April 13 and 14 was a blessed one as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five converts. Our new brothers-in-faith are Tom Koch (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) and Todd Sauder (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky). Our new sisters-in-faith are Christy Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice), Carrie Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam), and Heather Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth). We rejoice with them and their families. We thank Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) for sharing in these important duties.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). Our thanks go to them for bringing us God's Word.

We recently had three couples announce their engagements. Two of them were announced on the same Sunday, March 24. They are Bro. Vernon Koch and Sis. Ruth Beutel; and Bro. Jim Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam) and Sis. Rachel Koch (Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy and the late Bro. James Koch).

Carla Leuthold (Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane) and Erik Yamada (George and Dawn) also announced their engagement this month. We wish all three couples God's special blessings as they take this important step in life.

Hospitalized this past month were Jeff Rose (Sis. Marla), Sis. Doris Baer (Bro. Bob), Sis. Lucille Schweigert, Rebekah Wagenbach (Bro. Jonathan), and little Drake Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail). May we always remember our loved ones

in our prayers who suffer afflictions of the flesh.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister in the death of her father, Bro. Sam Hodel (Peoria, IL); and to Sis. Esther Musselman in the death of her brother, Bro. Melvin Miller (Phoenix, AZ). May God be their Comforter.

As I think of May, Mother's Day comes to mind. I would like to submit the following prayer for mothers everywhere.

**A Mother's Prayer
For Her Children**

Father, God grant that I may be
A mother worthy of Thy gifts to
me.
May my children so dear in Thy
sight,
Be bought with the blood of Jesus
Christ.
Help me always to look to Thee,
For guidance, wisdom and
patience to correct
My little ones, whose lives I would
protect;
Help when others come to tell,
Of the things my children did,
that they fell,
That I may be just and glad to
Take those children and show
them well,
The path which they should walk;
And that they may always know
That God can see them all the
time,
Yes, even knows their thoughts
and minds;
That God forgives, forgets and
blesses
When we come to Him our sins
confessing,
For God abhors sin in all its ways.
Help me to know that my children
may err,
Yes, even lie to get their way,
That they may stray and disobey;
Then give me wisdom, love and
understanding
To guide, not rule, dictate nor
scold,

Realizing that I must first obey
 God myself,
 Before I can expect obedience from
 my child.
 Finally, at Thy call and welcome
 home,
 When I lay down my work to know
 That round about my children are
 His guardian angels
 And underneath them are the
 everlasting arms,
 To care for those who are left
 behind,
 And carry on the work I have left
 undone.
 —S. Larson

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Sophia Sauder wishes to express their deep appreciation to every one for their love, prayers, and kind expressions of sympathy during the passing of their loved one.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

We are always blessed to have visiting ministers who are willing to come and speak to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. This month we thank Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), and Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Ted presented a thought-provoking Bible Study on the importance of keeping our tongues under control, and being so very careful about what comes out from between our lips. Elder Bro. Don helped serve Communion to us, and then we as a congregation had the opportunity to voice our appreciation and thanks to Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma for the years of service they gave to the Washington congregation.

Elder Bro. Phil was here to assist with the testimony and baptism for Bro. Rustin Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy). We rejoice with this fam-

ily, as our church family gained another soul. May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Rustin with His grace.

In Acts 2, we read about how the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus as they waited in Jerusalem on Pentecost. Though I doubt that any of us have seen the Spirit as tongues of fire, or heard a rushing wind when the Spirit was present, or seen men suddenly speaking in different languages than they ever could before, I know that we have seen effects of the Spirit. Haven't we all looked in the shining face of a newly baptized child of God, and seen the Spirit's glow? Haven't we been able to sense the Spirit's presence when we walk into a room of believers, or as we are a part of the quietness of the Communion service? We have all seen our own language change as we come to know, through the Spirit's teaching, what words are and are not edifying. These changes, though perhaps more subtle than what is written about in Acts, are indeed miracles. Miracles that only God, and the Holy Spirit, can perform. We need to remember the miracles that the Lord has done in our own lives through His plan of salvation. Thank Thee, Lord, for making us more like Thee.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Jaci Gerber

The Lord has again touched our congregation in so many ways.

Bro. Shane and Sis. Kathy Houser welcome Bailey Charles to their home where Conner now becomes a big brother. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner and Larry and Barbara Houser.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Tonner now have five children, the newest addition being Tyler Michael. Grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Diana Tonner and Sis. Dorothy Kaehr Gerber. And Sis. Dorothy also became grandmother to Jeff Andrew, born to Bro. Mike and Sis.

Shari Fiechter. Other grandparents to Jeff are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice Fiechter.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Carrico welcome their firstborn boy, Caleb William. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Patrick Carrico.

Bro. Ron and Sis. LaNae Macklin were blessed with their second daughter, McKenna Kay. Her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Carl and Betty Macklin.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolf welcome a son, Thomas Charles, into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovic, and Joyce Wolf and Gene and Shirley Wolf.

Joe and Tawna Isch are the new parents of a daughter, Morgan Elaine. Her grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille Isch and Bro. Ted and Sis. Elaine Liechty.

Along with these many births, we also have a blessed engagement: Sis. Jaila Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Karen) to Bro. Aaron Taylor (Dan and Sharon Taylor).

We rejoice with Bro. Ray and Sis. Vi Ringger as they celebrate 60 years of life together. Their children are Bro. Dave, Gary, Bro. Tim, Bro. Alan, Sis. Jan Sutter (Bro. Bob), and Sis. Judy Isch (Bro. Hubert).

Let us keep these loved ones in our prayers as they have spent time in the hospital: Dana Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay), Tyler Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie), Sis. Marie Kipfer (Bro. Joe), Sis. Justine Baumgartner (Bro. Paul), Bro. Ralph Schwartz (Sis. Leona), Bro. Russell Steffen (Sis. Alice), Jenna Meyer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy), and Sierra Steffen (Bro. Ed and Sis. Denise).

We rejoice with our new convert, Quinn Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), and wish him God's grace each day.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it

until the day of Jesus Christ:"

Phil. 1:6

We were blessed with two visiting Elder Brothers who shared with us in Holy Communion: Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH). May God richly bless them and their wives for sharing in this labor of love.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Romans 1:16

Let us appreciate our salvation and strive to a light to those around us.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) share God's Word with us. We pray that he will be richly blessed for his labors of love.

Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer were blessed with their first child, Aaron James (A.J.), born on March 26. His grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer and Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel of Milford, IN. May the Lord bless this dear family circle.

We are thankful to see that Daniel Shorb is able to be back in church with us again. It's always nice to see his smiling face. It seems as we look about us, there are always those who have special concerns or cares. Let's remember our dear Sis. Lill Bertsch who resides in Christian Care, and also continue to pray for her husband, Bro. Laurin, who faithfully stands by her side until God chooses to call her Home.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Val Gutwein

"I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."

II John 4

A godly mother is a special gift from God. No doubt she had a mother who also taught her the ways of the Lord. How are we doing, as the next generation, in passing on to our children the knowledge of Him and His great salvation? I am learning that to instill in my children the desire to walk in a godly way will take much prayer and much effort. May God bless all those mothers who have lovingly passed on their faith, and may He continue to give divine guidance and strength to the young mothers who are training up children to be servants of the Great Commander, Jesus Christ.

We've bid farewell to Sis. Anna Nuest who passed away on April 6. She was a faithful wife, mother and grandmother for many years. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband, Bro. Lester; her children, Bro. Elvin (Sis. Jan), Dwight (Judi), Vernon (Karen), Bro. Larry (Sis. Jane), and Sis. Verna Lehman (Bro. Gene), and the others of the family circle.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Betty Huber (Bro. Bill) at the loss of her sister, Beverly Paul, who battled diabetes for many years. May the comfort of the Great Comforter strengthen those that will miss her.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger are rejoicing that God has given them a precious little boy, Boaz Reuben. He is welcomed home by Serenity, Jasmine, Eli, and Gideon. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt and Bro. George and Sis. Evelyn Ringger (Bluffton, IN), and great-grandmother is Sis. Marion Gutwein.

Bro. Curt Leman (Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern) wishes to announce his engagement to Sis. Val Schambach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). We know God will guide them as

they seek to become "heirs together of the grace of life." (I Peter 3:7)

We want to thank Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for serving us this past month. We always enjoy when they visit and their willingness to serve us the "bread of life".

We want to remember to pray for those who have been hospitalized and are recovering from surgeries and from other illnesses. We trust them to God's healing and strengthening powers.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Missy Baumgartner
Lauretta Schafer

On March 16 and 17 our Sunday School Bible Class enjoyed a weekend in Peoria. We appreciate the effort put into making the weekend so special to our young people.

Saturday, March 23, was the wedding day for Tony Bucher and Sally Schroeder. Sally is the daughter of Tom and Kathi Schroeder and Tony is the son of Bro. Ardie and Sis. LeAnn Bucher. We wish Tony and Sally God's blessings as they begin their married walk of life together and as they make their home in Tampa, FL.

A daughter, Melissa Helen, was born March 26 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Mim Gudeman. Megan is her older sister. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Sis. Barb Wuethrich and the late Bro. Dave (Francesville, IN).

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. John Leuthold (Princeville, IL) who is the father of our Bro. Jerry Leuthold. Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Jerry, Sis. Doreen and their children, Kaylin and Teryn.

We heartily welcome a new family into our congregation. Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr, Olivia, Sadie, Caleb, Danal, and Jacob moved April 13 from Peoria, IL. Our small congregation greatly appreciates their blending of lives into our

church family.

Our hearts are grateful for visiting ministers and their wives. They are Bros. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), and Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Sis. Beverly, Bloomington, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN).

Our visiting Elder Brothers shared with us the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. As we pondered Christ's death on an individual basis, we were reminded that it may also be our last supper shared together here on this earth. And "That is all right."

When Christ went through the agony of the cross, He did it as the Son of Man. Even though He healed others, He did not use His power as the Son of God to heal the pain from the thorns, from the beatings, from the nail holes, from the spear, or from the guilt of sin. He suffered as a Man. He had the same feelings you and I have. He struggled for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane. He willingly endured the pain with a heart full of love and compassion for you and for me. He victoriously told His Father, "It is finished." The supreme sacrifice had been paid for your sins and for mine by this Son of Man. He arose as the Son of God. His work on earth as the Son of Man was finished. Jesus is coming to earth again—this time as the Son of God—to gather His own with Him to the skies. Will you be ready? Are you watching?

Ponder this thought for Mother's Day: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." (John 19:26-27)

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday

School students reminded us of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus during the annual Easter program. "...all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that One Solitary Life." (Author Unknown)

We might consider the greatest hurt of our life — how deeply it pains — and then remember that Jesus felt that pain, only He felt the pain of all mankind with ours. There has been no greater self-denial through time than Jesus picking up His cross, bearing the physical pain, the agonizing spiritual distress, the terrible load of sin for each of us. But He also felt the relief when God drew Him up to Heaven, and because of all this, we can experience peace beyond comprehension.

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

Matthew 16:24.

Another book of life has been written and closed as Sis. Ann Nuest of Francesville entered eternity. Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest of our congregation will miss their mother, and we extend our love and sympathy to this dear family.

Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) visited and ministered God's Word. How thankful we are that we can partake freely of the unhindered manna from Heaven.

One of the greatest privileges we have as God's children is the warmth and comfort of our greetings. When one is missing on a Sunday morning, as Bro. Ralph Levy was due to illness, we feel the vacancy. Thanks be to God for His healing mercy and Bro. Ralph's presence.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We were truly blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Steven Frauhiger, Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). We also welcomed their families.

Elder Bro. Phil helped Bro. John Stoller in the reading of the Memorandum of the Elder Conference. It is always well to be reminded of our duty toward God. "...To write the same things...for you it is safe." (Philippians 3:1). "...the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold...Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." (Psalm 19:9-11). How thankful we are to have God's Living Word, that we can feed our minds and hearts each day as we feed our bodies. Do we ever overeat from the Bible?

The Sunday School children presented the Easter program on Palm Sunday. Their theme was "Who do YOU say that I am?" They conveyed who Jesus was to them and left us with thoughts for self-examination.

On Easter day, we began with sunrise services at 6:30 a.m. followed by a breakfast at the Fellowship Center. Our whole day was a blessing with Bro. Ron Bollier and his family being with us.

Bro. Clark Stoller presented our monthly topical Bible Study on "Relationships" on April 10. Some of the thoughts he left with us were: "We can't forget to say thank you to God." "One thing that won't change is the Word of God." Our aim should be to please God in this changing world and we need to "Let our light shine." "When we are under pressure, we find out what is inside of us." "Be patient, kind, tenderhearted, looking for opportunities to help others." He told some true life experiences and really had the at-

tention of our youth. Now it is our duty to pray that the exhortation will bring fruit, as "we are ambassadors for Christ."

"Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go." (Zion's Harp #89). We remembered the death of our Lord Jesus on Good Friday and again on April 13 when we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer willingly came to help Bro. John Stoller serve us. As we humbly came to His table, our hearts rejoiced in His salvation.

"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful...What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."

Psalms 116:5,12,13

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: They shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Isaiah 51:11

Sis. Minerva Stoller (76) was relieved of her suffering and months of pain on March 24. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene and his family. She longed for her rest, but asked "Who will pray for my children?", who are Bro. Linn (Atlanta, GA), Keith, Doug, Wade, Roger, Larry, Terry, Rose and Lucette. We remember them in our prayers and especially on this Mother's Day.

Bro. Gene and his family thank all who visited them; for gifts and prayers during Sis. Minerva's illness and death.

Funeral services were held for Marie Winzeler, March 30, in New Haven, IN. She passed away while in Phoenix, AZ with her son, E. Jay, and daughter, Lillian Winzeler. Our sympathy is extended to her family and friends. At one time she was part of the Leo congregation. She would have been 80 years old on

April 23. Her husband, James, died in 1988.

Sis. Wanda Halter is able to attend church services again. Bro. Robert Norr is still hospitalized. Bro. Gene Stoller has been confined to his home since the funeral of his wife, due to illness. May the Lord restore their health.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

It was a special month for our congregation as we had the privilege of partaking in Holy Communion together on March 23. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) coming to assist our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in this blessed weekend.

We also appreciated our young people participating in our Sunrise Service and Easter Program. We're thankful for the work that our Sunday School teachers provide in helping to guide our youth in their spiritual growth.

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced surgery or illness. Sis. Betty Beer (Bro. Maurice), Riley Price (Mitch and Shannon), Rod Piper (Sherry) and Sis. Ginger Price (Stan) have spent time in the hospital. Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) suffered a broken foot. Sis. Melba Hunsberger continues to be confined to her home. We certainly miss seeing her in church.

We rejoice with Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel as they became grandparents on March 26. Aaron James was born to Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer (Bluffton, IN).

After 30 years of faithful service, Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy) announced his retirement from the ministry. We certainly want to thank Bro. Walt for his many years of service and dedication in preaching God's Word. We pray that Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy will continue to feel the Lord's nearness and continued blessings.

A number of the brethren and

friends from our congregation have recently traveled to Mexico to help in the work project there. We are thankful for their safe return. May God's blessings be upon all the labors of the brethren who have lent themselves.

We rejoice with Bro. Robert and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 14. We appreciate their example of faith in our Milford church and community.

On April 19, Sis. Marie Reuter celebrated her 99th birthday. She is the oldest living member in the Milford congregation. She lives in the Lakeland Loving Care Nursing Home and can listen to the services from there. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless her and give her health in her later years.

We were so fortunate to be able to host the National World Relief Committee meeting on April 20. We gathered on the evening of April 19 to see a slide program on Juarez, Mexico. We appreciated the many brethren who came for the weekend. We were thankful for the families that stayed to worship with us on Sunday. It was a special blessing to have the following ministering brothers on Sunday: Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO), Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL), and Bros. Doug Grimm (Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS), and Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI).

As Mother's Day approaches, we want to pay tribute to the mothers that have shaped and influenced our lives.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies...Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up,

and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”

Proverbs 31:10, 25-28

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

It is not where we are, or who we are, but what and whose we are that makes us joyful. “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” (Habakkuk 3:18). Even though life here on earth has trials and tests, there are many good times in God’s service. He planned it that way. Give Him praise. “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4). Not only prayer, but praise is mountain moving.

Our congregation is full of joy to hear Tereasa Fry has found peace with the Lord and fellow men. Tereasa is the daughter of Joe and Joan Fry from Boswell, IN, a nearby community. We look forward to the day we can hear her testimony, witness her baptism, and welcome her into the family of God.

On Sunday, March 31, we enjoyed our Easter program. It was inspiring and brought much joy to see the children recite verses and songs of praise.

April 14 was a day of blessing as many from our church traveled to Bradford, IL to witness the marriage of Bro. Joseph Beer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Heather Wohlrab (John and Bev Wohlrab). We welcome Sis. Heather into our congregation and wish Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather the Lord’s richest blessings as they begin life as one in Him.

Note of Thanks:

On behalf of my sister, Patricia Lock, and brothers, Chris Praegger and Tracy Bobbitt, we could like to thank everyone for your many prayers, cards, and presence at the visitation and funeral of our mother, Mary Praegger. We also want to thank those who brought food over. Your thoughtfulness is very appre-

ciated. May God abundantly bless each one of you. Thank you so very much for all you have done.

In Christian love, Sis. Mary Bobbitt

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Carolyn Frank - Gigi Schafer

We were privileged on Sunday, March 24, to welcome two visiting ministers. Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN) and Gary Tonner (Sis. Diane, Bluffton, IN) provided encouraging messages through the power of the Holy Spirit. On that Saturday evening, Bro. Doyle presented a topical Bible Study on “Angels”. Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to both of these brothers.

We rejoice with Keyna Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla) who has surrendered her heart to the Lord in repentance. May God’s blessings continue to abide with this dear family.

Easter Sunday dawned with the beautiful sunshine of early spring, and our congregation was blessed to be a part of that Eternal Hope which springs into life through the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Through inspiring messages ministered to us by our faithful home ministers, Bros. Bob Beebe and Wayne Lehman, and through the verses and songs presented to us by our youth in an Easter program, we experienced a renewed zeal to walk in the One who died on the cross, shed His blood, and arose from the grave.

Our dearly beloved Sis. Mae Schumacher was laid to rest on April 12. She is survived by two daughters, E. Betty Miller (Perrinton, MI) and Carolyn Suttor (Bremen); seven grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren; four sisters, Carolyn Germann, Rose McGuire and Aldean Feldman, all of Bremen, and Edna Marohn of St. Joseph; and a brother, Arthur Laidig, of Arcadia, FL. We are com-

forted that she has now rejoined her husband, Bro. El, in the Eternal Realms.

A poem, “These Hands of Mine”, included in the funeral service, reminded us of Sis. Mae’s life:

There were many things in life
that I could not understand,
But the good Lord blessed the
efforts of these two hard-working
hands.

And when all my toil is over, and
I’ll lay beneath the sod,
Soon these hands of mine will
touch the hands of God.

There’ll be a welcome there for
me, far beyond the crystal sea,
And I’ll hold the hands that
Calvary’s nails have scarred.
Then I’ll enter through the gates,
walk on streets the saints have
trod,
And these hands of mine will
touch the hands of God.

Many times these hands have
failed me, but He’s kept me by
His Grace,
Even though sometimes His
kindness is like a chastening rod.
But I’m going home tomorrow;
then I’ll see Him face to face.
Soon these hands of mine will
touch the hands of God.

There’ll be a welcome there for
me, far beyond the crystal sea,
And I’ll hold the hands that
Calvary’s nails have scarred.
Then I’ll enter through the gates,
walk on streets the saints have
trod,
And these hands of mine will
touch the hands of God.

—*Author Unknown*

During the weekend of April 14-15, Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) graciously served Communion service to our congregation. We would like to express our

gratitude for their devotion in carrying out this duty for our brothers and sisters. We deeply appreciated their presence throughout the weekend, including Elder Bro. Wendell (Sis. Marcella) who remained with us on Sunday.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

Greetings to all our brothers, sisters and dear friends. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord can work in our lives if we give Him the opportunity? In this past month we have all surely been reminded of just how easy it is to give the Lord our all. Our Father has done so much and we so little. Thanks for Thy love for us, Lord.

Who at my door is standing?
Patiently drawing near.
Entrance within demanding,
Whose is the voice I hear?
Sweetly the tones are falling;
Open the door for me!
If thou wilt heed my calling,
I will abide with thee.

Hymns of Zion #81

We are rejoicing with Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) as Andy has heeded this call. May the Lord lead, guide and direct you during this time. We are all surely grateful to have you among us.

In this past month we were privileged to take part in Communion. It was a blessed time together as Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and our own Deacon, Bro. Garry Bucher, served us the bread and wine in remembrance of what the Lord has done for us. Just think, because of what Jesus Christ did for us, we are able to call our great God in Heaven "Father". We don't have to look to Jerusalem to pray or be prayed for. We can pray to our Father in Heaven 24 hours a day if we want and any place we want. We also have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what life would be like without the Spirit of God dwelling within us? This weak

one is so thankful that the Spirit also fills in for us where our prayers are lacking. And to know that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of our Father interceding on our behalf. We are brothers and sisters to the greatest Man that ever walked the earth. And because we are in this holy family, we are going to Heaven. Truly, God, we are blessed and we thank Thee with all our hearts.

We also were privileged in this last month to have Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) read and exhort the Memorandum to us. We need to be reminded of how that old devil is trying to lead us astray. We are thankful for all you dear Elders. May He continue to bless you all and give you traveling mercies as you carry out these Godly duties.

We also want to thank the rest of our visiting ministers in this past month: Bros. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). May the Lord bless you for coming and sharing the day with us.

We are also happy to have Nathaniel Susdorf (Sis. Karen) back with us after having tonsils removed. It seems there are quite a few under doctors' care and we pray for you all.

As this will be the last writing before Mother's Day, we pray all you mothers will have a blessed day, not only on this special day, but throughout eternity. God truly knew what He was doing (He always does!) when He created "woman" to be man's helpmate. You are all greatly appreciated and loved.

Until next month (Lord willing), we bid you all farewell. The Lord watch between us all and may we all be found faithful.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Sheri Bahler

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the

manifold grace of God."

I Peter 4:10

Bro. Ken Schneider from our neighboring church at Remington was with us for morning services on Easter Sunday, April 7. We are thankful for his willingness to minister unto us when some of our brothers have obligations elsewhere. May God richly bless Bro. Ken.

Grateful for the safe arrival of their second daughter, Michael and Melissa Blanding welcomed little Michaela Tressa Ellen on April 6. Big sister, Kylie, is thrilled to have a playmate. Grandparents are Glenn and Linda Berg and Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear.

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

Hymns of Zion #64

When I think back to the time that I was a child and the Godly love that was evident in our home, I am increasingly thankful, first of all to God, but also to my parents. The influence of Christian parents is something that most of us take for granted. With Mother's Day approaching, let us take the time to stop and thank our mothers for all that they have done for us. May God bless every Godly mother.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann Edith Massner

We are grateful for the untiring efforts of all our dear Elders, but especially for Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) bringing to us the conclusions of the church Conference via the Memorandum. Their words of encouragement were appreciated.

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz also served us Holy Communion with Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) assisting. It was a special blessing to be reminded of the "bitter cup" which our Saviour "drank" at Calvary; and now we can partake of the "cup" of forgiveness, mercy and blessings. We hope we can prove our real gratitude by living unselfish lives for others.

Our dear Sis. Rekie Anliker, age 95, has reached her eternal reward after patiently waiting, since her husband passed away 12 years ago. She was such an inspiration to her family and all of us. Memorial services were held for her on April 10 with Oakville ministers assisting. We extend our sympathy to her family, especially to her children who so faithfully remembered and visited her. We pray that we may all prepare ourselves so that we can meet her some day!

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruby Eberhardt and her family in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Sarah Miller, who passed away April 5. She was a very special example of a godly woman; she will long be remembered.

Our Sis. Katie Schumacher spent several days in the hospital; we are thankful she could return home. However, she longs to go to her Eternal Home; life is just not so pleasant any more for Sis. Katie. We pray God will give her patience to wait. May we remember her and one another in prayer.

Mark and Jamy Eisenmann are the happy parents of a little boy, Taylor Robert, born March 31. Also welcoming him are grandparents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann and Leo and Connie Martin, all of Burlington.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden

Baptized into thy name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
I claim a place though weak and

lowly
Among thy seed, thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to
sin,
Thy spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41

What a blessed time was shared as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our two new sisters-in-faith, Melisa Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and Jill Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet). How encouraging it is to know that souls are still seeking and finding the grace to turn their backs on the ways of the world and walk in the steps of the Saviour.

It has been a blessing to have several visiting ministers with us this past month. A special thanks to each one: Bros. Fred Eberhardt and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA).

As our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer has decided it is time for him to retire from the Eldership, we want to express our love and appreciation to him and his wife, Sis. Milly, for all their loving concern and sacrifices on our behalf for over 27 years. With mixed emotions, we give them our support for this well-deserved relief. Our support and prayers are also with Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) who will now serve as Interim Elder for our small flock here at Elgin.

Bro. Orville Moore recently spent a few days in the hospital. He is now residing in the Sunrise Guest Home in Fredericksburg, IA. Our thoughts and prayers are with him also.

As Mother's Day nears, we want to give special thanks to all our mothers, whether they are still with us or have gone on to their reward. A mother's love is unending and many prayers have reached the Father's throne in behalf of the children they were entrusted with. As our mothers have always "been

there" for us, may we also in return "be there" for them.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

We are thankful the Lord has brought us safely through the winter. Spring is all around us—new baby lambs and calves, beautiful spring flowers, trees budding and the grass growing. We are thankful God is in control of everything, as man would surely bungle the timetable.

As I sat down to write the Silver Lining, I was reminded that Mother's Day is coming. My thoughts floated around but kept coming back to the song "Hold Fast to the Right". As each mother sends her children out into the world, her thoughts probably run along the same lines as the writer of this song.

Hold Fast to the Right
Kneel down by the side of your
mother, my boy,
You have only a moment I know,
But stay till I give you this parting
advice,
It is all that I have to bestow.

You leave us to seek your
employment, my boy,
By the world you have yet to be
tried,
But in the temptations and trials
you meet,
May your heart to the Saviour
confide.

I gave you to God in your cradle,
my boy,
And I've taught you the best that I
knew,
And as long as His mercies permit
me to live,
I shall never cease praying for you.

You will find in your satchel, a
Bible, my boy,
It's the book of all others the best,
It will help you to live and prepare
you to die,

And will lead to the gates of the blest.

Chorus: Hold fast to the right,
Wherever your footsteps may roam,
O forsake not the way of salvation,
my boy,
That you learned from your mother at home.

May we always hold fast to the right!

Sharing God's Word with us this past month was Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Thanks for coming to be with us, Bro. Walt, and all those that came with you.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! As welcome as each new sign of spring was each of our visitors this month. Among them were ministering Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and part of his family. Since they lived in Iowa City for many years, they were more like "home folks" than visitors. We appreciated Bro. Gary's willingness to share the story of salvation with us.

Returning from a very blessed World Relief week in Mexico, I marveled how easily I was able to totally relax and give up every detail and bit of control to God. The fact that I had no idea where we were going to set up a clinic each day didn't bother me—I had no knowledge of and therefore no control over our destination and felt comfortable leaving it up to our van drivers, the Mexicans they were following, and ultimately, God, Who was directing the whole process. I feared not for my safety or welfare, nor was I concerned with "what ye shall eat or what ye shall wear." Could this be the same person who left home anxious about school deadlines, downsizing at work, financial matters and other daily "stressors"?

On our last evening together, each of us on the team shared something that had impressed us or been

meaningful to us that week. There were tears in many eyes as we realized we all felt we benefitted much more than the 3,300 patients we saw in our five days on site. Our biggest challenge would be to hold onto that feeling in the days and months ahead—of how the poor Mexicans could be so content and happy with so little, how the Christians had such a zeal for the Lord, and how we really give so little of the abundance with which we have been blessed.

Remind Me, Dear Lord *Country & Western Hymnal #103*

The things that I love and hold dear to my heart
Are just borrowed, they're not mine at all;
Jesus only let me use them to brighten my life,
So remind me, remind me, dear Lord.

Nothing good have I done to deserve God's own Son,
I'm not worthy of the scars in His hands;
Yet He chose the road to Calv'ry to die in my stead—
Why He loved me, I can't understand.

Roll back the curtain of mem'ry now and then,
Show me where you brought me from and where I could have been;
Remember I'm human, and humans forget—
So remind me, remind me, dear Lord.

IOWA, LESTER Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice."
Phil. 4:4

We rejoice along with the angels in Heaven that Danielle Stickling

(Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane), Joni Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) and Carrie Leuthold (Bro. Charles and Sis. Vickie) have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We pray that they may find the grace to take up the cross and follow Him.

Two families in our congregation are rejoicing over new additions. On March 18, Kendra May Mogler was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna, and her sister and brother, JaNae and Drew. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy (Rockville, CT).

On April 2, first-time parents, Terry and Paula Meyer, were blessed with a son, Talon Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer.

We were privileged to partake of the Lord's supper on Palm Sunday weekend. Assisting our Elder brothers in this blessed undertaking was Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We pray God's blessing upon Bro. Kevin and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, for being willing to be spent on our behalf.

Other visiting Elders and ministers were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). We appreciate the labors of these brothers.

On Saturday, April 6, Blake Wysong (Sis. Janet) and Denise Stahl were united in marriage. We ask that God would bless their married life together.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch and their family on the death of Sis. Mary's father, Bro. Phil Metzger (Sabetha, KS). Sympathy also goes to Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold and their family and Sis. Evelyn Stickling and her family over the loss of their brother, Bro. John Leuthold (Princeville, IL).

We will miss Joel Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) who has

returned home to Silverton, OR.

Bro. Delbert Knobloch was a surgical patient. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

The Lord has once again blessed our congregation this month with two more precious bundles from Heaven. Clayton Lee is welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Dana Musselman. Big brother, Cole, is also excited to have a new little playmate. Also thankful for his safe arrival are his grandparents, Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee Massner and Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Musselman (Pulaski, IA).

Ryan, Christy, Lanae, Aaron, Travis, Nathan and Jenni Frank welcome warmly their new little brother, Austin David. Also rejoicing in the Lord blessing them with another son are their parents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank. Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz as well as Bro. Ernie and Sis. Bernice Frank are also thankful to be grandparents once again. May the Lord be near these families as they strive to raise these little ones He has entrusted to them. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the dear family of Sis. Sarah Miller. After a time of illness, Sis. Sarah has gone to rest with her Lord. Never complaining, Sis. Sarah was such a strong example to us all. May the Lord richly bless her family for all the caring they did for their mother in her final months. Her children are Rosemarie Rydberg, Harlan Miller (Mary Lou), Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Bro. Jodi), Shirley Earnest (James), Ellen Moehle (Bob), Dave Miller (Barb) and Robert Miller (Janice). May they ever feel the many prayers offered on their behalf. We also extend our deepest sympathy to her brothers and sisters who survive. They are Bro. Harvey Heiniger (Sis. Leola), Bro. Clem Heiniger (Sis. Kate), Sis.

Mayme Gerst (Bro. Les), Sis. Pearl Vierling, and Sis. Ione Stoller. May the memories of their dear sister carry them further on.

In Memory of Sarah Miller

Mom

I could have been born in a palace
 And given royalty inherent a king
 I could have been born in a country
 To parents too poor to give
 anything.

Instead, God in His great wisdom
 Gave more than mere riches or
 gold
 He placed me in the arms of an
 angel
 Who gave guidance and love which
 to hold.

A small little lady
 With always a smile on her face
 Strangers soon warm to my
 mother
 Gloom in her life has no place.

Through good times and hard
 times
 She's had never a doubt
 Focused strongly on her Saviour
 She says confidently, "It'll work
 out."

And if there is something
 unpleasant
 About someone to be said
 The giant of a lady
 Quotes something good they've
 done instead.

It will be hard to let her go
 It puts a burden on my heart
 But I'm so thankful of her
 presence
 My life has been a part.

So thank you, great God of wisdom
 For the gift of this angel I thank
 you so much
 Who gives everyone who knows her
 Her kind and loving touch.

Written by: Sarah's daughter
Ellen Miller Moehle

We recently heard the testimonies of three dear souls: Todd Massner (Bro. Virg and Sis. Barb) and Brian (Dave and Phyllis) and Stacia Tapp (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Teresa Marti). We are thankful they have repented, been converted, found peace and have now become our new brothers and sister in faith. May the Lord continue to grant them the grace and direction they need in their lives. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Ed with the provings and baptisms. We are thankful to him for allowing himself to be used. Recently we gathered with the Burlington congregation to hear the reading of the Conference report. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) helped Elder Bro. Ed with this work. It was really a timely and blessed evening for each one. May we ever continue to follow the guidance and admonitions of our precious Elder body.

The weekend after Easter we were privileged to share together in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) shared in this blessed act with Elder Bro. Ed. This is such a time of renewal and encouragement. May we ever continue to strive to stay close to our precious Saviour who shed His blood and allowed His body to be broken for each of us.

We are also thankful for our visiting ministering brothers this month. May the Lord bless them and their families for letting themselves be used in His service. They were Bros. Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Mark Kiefer (Denver, CO), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL).

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and his wife with us. We sin-

cerely appreciate the efforts made by those who serve us.

Our Sunday School youth have once again told us the wonderful story of Jesus' suffering and His victory over death at our Easter program. It is uplifting to see those "little lights" shine so bright. We know as parents our responsibility is great to continue teaching them of God's ways.

"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deut. 6:6-7

As Mother's Day approaches, our prayers of thanksgiving go to our dear mothers who have so faithfully taught us, so we could find this joy of salvation.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

The month of March brought two uplifting weekends for our congregation. March 16 and 17 three precious young lambs gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Sis. Amber Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen), Sis. Amy Wirtz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), and Sis. Molly Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori). Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) were here along with Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Dean Messner and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Then on the last weekend we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Christy Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol), and Bro. Tony Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley). Here to share in this work were Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL). Other ministers here to

share God's work with us were Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We want to thank all these visitors for coming to share with us in the joy we, as a congregation, experience when we welcome brothers and sisters into the family of God. May we all strive to take each other's hand and walk closely together in unity, so we can some day sit with God in His Heavenly Home.

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

Matthew 26:26-28

After sharing such a precious weekend of baptisms together, we completed it with Holy Communion on Sunday evening. Our thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, who assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr in this important work.

We joyfully look forward to more baptisms, as Denton and Rose

Knobloch have received the peace of God in their hearts. Parents of this couple are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Martin and Doris Zaugg.

Our love and sympathy is extended to those who have lost loved ones recently: To Bro. Fred and Sis. Hulda Wirtz, Bro. Edwin and Lucille Wirtz, Lydia Edwards, and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz, on the passing of their sister, Sis. Salina Schmidt (Winthrop, MN); to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and family, on the death of Sis. Phyllis's father, Bro. Phil Metzger (Sabatha, KS); and to Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman, whose sister-in-law, Konnie Kay (Mrs. Mervin) Wick-

man (Britt, IA), passed away. May our Heavenly Father comfort and heal the sorrowing hearts of those who have had to part with loved ones.

Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) was a hospital patient this past month. We pray that God will continue to be with him, to heal him, and encourage him.

We are happy to report the birth of a baby boy, James Earl, to Kevin and Julie Jordan on March 6. He is welcomed home by April, Michael, and Natasha. Grandparents are Becky Banwart and the late James Banwart and Earl and Pat Jordan (Algona). May God be with these parents and all the family as they care for this precious new family member.

Congratulations and best wishes to two couples who were married recently. Ray Alan Banwart and Donna (Foster) Dayo, both of the Phoenix area, were married March 15. Parents of the couple are Paul and Emmy Banwart and Barb and Mick Foster (Galesburg, IL). Scott Banwart and LeAnn Nieland (Ames, IA) took their marriage vows April 13. Parents are Benjy and Betty Banwart and Craig and Nikki Nieland (Manson, IA). May God bless these newlyweds and may He be a vital part of their lives together.

Our congratulations and best wishes to our High School graduates.

Our prayers are with them as they seek further education or employment. May the Lord bless these dear young people, and may they always look to Him for guidance and direction. This year's graduates are: Kendra Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene), Mandy Banwart (Mike and Marilyn), Pamela Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne), Barry Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice), Matthew Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy), Tricia Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole), Lee Kellenberger (Joel and Teresa), Sis. Jami (Messner) Banwart (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey), Mike Schneider (Bro.

Gary and Sis. Sue), Ben Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori), Michelle Wirtz

(Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila), Karen Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie), and Paul Zaugg (Bro. Norman and Sis. Polly).

Along with the many activities May brings, we don't want to overlook the special day set aside to honor our mothers on Mother's Day. Some of us are privileged to still have our mothers with us, and some have laid theirs in the earth to rest and are awaiting the time of that glorious reunion.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

There's a very special treasure
When there's love within a heart;
A mother's love is special
For it plays a vital part.
Time will never change it;
It will strengthen through the
years,

Roots are deep because of love
Shared through joys and tears.
Cherished are our memories,
And now's the time to say,
"You are loved most deeply,
You're remembered every day."

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

God blessed us with a full church on Easter Sunday, April 7, as we celebrated the resurrection of our Saviour. The Sunday School put on their annual Easter program, which drew many of the mothers that don't usually attend, as well as many others.

April also is the start of the new school year here. We honored our new high school students by presenting them each with a Bible. They include, Makoto Inoue (Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie) and four of his friends, who have been faithfully attending Sunday School since elementary school. They have been the most faithful Sunday School children in our church since its founding. Unfortunately in this land,

many children stop attending when they reach junior high school.

Many visitors have worshipped with us recently. They include Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman (Denver, CO) who visited on March 31 and related to us how God has wrought many miracles in his life. Also visiting that day was Bro. Adrian Strahm (Kansas) who was here on business.

Bro. Elwin Rumbold (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Lewis Martin (Eureka, IL) could spend a few days in Japan in April after touring parts of South Korea where they were stationed many years ago. Their fellowship was a blessing of love to all.

Our two Elders' wives, Sis. Marie Inoue and Sis. Lois Ehnle, also happened to travel to the U.S. recently, and we are thankful God has brought them back safely.

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

Last week I was talking to a director of a Bible publishing company here in Japan. He told me that they have the capacity to publish a few million Bibles every year. Most of them go to foreign countries where there is a great need for them. However, the need for Bibles is consistently greater than the ability to produce them. He said that they were planning to publish 50,000 Bibles for the Philippines, but because of lack of funds, it is going to be cut down to 20 or 30 thousand. They were planning 100,000 Bibles for Russia, but that is going to have to be cut to about 50,000. The biggest need of all is China. This man visited

China three years ago and, at that time, he estimated that in all of China about 50 million people desire to have their own Bible and yet cannot obtain one. The need today is even greater than then. Last year they were able to get over 500,000 Bibles into China. This year they are hoping to get in over one million. However, since last fall, it has gotten harder to get in Bibles. The goal this year will only be achieved through believers' prayers and support. This man challenged me with these words, "I think involvement or not, first and foremost depends on what we regard important. What occupies our time and our minds? How and where do we spend our money? Is it for earthly pleasures and possessions, or is it for that which has eternal values?" May we be stirred up to action for the sake of those waiting and because of those who would otherwise be lost.

KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Holly Meyer

"The eternal God is thy refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting
arms..."

Deut. 33:27

We were reminded of how precious those everlasting arms can be when our lives hit bottom and are so full of pain, we feel we cannot continue on. Our hearts were touched as we listened to the testimony of our dear Sis. Darlene Meyer (Earl) and then witnessed her baptism on Sunday, March 31. We all have those dark times in our life when we need to really lean on the everlasting arms of God.

"...and to be a joyful mother of
children. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 113:9

Mother's Day will be celebrated for the first time for a new set of Christian parents in our congrega-

tion this month. Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer were blessed with a healthy son, Benjamin James, on March 26. Happy grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne Meyer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

We assembled with the Sabetha congregation for Good Friday services, where Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) ministered to us. What a pleasant surprise to find him on our pulpit Easter morning also to bring forth the wonderful story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His efforts are greatly appreciated as well as those of our other visiting ministers, Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

May we in perfect love be found
When we Thy table, Lord,
surround;
Keep soul and body purified;
Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied
Upon this feast.

Then come into our midst today;
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.
This cup and loaf are proof and
sign
Of this, Thy covenant divine
In Jesus' blood.
Zion's Harp #200

How wonderful, as a body of believers, in common union, we could lift our voices in praise as we sang this beautiful hymn. Our congregation gathered together on Saturday evening, April 13, to partake of Holy Communion. It is such a special time here on earth, but we can look forward to an even greater time when we will drink it new with Christ in God's Kingdom. We thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti for sharing this blessed evening with us.

The following day, on Sunday, April 14, we witnessed the marriage vows of Bro. Steve Buser (Bob and Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Loretta Edelman (Sis. Marge, Sabetha, KS) as they were united together in the

Lord. May God bless this couple in the years ahead as they have now started the journey as husband and wife.

Our high school Sunday School students enjoyed a weekend of youth fellowship in Lester, IA the weekend of March 23 and 24. We appreciate the efforts of all those involved to make the weekend a success.

This past month, our church building has undergone a remodeling project. A special thanks goes to our trustees and all the other volunteers who donated their time and talents to make everything run smoothly.

Reminder: Mid-week church services have been discontinued and we are now having Sunday evening singings alternating with Sabetha.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Tammy Sinn

Come then to the feast of His New
Covenant,
Members of His Church, your
faith renew;
Thank the Founder of this
precious Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out
for you.
Here your hands in faithfulness
uniting
And the fire of brother-love new
lighting,
Let your common prayers rise to
His throne.
Thank and praise Him who hath
made you one!
Zion's Harp #26

It was with great anticipation and a deep appreciation for all Christ has done for us that we have awaited Holy Communion. On April 3 we gathered together to share this sacrament, that we could become more united in our love for Christ and one another. We thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for coming to

assist in carrying out this work.

Our annual "Invite a Friend" weekend was held on April 20-21. We greatly enjoyed those who came to be with us and wish to thank each one. Among our guests were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and ministering Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We are especially thankful that these brothers were willing to labor on our behalf.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

"I will bless the Lord at all times:
his praise shall continually be in my
mouth."

Psalms 34:1

"And he said, Draw not nigh
hither: put off thy shoes from off thy
feet, for the place whereon thou
standest is holy ground. Moreover
he said, I am the God of thy father,
the God of Abraham, the God of
Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And
Moses hid his face; for he was afraid
to look upon God."

Exodus 3:5,6

These two scriptures hold so much that we need to remember: We need to praise God at all times and be joyful in our attendance at church functions, singings, and Bible Studies. Whatever we do, wherever we go, love, joy and praise should shine forth in our lives for the goodness God has shown in sending His only Son to redeem this sinsick world. But in our joy and praise, let us remember one thing: God is Holy and we should keep the things pertaining to "God" "Holy", not bring Him down to man's level with jokes and attitudes toward our Faith or any other Faith that demean His precious name! God deserves an attitude of respect, reverence, humility, obedience, praise, love, and joy from His people, but most of all He deserves to be

looked upon as HOLY!

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name,

In earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty,

God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity! Amen.

Hymns of Zion #149

Our hospital patients this month included Bro. Elmer Tanner who underwent heart surgery (and is doing well at this time), Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alice Tanner's daughter, Arlene Bice, who suffered some injuries when the car she was riding in struck a deer, and Sis. Matilda Schupbach, who is again able to be at home. We hold our loved ones up on wings of prayer, that God will grant them all returned health and strength according to His precious will.

Thanks to all who support services at the Friendship Manor. It is so nice to have a number of voices to raise in song for these precious elderly who enjoy it so.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr

This month we again celebrate Mother's Day! As mothers, life brings us many opportunities. Our pathways meet up with many challenges. Some we meet with joy, some with anxiety and sorrow, some with encouragement and others with chastisement. But with all, God has but one purpose and that is to mold us into His image and prepare us for His Kingdom. Let us be prayerful and strive to serve Him faithfully.

On a recent occasion we were privileged to share a blessed weekend together with many wonderful visiting families. "Oh what fellowship, Oh what joy divine!" Special heartfelt thanks goes to our visiting ministers: Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Don Braker (Kansas City,

MO), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). Thank you, each one, for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

Our prayers continue for God's healing touch for those who have been hospitalized: Sis. Doris (Bro. Roy) Bahr with complications from ongoing chemotherapy, and Sis. Dorthy (Bro. Steve) Schrader for surgery.

Our sincere sympathy is shared with Bro. Eldon (Sis. Dorene) Metzger and his dear family in the loss of his dear father, Bro. Phil Metzger (Sabetha, KS). While loss of a loved one is difficult, knowing they have that "perfect peace" with God makes a more bearable heartache and creates a comfort for the believer. Praise God!

The wedding engagement of Cheri Frieden to Tim Adams was announced by their parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Debbie Frieden and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Adams. A July 27 wedding is planned. We want to express our loving best wishes to them both.

Our congratulations and best wishes also go to our graduates this year. Graduating eighth graders are Sis. Tonya Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Jeanie) and Jacob Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri). Our high school senior is Becky Burnham (Bro. Max). College graduate is Bro. Cory Metzger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene). How quickly the time has passed for this year. We wish our graduates God's blessings and God's divine direction.

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger

O praise the Lord with heart and voice,
With God's own Word your doubts destroy,
Let those that trust in Him rejoice,
Yea, let them shout for joy.

Gospel Hymns #318

Special thanks and appreciation to the Lester Bible Class for inviting Sabetha for a blessed weekend.

Hospital patients were Bro. Charles Terry (Sis. Esther) and Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis). We wish them a return of good health and strength.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter are rejoicing in the arrival of their first grandson. Benjamin James Meyer was born March 26 to Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer (Bern, KS).

Although March 30 was a snowy evening, we were able to sit in the quietness of God's sanctuary and reflect on the suffering of our Saviour as Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Eugene Marti (Kansas, City, MO) served us Holy Communion.

We were pleased to have visiting ministers, Bros. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL), Edwin Bahler (Remington, IN) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), and ask God to continue to provide for them.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger on the death of her mother, Faye Couch, on April 3. Our prayers are also with Sis. Cheryl Metzger and Sis. Barbara Edelman (Clifford) whose father, Bro. Phil Metzger, passed away April 4. May God be near each one.

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

May God bless all mothers for their endless labors of love that can't be exchanged.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

On a recent Sunday afternoon, the ministering brother read Isaiah 12. Though I know I have read through Isaiah many times, at this particular time the short chapter reached me as something new and

refreshing. I would invite you to open your Bible and read of the God of our salvation in whom we can trust and not be afraid.

Bro. Howard Warner's brother, Lawrence, was buried in March. While death is a part of life, it is never easy to say goodbye.

Surgical patients this month were Dewey Brunt, age 96, the father of Sis. Lillian Bowers and Bro. Godfrey Miller.

We are happy to welcome Jacob Edward Norris into our church family. He was born March 20 to Leon and Sharon Norris and is welcomed home by a sister, Johanna. Grandparents are Ed and Dorothy Gasser and Joyce Norris.

As is our custom on Easter Sunday morning, the congregation gathered for an Easter breakfast. After the breakfast, the Sunday School students gave a delightful portrayal of the Easter story in dialogue and song. They concluded with the hymn, "Up From the Grave He Arose".

Bro. Howard and Sis. Ann Warner have been sharing with us their concerns for their grandson, Steven Miller. Steve is afflicted with a painful health problem that modern medicine is not able to control. The affliction was brought on by Steve being "rear-ended" by a drunk driver in a borrowed car with no insurance. To quote Bro. Howard, "When Steve wakes up in the morning, all he has to look forward to is pain." If you are so minded, we would ask you to pray for Steve's spiritual well-being, that he could be converted, and thus be readied for healing. If you feel directed to encourage him, write to him at 6009 Ranch Mission, Apt. 104, San Diego, CA 92108.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Doug and Rebecca Germann

A special thanks to our visitors this past month! We have enjoyed visitors on Wednesday night as well as on Sunday. Ministering Bro. Tom

Troxel and his wife, Sis. LuAnn, were with us from LaCrosse, IN as well as Elder Bro. Bob Walder and his wife, Sis. Gloria, from Congerville, IL. We thank each of these families as well as our other visitors for taking time to fellowship with us here at Lexington.

In our monthly news there is relatively little news to share like in some of our larger congregations. However, I recently read an article about "Drifting Away" that bears repeating. The author said on sailing vessels of old, the Anchor watch at night was an important job, for if the anchor did not have a secure hold on the sea bottom, the wind or current could take a ship onto the rocks or drift aimlessly at sea. He said that against the dark shoreline this drift would be difficult to detect and so the seaman would have to stand on a fixed square on the ship's deck and take bearings on set shorelights with a compass every fifteen minutes and record these bearings in a logbook. How similar this is to our spiritual lives, the author related. We, too, must stand in the square of God's presence and focus on the lights of His truth, forgiveness, and compassion or we will also drift! How fortunate we are for the ancient landmarks given to us by our forefathers that also help to keep us from spiritual shipwreck. We cannot rely upon our own intuitions or, as some would say, our own convictions, but we must rely upon God's Word and our precious Faith to use as those shoreline lights. These, coupled with our Compass, the Holy Word of God, can keep us on course for those heavenly shores. So, may each of us in the days ahead take time to stand in the "Square of God's Presence" and look for those ancient landmarks and read in God's Word to see where our ship of Faith lies on the ocean of life. If we have drifted, may we adjust our course and set out for the Heavenly Port and rejoice that today is yet another day of grace!

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Melanie Kaeb - Michelle Oesch

Bro. Dave Wingeier (Sis. Bertha) was called Home to our Lord on March 8. A memorial service was held in Florida on the 9th and one in Alto on the 13th. Bro. Dave had been hospitalized with heart problems since February.

We held a World Relief Work Bee on March 22. Many families participated in the activities. The children worked on crafts to be sold at Leo, some of the women put together prenatal kits for Haiti, and the men washed 150 buckets in Blough Bros. milking parlor which will be used in Haiti to haul water.

Sis. Helen Steffen's granddaughter, Kimberly Steffen (Tim and Monica), age 12, recently had surgery on her back. She will be confined to her bed for a month. Sis. Helen is staying with her.

Heidi Kaeb was baptized into our precious faith on April 13. Her testimony was heard on April 12. Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine) from the Bay City congregation was the visiting Elder.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all for your love, prayers, memorials, and expressions of sympathy in the loss of our beloved husband and father, Bro. Dave Wingeier.

Sis. Bertha and family

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher

Rhonda Knochel

Winter has been long and dreary and it seems to be still with us, but if we trust in our Lord, spring will come forth once again, for He has promised that there is a season for everything. We can see some signs even though it still looks dreary; the sun will shine and it will be warm once again.

Once again, we have had sick ones with us and we pray for them each

day, whatever might be God's will. Bro. Eli Schlatter (Sis. Eli^a) has not been too well and was in the hospital, but is now back in the rest home. Sis. Carol Waibel (Bro. Bill) had surgery, but is doing okay right now. Bro. Ronald Wackerle (Sis. Kathryn) had knee surgery and is doing well. Sis. Maria Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen Jr.) was in the hospital but is now recovering. Linda Waibel (Eugene) is not doing very well and needs our prayers. Her mother-in-law is Sis. Marie Waibel. We wish all those that are sick in body, mind and soul God's grace and healing powers as far as He sees fit.

Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) was with us this month and we appreciated the messages of our Lord that were given to him to bring to us.

Bro. Alf and Sis. Hermine Kaeb were fortunate enough to be able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. We wish them the very best in their continued life together.

We have been saddened with the loss of loved ones in our midst. Charlene Wieland (Bro. Brian) lost her grandmother. We extend our sympathy to Char and her mother, Joyce Knisley, and the rest of her family.

Sis. Betty Schlatter passed away, leaving behind her children, Sis. Trudy (Bill) Schmidt, Steve, Sis. Bonnie, Bro. Jay (Sis. Carola), and Peggy; two sisters, Sis. Emily Rechsteiner and Sis. Esther Waibel. We extend our prayers of comfort to those left behind.

A sudden massive heart attack took our Bro. Orville Ramseyer Home the day of Sis. Betty's funeral, in the twinkling of an eye. Bro. Orville leaves behind one brother, Bro. Earl (Sis. Mary); two sisters, Sis. Leah and Sis. Helen; one sister-in-law, Sis. Lillian Ramseyer (Peoria, IL); many nieces and nephews. They will all miss him greatly.

Jon Cluff (Sis. Darlene) lost his brother, Tom. The Lord saw fit to take him after a long illness. We wish Jon, Sis. Darlene and their

family the Lord's hand of comfort and grace.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalm 121:1-8

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Holly Barton - Lynette Moser

Springtime is a refreshing time of year as we look forward to new life, warmer weather, and longer days. Those that live in rural areas love spring as it brings planting and rains to help the crops grow. Even those of us who live in the city look forward to the blooms of spring and planting our small gardens. Modern technology has made planting a much different experience than it was at Jesus' time. But we can still relate to the concepts Jesus tried to teach us through parables about planting. We all desire to be good soil as Jesus describes in His explanation of the parable of the four soils, "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15). And do we not stand in wonder of Heaven when Jesus likens it to the mustard seed, "But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it." (Mark 4:32). But we are the most humbled by the reminder that with

all our efforts, we need to give God the credit for all good. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." (I Cor. 3:6). May we all endeavor to bear fruit that will be an honor to God and a sign of our devotion to Him.

In April, we had a joyful celebration of Christ's death and resurrection and appreciated the Sunday School Easter program. It renews all of us to see the enthusiasm of the children. We are thankful for the ministers who visited us this month, including Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Our small church continues to grow as another family moves into the congregation. We warmly welcome Bro. Chris and Sis. Sarah Freugger with their children, Benjamin and Abigail.

We also rejoice with Ken Kaisner (Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Mary) and Bobbi Foster as they announce their engagement.

We also share our sorrow with Sis. Trudy Schmidt and Peggy Schlatter as they grieve the loss of their mother, Sis. Betty Schlatter (Bay City). When we lose loved ones, we are thankful for the memories and love we have been able to share over the years.

Let us remember that we will be known by the fruit that we bear and endeavor to accept the increase that God offers if we are obedient to Him.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

A Special Mother's Day Message
Blessed is the mother who follows the Lord,
so her children can learn and can grow...
the unselfish mother who holds on with love,
yet knows when it's time to let go
Blessed is the mother who's patient, forgiving,
the one who cannot bear a grudge,
the one who accepts people just as

they are
 without stopping to question or
 judge.
 Blessed is the mother whose faith
 keeps her going
 through trials and traumas and
 cares,
 Who handles the easy with
 wisdom and love
 and the not-quite-so-easy...with
 prayers.
 Blessed is the mother who meets
 all your needs
 from the very first day of your
 birth,
 Blessed is the mother who shares
 so much love,
 for she's God's special angel on
 earth.
 —*Author unknown*

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

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

Matthew 26:26-28

We appreciate and thank Elder
 Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for
 assisting Elder Bro. Leroy Messner
 (Winthrop, MN) in serving us Holy
 Communion. It was our privilege to
 partake of this Holy sacrament the
 evening of March 23. We also thank
 them for ministering to us on Sun-
 day. It was a nice surprise and a
 blessing to have Elder Bro. Ed
 Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) with us on
 a Wednesday evening service. Shar-
 ing God's Word with us for Good
 Friday Service was Bro. Paul Mess-
 ner (Winthrop, MN). We thank
 them for coming and laboring on

our behalf.

A beautiful Easter program was
 presented to us on March 24 by our
 Sunday School children. The death
 and resurrection of our Lord Jesus
 was vividly told to us through verse
 and song. May these teachings re-
 main with them throughout their
 coming years. May God bless the
 children, teachers and parents for
 all their efforts put forth.

Joe Bednarski was hospitalized
 this month; we are thankful that he
 is able to assemble with us again.

Pinpointing Prayer

If we want specific answers to our
 prayers, we must make definite, in-
 dividual, personalized requests.

Too many of our prayers are filled
 with sweeping generalization that
 seek God's blessings. Effective, fer-
 vent prayers, however, focuses on
 specific requests. If we pinpoint our
 prayers, we will have reason to
 praise God for particular answers!

Some years ago a young girl was
 very sick and not expected to re-
 cover. Because of her love for Jesus,
 she was troubled that she had not
 been able to do more for Him in her
 short life. Her pastor suggested that
 she make a list of people in their
 little town who needed Christ and
 pray that they might put their faith
 in Him. She took his advice, made a
 list, and prayed often for each per-
 son. Some time later God began to
 stir a revival in the village. The girl
 heard of the people who were com-
 ing to Christ and prayed even more.
 As she heard reports, she checked
 off the names of those who had been
 led to the Lord. After the girl died,
 a prayer list with the names of 56
 people was found under her pillow.
 All had put their faith in Christ—the
 last one on the night before her
 death. Such is the power of definite,
 specific, fervent prayer. Do you have
 a prayer list?

—*Henry G. Bosch*

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart
 And love that soul through me,
 And may I nobly do my part

To win that soul for Thee!

—*Tucker*

“...The effectual fervent prayer of
 a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

When God measures a person,
 He puts the tape around his heart,
 not his head...

—*Author unknown*

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Nancy Wulf
 Linda Schmidgall**

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

Luke 13:5

We rejoice with three young souls
 who have begun their heavenly race
 by turning to the Lord in repen-
 tance. Kevin Joos, Carrie Zelt-
 wanger and Andrew Messner have
 rejected the sinful pleasures of the
 world and are seeking the true
 pleasure of serving God. Their par-
 ents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra
 Joos, Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zelt-
 wanger, and Bro. Tony and Sis.
 Nancy Messner.

Those who were recently in the
 hospital were Bro. Reuben Koehl,
 Kelsey Knobloch (Bro. Mark and
 Sis. Brenda), and Bro. Paul Fehr,
 Jr. (Sis. Pam). We pray for their
 health and healing.

God has blessed Bro. Keith and
 Sis. Jodi Schieler with a precious
 little girl on March 30. Paige Laurel
 is welcomed home by siblings,
 Austin and Erin. Her grandparents
 are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila
 Schmidgall and Bro. Harvey and
 Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury, IL).

Andy Schmidgall and Amy Polich
 were united in marriage on May 13.
 Andy's parents are Bro. Gene and
 Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall. We wish
 Andy and Amy God's richest bless-
 ings for a long and happy married
 life.

Gary Joos and Lori Foss have an-
 nounced their engagement and are

planning a July wedding. May God direct and bless them as they make this commitment to each other. Gary's parents are Bro. Gottlieb and the late Sis. Edith Joos.

On Easter Sunday, Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) helped to share God's Word with us. May God richly bless him for being a willing servant.

We were truly blessed the weekend of March 30-31 when three dear souls were brought into the fold. They were Ginny Wulf (Bro. Dave and Sis. Nancy), Rosie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel), and Kurt Domnick (Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma). Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to help our Elder Bro. Art. Also here for the occasion was Bro. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL). Then on Sunday evening, we were privileged to share Communion with one another.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.

Zion's Harp #200

A Mother's Day thought:

We, as mothers, need to trust God with the future of our children, but we must do our part in proper child training. May we always treasure the love our mothers have for us, and remember the many lessons they teach us throughout life.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

My glor'ous mansion beyond the
tomb,
Where Sharon's roses shall ever
bloom;
How sweet and peaceful its
tranquil rest,
There I would enter with all the

blest.
There in my homeland, in Eden
fair,
Sweet flowers are blooming so
precious, rare.
'Tis in this homeland my Saviour
dwells,
Of all its glories no tongue can tell.
My heav'nly mansion beyond the
sky,
Where they who enter shall never
die;
There would I journey this very
day,
And with my Jesus forever stay.
Hymns of Zion #77

Our congregation was again saddened by the death of a loved one. Our dear Sis. Celina Schmidt was called to her Heavenly Home on March 24. How we will miss her, but we're so thankful that she is in Heaven where she so longed to be.

We extend our congratulations to Walter and Sis. Bonnie Eskuri on the birth of their son, Levi Alexander, on March 25. He was welcomed home by his sister, Raija, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Leroy and Sis. JoAnn Messner and Walter and Lois Eskuri. May God continue to bless them as they raise their children in His ways.

We would like to thank our Sunday School Bible Class for hosting our annual Easter morning breakfast. We appreciate all the effort they put into this meal for our congregation.

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. A precious soul, Lindsay Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie), has answered His call and found peace. We are so glad that He continues to call and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and family in the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Phil Metzger, of Sabetha, KS.

On April 13, Dan and Karen Messner were united in marriage.

May God stand by their sides as they join hand and heart. Parents of the couple are Duane and Mona Messner and Herman and Vera Hahn of Gaylord.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

I Cor. 10:16-17

We had the precious privilege to take part in Communion exhortation and Holy Communion this past month. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for assisting in exhorting for Holy Communion, and Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for sharing the duties in bringing the Word to us over this blessed weekend. We appreciate our many visitors who came to be with us.

A Mom always knows to brighten
your day,
with things that she does in her
kind, loving way.
She knows how to see things from
your point of view
and be understanding and helpful
to you.

A Mom always knows how to give
and to share,
to bring special joy to lighten a
care.

She knows how to add so much
beauty to living
for she knows the true art of
living and giving.

—*Author Unknown*

As Mother's Day approaches, may we all remember the special bond a mother has with her children. They go through life loving, nurturing and caring for their children and they do this so unselfishly. May God continue to bless our

Moms for all they have taught us.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Celina Schmidt wishes to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to our brethren and friends for the gifts and many expressions of sympathy and love given in memory of our loved one. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti

Martha Kellenberger

During a very uplifting weekend on March 23 and 24, we welcomed our new brother-in-faith, Phil Braker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller). Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) assisted with these duties and we wish to thank him and his wife, Sis. Gloria.

On Sunday, April 14, we were blessed as we partook of Holy Communion. We appreciate our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi serving us, and pray God will bless him as he shepherds our flock.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Thadd Walter

Greetings in the name of God the Father, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ! In the past month we remembered the supreme sacrifice that our Lord made for us. This great gift is our hope of salvation after our walk on this earth is over. Although Christ no longer walks the earth in the physical sense, we have been given the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and for this we can rejoice. This Comforter is who we look to when the pain from this life doesn't seem to go away.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

Psalm 126:5

We know from this verse that there is a reward for our labors. Oftentimes our sorrow brings us

closer to God. When a soul turns to the Lord in sorrowful repentance, great things happen to the heart. If softens and is purged of the worldly cares that clutter it, and then there is room for God.

"Behold, God will not cast away a perfect man, neither will he help the evil doers: Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing."

Job 8:20-21

Job was comforted after his great sorrow. His faith in God was steadfast and could not be shaken. From Job we know that if we wait with patience, the Comforter will surely come.

We are truly thankful for our many visitors this month. The busload of brothers and sisters from the Morton congregation who came to sing for us really lifted our spirits. We thank them for their fellowship and exhortation. The ministering brothers who shared the Word with us were: Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We want to thank these brothers for visiting us here and sharing God's Word with us in love. The guidance from all of the ministering brothers who have visited us is greatly appreciated.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Rusty and Amy Adrian

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

Matthew 5:16

This was the thought on March 30 as our Sunday School youth served the community by having a sausage and pancake supper. It was a true joy to see the youth pull together as a unit in helping each other with certain jobs and tasks

that needed to be done. What a reminder it was to see how important it is for us as a body of believers to work together and help each other out as much as possible so that our Lord Jesus Christ can be glorified.

We were truly blessed by our Sunday School youth once again as they brought us their Easter Program on March 31. We were reminded of the pain and suffering our precious Lord and Saviour went through on our behalf and also the wonderful resurrection as He conquered death and the grave for us. How thankful we are that we can be strengthened and encouraged through our youth to draw closer to our most precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our prayers have been with Barb Plank (the late Buddy) and Bro. Rusty Adrian (Sis. Amy) who had surgery this past month. Also, Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) who was hospitalized for tests. Even though our trials and pain seems unbearable at times, what a blessing and comfort it is to have our Lord Jesus Christ to look to. May God's healing hand be upon each one so that those trials and pains can be endured.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for stopping in and sharing God's Word with us as he and his son, Tim, were going to central Illinois. May God bless you, Bro. John, and all those who make the effort to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Kim and Sis. Vonette Sutter, as the Lord has blessed them with a new baby boy, Wade Ryan. May God strengthen and guide them in their efforts of raising a family in this world that we live in. Happy grandparents are Dr. Kenneth and Carol Leinweber (Palmyra, MO) and Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter.

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

Our Sunday School children presented a short program of verse and song on Easter Sunday telling us of God's love for each of us when He sent His only Son to die for our sins. It is our hope that the seeds sown in the hearts of our children at this tender age will remain with them and spring forth at some future date.

Bro. Floyd Sr. and Sis. Loretta Graves celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on March 12. God has blessed them with many years of marriage, and it is our prayer that they will continue to be blessed with a measure of health so they can assemble with us many more years.

In the last news I reported that Bro. Ted (Gertie) Herzig was awaiting heart surgery. After more tests in Albany, surgery is not recommended for Bro. Ted. Our thoughts and prayers continue with Bro. Ted and Gertie. Gertie has not been able to assemble with us for many months. May God remain close to them each day.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Minnie Taube. She has been able to return to her home. Rebecca Farney (Bro. John and Sis. Matie) has a cast on her leg as the result of a broken bone in her foot.

A new baby boy was welcomed into the home of Wayne Farney and Penny Hill. Robert Clifton was born on March 26, and his brothers and sisters are James, Kevin, Shauna and Erica. Grandparents are Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie Farney and Robert and Loretta Stoll.

Bro. Bernard Martin was called from this life on April 13 after several days of hospitalization. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Elveria; his son, Timothy; his daughter, Joyce (Dean) Greenwood; and his four grandchildren. Bro. Bernard and his family have been faithful caretakers of our cemetery for many years. He will be missed in our assembly.

Our visiting minister on April 14 was Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA). We thank him for coming to our area and sharing God's Word with us.

OHIO, AKRON

Diane Jarrett - Joyce Gasser

Our congregation met Saturday evening to share Holy Communion together. We appreciate our Elders who served us. Visiting Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder assisted our Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer in serving this Holy sacrament.

We were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) spend a weekend with us.

Bro. Eric Spangler is to be congratulated as he is receiving the PharmD Degree from the University of Toledo. He plans to be in Iowa City a year doing residency in ambulatory care.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

March 31 was the wedding of Bro. Henry Pfeiffer and Sis. Diane Sauder. It was a very special day, not only for Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane, but also for our congregation as this is the first wedding ever to take place in our Columbus church. For this we are most thankful. May God richly bless this couple's new life together. Sharing God's precious Word with us that day were Elder Bros. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH).

Other visiting ministers sharing with us this month were Bros. Vic Baumann (Smithville, OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). May God bless these brothers and their families as they continue to preach the truth.

We appreciate the labors of the Rittman brethren who gathered on a beautiful sunny spring day to help pour the concrete for our new parking lot and driveway. We are so thankful for the many brothers and

sisters in faith who have volunteered their time and talents to help with our church remodeling project.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Continue On

A woman once fretted over the usefulness of her life. She feared she was wasting her potential being a devoted wife and mother. She wondered if the time and energy she invested in her husband and children would make a difference.

At times she got discouraged because so much of what she did seemed to go unnoticed and unappreciated. "Is it worth it?" she often wondered. "Is there something better that I could be doing with my time?"

It was during one of these moments of questioning that she heard the still small voice of her heavenly Father speak to her heart. "You are a wife and a mother because that is what I have called you to be. Much of what you do is hidden from the public eye. But I notice. Most of what you give is done without remuneration. But I am your reward.

Your husband cannot be the man I have called him to be without your support. Your influence upon him is greater than you think and more powerful than you will ever know. I bless him through your service and honor him through your love. Your children are precious to Me. Even more precious than they are to you. I have entrusted them to your care to raise for me. What you invest in them is an offering to me.

You may never be in public spotlight. But your obedience shines as a bright light before me. Continue on. Remember you are my servant. Do all to please Me."

—Roy Lessin

The world often looks on the life of a mother who does not work outside the home as less than complete. We hope that our church continues

to support the Bible based belief that a mother's most important task by far is in the home caring for her family. God bless our Christian mothers.

Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis) and Barb Brink (Rob) have spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful that they could soon be back home again.

Our four seniors anxiously awaiting high school graduation are Ted Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon), Jill Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), Paul Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley), and Greg Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra). We would hope that each student has prayed for God's guidance in the pursuit of a future career, but if not, we know that prayers have been offered by others in their behalf. Lord willing, they will each be presented a Bible at a special graduation breakfast.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn

Joyce Klopfenstein

With the coming of spring, many of our church family are returning from the South. We are glad to have them home safely and gathering with us again. Many made it home in time to be with their families for Easter. The Easter season has renewed our spirit with the remembrance of the price Jesus paid for us at the cross.

On March 30, we were privileged to gather together for a topical Bible Study on "The Incorruptible Crown". We appreciate the love and guidance our ministering brothers show to us. May they feel our love, support and prayers as they minister to us.

There were two weddings this past month. March 22 was the wedding day for Jennifer Wenninger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb) and Aaron Shephard (Dave and Judy). On April 14, many of our congregation traveled to Lester, IA to witness the wedding of Bro. Steven Sinn (Elder

Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Joy Feucht (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie). May God bless these two couples as they begin their lives together.

There have been several with illness and injury this month. Our prayers are with Nolan Nygaard (Bro. Doug and Annette), Sis. Louise Rager (Bro. Carl), Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Loren), Bro. Rex Plummer (Sis. Ann), Sis. Laura Dunham (Bro. Charles, Sr.), Bro. Clem Wieland (Sis. Elizabeth) and Lane Stoller (Sis. Irma).

May God comfort Bro. Glenn Stoller (Sis. Edith) and Bro. David Stoller (Sis. Irene) for the loss of their sister-in-law, Sis. Minerva Stoller (Bro. Eugene, Leo, IN).

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:6

On March 24, our Sunday School presented their annual Easter program. How we can rejoice in the wondrous miracle that He is not only risen, but is sitting at the Father's right hand, waiting to bring His children Home.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

As we shared Holy Communion in this month, we were reminded of the precious Sacrifice that was given in our behalf. May we each strive to keep this Sacrifice as the Guiding Light in our lives.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the

gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) was with us to assist Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in serving Communion. We also enjoyed a visit from Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We are thankful these brethren were willing to share with us and pray for God's richest blessings in their lives.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;"

Mark 10:7

March 31 was the day Bro. Henry Pfeiffer (Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna) and Sis. Diane Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky, Columbus, OH) became one in the Lord. We wish to welcome Sis. Diane to our congregation. It is our prayer that this couple will ever look to God for guidance so that their threefold cord may never be rent apart.

Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker and their family, Tami, Sis. Kristy, Archie, Maria and Luke have the pleasure of hosting a foreign exchange student for the rest of the school year. Yegor (George in American) Maktas said goodbye to his parents and sister in Perm, Russia, last August and came to the United States. While he is at the Tuckers, he will celebrate his 16th birthday and finish the 10th grade. May the blessings for each one abound during this time of "uniting our nations".

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:7

The joy in Heaven was doubled this month as Ben and Betty Beer have heeded the call to repentance. There is no greater thing on this earth to rejoice for, than when someone answers the call. May they feel our prayerful support as they begin

their walk to eternal life.

"For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."

Psalm 33:21

I often wonder what would happen if the whole world would spend as much time rejoicing as they do complaining. Those of us who have accepted God's promises always have a multitude of things to rejoice over. I know that I need to spend more time rejoicing that I have a risen Saviour, and therefore a promise of eternal life in Heaven should I remain true and faithful. May each one of us look for at least one new thing to rejoice over in each day.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Linda Schar

We recently had the privilege of taking Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Henry with this important work. Also ministering to us this month was Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH).

Kathryn Grace was born on March 16 to Bro. Dave, Sis. LeAnn, Luke, Kristina, and Patrick. Grandparents are Bro. Elton and Sis. Velma Rufener and Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Richard and Renee Stahl had a precious set of twins born on March 21. Big brother Radley welcomes his new sister, Riane Nicole, and brother, Riley Cole. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stahl and Bro. Robert and Sis. Marjorie Boltz also eagerly awaited their new grandchildren.

We wish to extend our warmest wishes to Sis. Laura Brake as she moved from the Rittman area to Phoenix, AZ after her wedding to Bro. Bob Dotterer in Sardis this month.

Several of our members have been hospitalized recently. Sis. Diane Hartzler (Bro. Tom) and Bro. Chester Rufener (Sis. Roma) still need our prayers.

Sis. Marie Winkler passed away on March 17. She will be missed by her sons, Daryl and James (Dollie), and daughters, Ann (Jack) Weahry and Susan (David) McDougal. Sis. Marie's brothers and sisters are Bro. Roy (Sis. Mabel) Maibach, Bro. Alton (Sis. Delores) Maibach, Bro. Andrew (Sis. Lillian) Maibach, Sis. Pearl (Bro. William) Breece, Sis. Lillian (Ken) Rupp, and Sis. Martha (Bro. Don) Walder. She also had 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Olga Soloninka went Home to be with her Lord on March 20. We wish to extend our sympathy to her husband, John, her children, and brothers and sisters, Bro. Mitch (Sis. Vi) Baltic, Walt Baltic, and Sis. Violet Baltic.

Sis. Ruth Beery, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Elizabeth) Beery, and Howard Beery lost a dear sister when Marie Winsler passed away. May they feel our love and support.

OHIO, SARDIS
Renee Miller

The first day of spring brought with it a lot of snow, but our hearts were warmed by mid-week visitors. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) ministered to us.

Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Francis Bahler (Remington, IN) traveled to be with us for a special topic night. We appreciate Elder Bro. Alfred's willingness to speak to us on Saturday and his service again on Sunday.

Truly the Lord was in our midst as Bro. Bob Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Laura Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim) were joined in marriage. The weekend was blessed in many ways. Visiting ministers among us were Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and the groom's father, Bro.

Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer assembled in Sardis the following Easter weekend before returning to make their home in Phoenix. Our love and prayers go with them. The sadness felt in parting is overpowered when we think of the brethren that will welcome them and the joy we will feel when we meet again!

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Margaret Blough
Edith Miller

According to Thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will we do, our dying Lord,
We will remember Thee.

Thy body broken for our sakes,
Our bread shall be;
Thy sacramental cup we take
And thus remember Thee.

Can we Gethsemane forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee?

When to the cross we turn our
eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God our sacrifice,
We must remember Thee.

Hymns of Zion #301

On March 30, we had the opportunity to remember the death and suffering of our Lord, as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in this solemn occasion. It was real special to us, as this was the first time we had a Communion service at our Smithville church. We formerly combined our Communion service with the Rittman church, and we are grateful to them for allowing us to do this. But the time came when room did not permit us to do this anymore - a good problem!

Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #182

On Good Friday evening, we were led to Calvary once again through the ministering of Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). How thankful we are that the story did not end there. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Jim also brought forth the glorious message of the resurrection. We thank him for his visit.

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

Luke 15:10

We are rejoicing with the angels that Sheila Hartzler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Gloria) and Florence Hanzie have repented and now await baptism. This is a rather unusual situation, as granddaughter and grandmother have gone through this blessed experience together. We look forward to welcoming them into the fold in the near future.

We are thankful a measure of health has again been granted to Harold Beery (Sis. Rhea) who spent some time in the hospital this past month.

Note: Our new telephone area code is 330.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

I Thess. 4:14

We are grateful that we are given such comforting promises from our Heavenly Father. Our prayers are with the family of Bro. Rolland

Whittaker who left this earth on April 12. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Herma, and children, Bro. Glen, Kathy Warrington (Steve), Sis. Mary Croy (Joseph), and Michael.

Bro. Al and Sis. Mary Ann Weigele are glad to welcome a new granddaughter. Elise Anna Weigele Schultz was born to Todd and Julie Schultz of Hudson, OH on March 29. May they be blessed with God's wisdom in raising their little one.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"

Psalms 105:1-5

As I wondered what I would write for this month's article, I considered the theme, "Rejoicing in the Lord". I searched the book of Psalms; what beautiful praises unto the Lord are found in this book, what wonderful reminders of the joy we find in serving Him. We have so many reasons to rejoice in all that He has done for those who love and serve Him.

We thank our Sunday School for the Easter program they shared with us on Easter Sunday as they shared the suffering of the Saviour and then the contrast, the joy of the resurrection with hymns and their Easter poems.

We are thankful for visiting minister, Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), who shared the Word with us recently, as well as many other visitors who took the time to worship with our small congregation.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

On the evening of March 31, we gathered to hear the Easter story expressed by our Sunday School children. As they reach the age of accountability, may they remember Christ the Redeemer who died on the cross, and come to Him in true repentance.

We rejoice with Sis. Becky Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Aden Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) as their betrothal was announced to us on March 31. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they will soon become one in the Lord.

We are thankful that Bro. Paul Dettwyler is home once again after a week's stay in the hospital. We hope he is soon able to assemble with us.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

Franz Soni

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

Isaiah 51:11

We thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for assisting Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman when we shared the Lord's Supper. We enjoyed fellowship and a church supper after Communion. These times are so special.

Sis. Ann Waibel was recently hospitalized and we wish her God's blessings.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Bro. Shawn Metzger's (Sis. Sandra) grandfather, Bro. Loren Strahm, of Lamont-Gridley, KS. May God comfort those he left behind.

We welcome all who are in the

area to come worship with us. If you are planning a summer vacation on the East Coast, we in Philadelphia welcome all visitors. Services on Sunday begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need more information, please call Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302) 478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Kristen Hohulin

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

As we celebrate Mother's Day this year, it is important to be thankful for all that our mothers do for us. We should be thankful that they love us so much that they exposed us to God when we were just children. Perhaps they took us to Sunday School when we were young. There are many ways that a mother shows her love. One way is by showing her children God's love through herself.

On March 17 we were richly blessed with a busload of visitors from Gridley, IL. We enjoyed spending the weekend with them and do appreciate them visiting us. Along with the visitors, we enjoyed having Bro. Steve Baner and Sis. Donnalou with us. We also had Bro. Tom Schrenk and Sis. Joan from Athens, AL. There were also many visitors from Lester, IA and Belvidere, IL. On April 14, we had visitors from Goodfield, IL with us. We also had visiting Bro. Tom Schrenk and Sis. Joan from Athens, AL.

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; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423)376-9153.

TEXAS, DALLAS & CENTRAL
Christine Kaiser
Kim Kaiser

Our small congregations in Texas were blessed with many appreciated visitors this past month. We are so grateful for their presence and fellowship.

Our Austin minister was Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). Round Top services in March were spoken by Bro. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS). Bro. Bill Zeltwanger also hosted services in early April where Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) was the Lord's servant for those in attendance. May God richly bless those who have given their time and love.

We rejoice with Dave and Shella Brummitt as God has brought a son, David Benjamin, into their home and family. David was born on April 10. Dave's parents were the late David and Sis. Karen Brummitt (Bloomington, IL). Little David's great-grandparents are Bro. Alpai and Sis. Lillian Witzig (Gridley, IL). Shella's father is Mucio Alcocer from San Angelo, TX. We extend our love and prayers to the Brummitt family.

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

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

Dallas Schedule:

May 19 - Cissna Park, IL

June 2 - Winthrop, MN
June 16 - Bradford, IL
July 7 - Altadena, CA
July 21 - Tucson, AZ

Central Texas Schedule:

May 12 - Smithville, OH at
Martins
May 26 - Holiday - no service
June 9 - Forrest, IL at Kaisners
June 23 - Sabetha, KS at
Brummitts
June 30 - Lamar, MO at
Zeltwangers
July 14 - Roanoke, IL at Martins
July 28 - Wichita, KS at
Zeltwangers

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz

Bro. Lloyd, Sis. Joyce and Julie Nohl are giving special care to Socarro, their eight-month-old foster child. Socarro has a brittle bone disease. May God bless them who give of themselves to provide for this little one.

We are enjoying the orange and yellow blossoms on our Pear cactus. They are blooming later this spring because of the dry weather. Our Wild Olive tree is full of white blossoms.

We sang "Blest Be The Tie" and other farewell songs often this month. Most of our winter residents have left for their homes up north. It is good to know that our hearts are bound in Christian love.

As Mother's Day nears, I treasure the precious memories I have of my mother, Sis. Rosa Jacob Ackerman. My mother died November 4, 1962. May God bless all mothers everywhere.



“JESUS FINISHED HIS WORK”

Sermon by Bro. Mike Rieker of Peoria, IL

John 16:25-33 and John 17:1-26

So much of what we read this morning here in this red-letter Bible is in red letters...the words of Jesus. In my humble estimation, it would seem that this portion of scripture is as insightful as any scripture there is. There is tremendous insight as to the mind of Christ and what He thought and perhaps even His summation.

It is His prayer here for those He walked with and loved and even for the whole world. There is places in His prayer here to the Father that included you and me, and those that, as we would say, weren't even thought of for years and years and years, but yet thought of by the One that knows it all, by the Heavenly Father and Jesus.

Here we have a tremendous insight and if there is nothing else as we go through here, there is something that just stands out (in what we read) so dramatically and so forcefully. To me, it seems like it is stronger here in what we read than in any place in the scripture.

It is that division. It is that line, of which side we are on. Which side of that line are you and I on? That line is salvation. That line being Jesus' own or not His own. As we hope to meditate here upon these various verses, over and over again He prays for His own, "For my own which is God's own," because they accepted Jesus and on and on and on.

It is those men and women who gave their hearts to God and then those who have not. It is a very stark reality. It is a fine line, and it is the most critical line of our whole life.

Here where we began to read in John 16:25 it says, "These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father."

He often spoke in proverbs and

parables and the accounts are there in the Bible for us today to read. I think as the years go by and we read those familiar parables, we continually, so to speak, get more out of them. They seem so simple on the surface, but they are deep.

We know a parable to be an earthly story with a special meaning, with a heavenly meaning. The more we think about the various parables that Jesus spoke of, the more we see the depth of what He was trying to say in parable after parable.

Here He says that the time has come to speak no more in proverbs and no more in parables, "but I will shew you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you." (John 16:25-26).

He is going to be gone, and they still cannot hardly grasp this that He is going to be gone. Then they, the apostles and the disciples and all that come after, can have a direct access to the Father. He said, "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." (John 16:26-27).

Here is where He even begins to say, "Because ye have loved me." This is the critical thing. Have we given it all to God? Have we? Even as we gathered and are sitting here today, if there be any that has not yet gone the full measure, the full step, we need to consider it...and consider it deeply!

Here in verse twenty-eight, it says, "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." Plain, isn't it? It is just like Jesus said, "I speak plainly unto you. Not in parable, not in prov-

erbs, but plainly." (See John 16:25).

He says plainly that He came from Heaven and He came from God. He was born as an earthly child. He was sent from God in this miraculous way that men and women and doctors could not begin to explain, because there is not an earthly explanation for it. It is a heavenly explanation. It is faith. It really happened. It really was the case where He came forth from the Father.

"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." (John 16:28).

He did not go to that tomb to be dead forever. He did only for the prescribed time, as the Father would have it to be.

Then He returned to the Father. It is nothing short of...actually...being incredible! There is not words for the whole process that took place, because it only happened once. Only once did such an event ever occur! Only once!

If you and I today would be of the select few that would walk on this earth today, to have been taught that this happened for the salvation of the souls of every man that God made, how fortunate we are to know this and to have accepted it and to go a step further to be aware of it. We must go that next step and come all the way!

We find in verse 29 a very interesting verse. How true it would be. I am sure that if I were there, I would have said the same thing. "His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb. Now are we sure that thou knowest all things..." (John 16:29-30).

They, too, were thankful that they could be spoken to plainly. We know that so many times even those who walked with Him just did not understand. It went right over their

head. So much of what Jesus taught them and spoke to them came into (you might say) reality or manifestation in their minds and hearts after Jesus was dead, after He was gone.

Then they said, "That's what He was talking about. Jesus told us and we could not understand." Surely I would be the same way. I would not have understood that this Man was going to be killed and bleed, die and be buried, then rise again and go out of sight to reign with God in Heaven.

It is very difficult to believe, but it is history now. It is fact. It happened! He told us it would happen, and it did! We do not have to even have a terribly lot of faith to know that it did. If for no other reason, because today, on this spring day, when Jesus lives in your heart and my heart, we do not wonder if Jesus is dead.

If His bones have returned to dust there in some cave or sepulcher in the Middle East, we do not think of that for a minute because He is alive! He is well! He is your Saviour and mine! He is reigning in Heaven!

Jesus answered them with a very simple question in verse thirty-one. It is probably the question for the entire ages. He asked them, "Do ye now believe?" (John 16:31). How simple and how incredibly deep! How incredibly important that is for all eternity!

"Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." (John 16:32). The time had come. Jesus was going to leave them.

Jesus is still gone. We don't have Him to come to a church house and listen to Him speak, I am sorry to say. We don't have Him to sit in the pews to look at, listen to and watch His mannerisms and hear the sound of His voice.

Someday we will. Someday we will look upon Jesus. We will! Do we

want that bad enough...more than anything in this world to where we would say, "Do ye now believe?" And the answer is "yes", someday? How wonderful it is even though we do not have Jesus physically with us, and the Lord God.

If we did not believe with all our hearts that the third part of that, the Holy Spirit, was not here today, it would all be in vain. We just as well be home sitting on our couches and reading the Sunday newspaper. That power is here on earth today, every day. The question comes, "What will I do with it? Will we ignore it or will we invite it in?"

"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). It is the end of the sentence and the end of the chapter. It was actually the cumulation of all. It was the end!

"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

We should be happy. It is so good, that we cannot comprehend it. It is the good news, it really is! It is also the realities. It says, "In this world ye shall have tribulation." It is a statement of fact and a statement of truth. It came right from the lips of Jesus. "As long as you are going to live in this world, you will have tribulation." Who among us could say that that is not the case? Every one of us knows first hand that in this world there is tribulation. There is sorrow and heartache.

Sometimes our heart gets "cut to the quick". We feel like we cannot feel any more hurt whether it be loss of a loved one to death or just real problems that we face, whether it be family or work-related or whatever the case may be. We can be really "cut apart and cut down." Jesus said, "It is going to come and I am going to help you." It says, "Ye shall have tribulation, but be happy and be of good cheer."

Down deep, we know that there is

that unseen help, our best Friend, Jesus, to help us through these days that we are on this earth and all the way to Heaven. Not that we would want to wish away our time.

Whether we are twenty, forty, or eighty, not one of us knows how many days we have left. We should be happy for our days. We should be thankful if we have a quality of health and life and can enjoy being up and being with each other and our loved ones. We should be thankful. Time goes so quick...so quickly! When it is gone, it is gone!

I have to think of when we have little children, maybe tiny babies. When it is time for their twelve o'clock midnight feeding or their 2:00 a.m. feeding, after a few weeks, that gets to be old when their days and nights are mixed up. How thankful we are, just have to be honest, when the tiny baby gets their days and nights straight. We go through those times or many other times and then those days are gone. They are gone and over with. Then all we can do is remember.

Maybe we would say that we are glad certain days are gone, that we would not want to relive certain things. So be it. There is no chance. We cannot. It is gone. It is past and it is history. Every day it is getting to be more ancient history. If that is what we are going away from, what we are heading toward is all eternity...all eternity. That, again, is what we want to think about this morning.

Then we come to chapter seventeen to the prayer which Jesus prayed. Again, there is tremendous insight and I encourage each one of you to go home and read it and re-read it to get many thoughts that I surely would not have. Dwell upon it.

It says, "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee." (John 17:1).

Again, I guess I forgot this verse

Sermon continued...

Sermon continued...

was coming. It is just what we got done talking about. Time passes and time goes on. Soon there is a cut-off or a certain period of time that was the future and now it is now. That is what Jesus said right here in the beginning, "Father, the hour has come."

That hour had been foretold for thousands of years by the prophets and all down through the ages in the Psalms and Proverbs and all those old prophets. They prophesied about this tremendous hour. It was a special time upon all the earth, and it was going to come.

Here He says, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." (John 17:1-2).

Yes, Jesus knew where the power was coming from. We are the ones that have to make sure that in our life, in our heart and in our mind, that we know where the power is and where it comes from. It does not come from us...not at all.

Think of God this morning. Picture Heaven and God there on His throne so far away—so terribly far away—and here this earth that is so huge. To our God, this is a little thing that He made with people like you and me.

It is incredible to think that God knows every hair on your head and mine. He knows even when we pray a prayer silently inside of ourself. He can hear every one. It is fantastic! We do not want to be separated from that this afternoon.

What if we were told that for two hours this afternoon we were going to be totally separated from God, from two o'clock to four o'clock, it will be total separation from God? We cannot read the Bible and we cannot sing a hymn. We are separate. We cannot pray, and we cannot do anything. We would dread it.

Then a time would come when it would work on our mind and drive us crazy. If we are separated from

God, there is going to be a time come when there will be a total separation forever. Hell would be separation from God of the ultimate kind. We cannot imagine it. We want to do all that we can do in our humble way and submissive way to insure our soul's salvation for all eternity.

In verse three, it says, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on this earth." Then there is a tremendous statement that Jesus made, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:3-4).

Think of the work that Jesus did. Think of the times He made so many people happy and the joy that He brought into peoples' lives when this man was healed of leprosy or another man could see after years of being blind. His good friend Lazarus was brought back from the dead to life.

Think of the tremendous joy and happiness that He brought to this world, to this earth, to people, to their families. But the time had come, and it did come and it was over. It was time for Him to leave. He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:4).

We know that in the Word here, it does not say anywhere that when He was ready to leave this earth, that all the blind could see, that there were no sick people, that there were not people that day or the day before dying and put to rest in the earth. Yet He said, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." (John 17:4).

There was a lot of work left to be done. There still is a lot of work to be done. But Jesus had done all He was asked to do. He had completed. Naturally, by faith, we accept that it is one hundred percent true that He had finished the work that God gave Him to do.

It does not say that everything was all good or that everything was all wonderful. Many times, when we

go away even on a vacation or something, and whether it be at work or home, we try to get all caught up and feeling good so we can go away. Well, Jesus was going to go away, but there were still a lot of sick people.

Lazarus was brought back to life and created such joy, such tremendous joy! We know that later, he would have died and been buried into the earth. Then there was a time of crying, sadness and sorrow as the tears would come. So it has been for the last nearly two thousand years.

What does that say to us? It says to us that we all have a job to do in our own station in life. We need to seek God's will and find out what He has for us to do and what we have to finish so that we could, hopefully, by the grace of God, complete our work that He has for you and me.

In the little sphere of influence that we may have in our families or our friends, or in school or business or whatever the case may be, in our life, we have a job to do. We cannot go out and save the entire world. We are not asked to, because we cannot.

Even Jesus, with the tremendous everlasting impact that He left upon this whole world, He did not travel every inch of the earth. No. He did what His Father had for Him to do and He could say, "It is finished."

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (John 17:5). Jesus knew what was waiting. He knew it then so much better than you and I do this morning.

We talk about Heaven, and we picture it. We long for it and think of how it must be. But Jesus knew...He really knew! We just hope and pray for ourselves and for our loved ones that none might have to be overlooked.

I am reminded of a song that we sing. It is hymn number 222 in the Hymns of Zion, a song called "Will The Circle Be Unbroken". As I look out this morning, I see so many circles, whether it be family circles or

our church as a circle.

A circle is not a circle if there is a piece missing. If there is just one piece missing, it is not a circle. A circle is continuous and encompasses all. It is not broken. Here in the first verse it says, "There are loved ones in the glory Whose dear forms you often miss." There are loved ones in Heaven whose bodies and beings we miss, for sure.

"When you close your earthly story Will you join them in their bliss?" That really gets home to all of us, does it not? Every one of us want to make it ourselves. We want our children to make it. We want our parents to make it. We want everyone we know to be there and the circle to be unbroken. This is a

tremendous song. I want to read another verse.

"In the joyous days of childhood, Oft they told of wondrous love, Pointed to the dying Saviour, Now they dwell with Him above. You remember songs of heaven which you sang with childish voice." Tonight will be the Easter program. When we see the children up here tonight, we ought to think of this.

"Do you love the hymns they taught you, Or are songs of earth your choice? You can picture happy gatherings, Round the fireside long ago, And you think of tearful partings, When they left you here below." A death is a tearful parting. It hurts real bad. It cuts us real hard. This songwriter knew that, didn't

he?

"One by one their seats were emptied, One by one they went away, Now the family is parted, Will it be complete one day? Will the circle be unbroken By and by, by and by? In a better home awaiting In the sky, in the sky?" We can think of those times that we have had together with our own families in our home or another home. But in this song it says that there will be a better home someday. There will be a better home awaiting in the sky!

It is time to close, but my eyes just now fell upon this verse that we read. It says, "Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?" (John 16:31).

The Shout

I listen for the trumpet sound
I listen for the shout;
the shout of "Come up higher"
the Apostle wrote about.

And then when I consider--
that shout could come today--
It makes my life here seem so small--
My problems far away.

The world, this cursed, decaying
world--will all be "left behind"
And I--I will be free at last--
Unfettered, unconfined.

Then as I rise, I scan the skies--
His is the face I long to see,
Ah--there He is--the matchless King!
My Lord--who bled and died for me!

written by a Bluffton, IN Sister





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the second article from excerpts taken from *A Treasure of Praise*, a history of the *Zion's Harp* hymnal.

The most prolific author who wrote specifically for the *Zion's Harp* was G.M. Mangold, a member of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Switzerland. This was the parent church of the Apostolic Christian Church.

G.M. Mangold wrote no less than 26 hymns and possibly as many as 29 for the *Zion's Harp*. He allegedly received his commission to collect songs for this church hymnal from Bro. S.H. Froehlich. The songs he personally authored reflect a deep and abiding reverence for God, and clearly portray inspiring spiritual truths that are essential to the Christian faith.

One of the songs he wrote that today is often sung is No. 52, "Repent Ye". It goes:

*Haste and seek your soul's
salvation;
Heed the word of God today!
Haste and flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.
Evil are the worldly pleasures
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure;
Ere the day of grace expire.*

Certainly as one reflects back, he can well remember the many times this song has followed a bristling sermon in which the minister pleaded for the wayward sinner to change his ways. It

seems that this song, when sung in such a context, is always appropriate and touching. There is no doubt that it has helped place strong conviction on the hearts of many listeners.

Some of Mangold's other popular hymns are "Up And Strive", No. 21; "The Sermon On The Mount", No. 54; "The Union of Hearts", No. 79; "The Faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ", No. 116; "Lord, Thou Creator", No. 118; and "Praise Ye The Lord", No. 208.

G.M. Mangold has the unique distinction of having written a hymn text while being held in prison—apparently for his faith in Christ. The song, "Now and Then", No. 191, was written while he was in prison at Mosbach, in Baden, Germany. Lacking paper, he scrawled on the wall of his cell. Obviously, at such a time of great duress, his soul was inspired to pour out his love, trust, and faith in the Almighty.

Perhaps verse two best depicts what was on his heart as he languished behind bars, forsaken of men, but not by God.

*Oh, love Him, all that are the
covenant's children*

*Who unto sin and worldly lust
have died.*

*And in His cruel death, with Him,
the Conqu'ror,*

*Are buried by baptism's bath
applied.*

*He gave in love His life and blood
so precious*

*To ransom us from guilt and
sinful debt.*

*He raised us up unto a life of
newness*

*By His great love and grace we
here are kept.*

It is quite evident that G.M. Mangold had a great love in his heart for the Lord as he wrote these many hymns. This is not only reflected in the above passages, but in the lyrics of all his songs.

Bro. Mangold was born December 25, 1822, at Chateau Salins in Alsace-Lorraine. He was 19 years younger than S.H. Froehlich, and was obviously very much influenced by him. He was 31 when he received his commission to begin gathering hymns for the "Neue Zionsharfe".

He died at age 72 and is buried in Fairbury, IL. He is the father of the late Bro. Michael Mangold, long a respected elder and church leader of Roanoke, Illinois, and the grandfather of the late elder, Bro. David Mangold, of Roanoke.

Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein

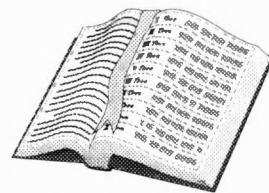
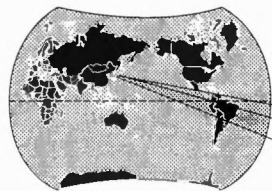
Next Issue:

More on the Zion's Harp history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Mother of All”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Are you a mother? If so, to what extent are you a mother? How many “children” do you have? How much influence do you have over the world at large? As we think of Mother’s Day, we need to consider these things.

It is written in Genesis 3:20, “And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.” Wouldn’t that take your breath away, to have that kind of a responsibility? Eve was and is the mother of the whole human race. Unfortunately, she was not the ideal mother because she yielded to the devil’s temptation, but it is some consolation that the Redeemer was born as a human being through her posterity. Mothers, your role in society is both inspiring and awesome. We salute you, trusting that you can have a good influence on your children and on all of your posterity, so long as life continues on this earth and even into eternity. You are very important.

If this is true for mothers, does not the same principle apply to all the rest of us? Those who do not

marry may have great influence over many children and even over other adults, depending on their profession. They become “mothers” to all those over whom they have influence. This influence, for good or for evil, may well perpetuate itself through the eons of the future. It’s a sobering thought and it does remind us that each one of us is very important, whether we have our own children or children by proxy. Eve was mother of all living while the rest of us are mothers (or fathers) of all our posterity. Either way, “Mother of All” is a very thought-provoking statement.

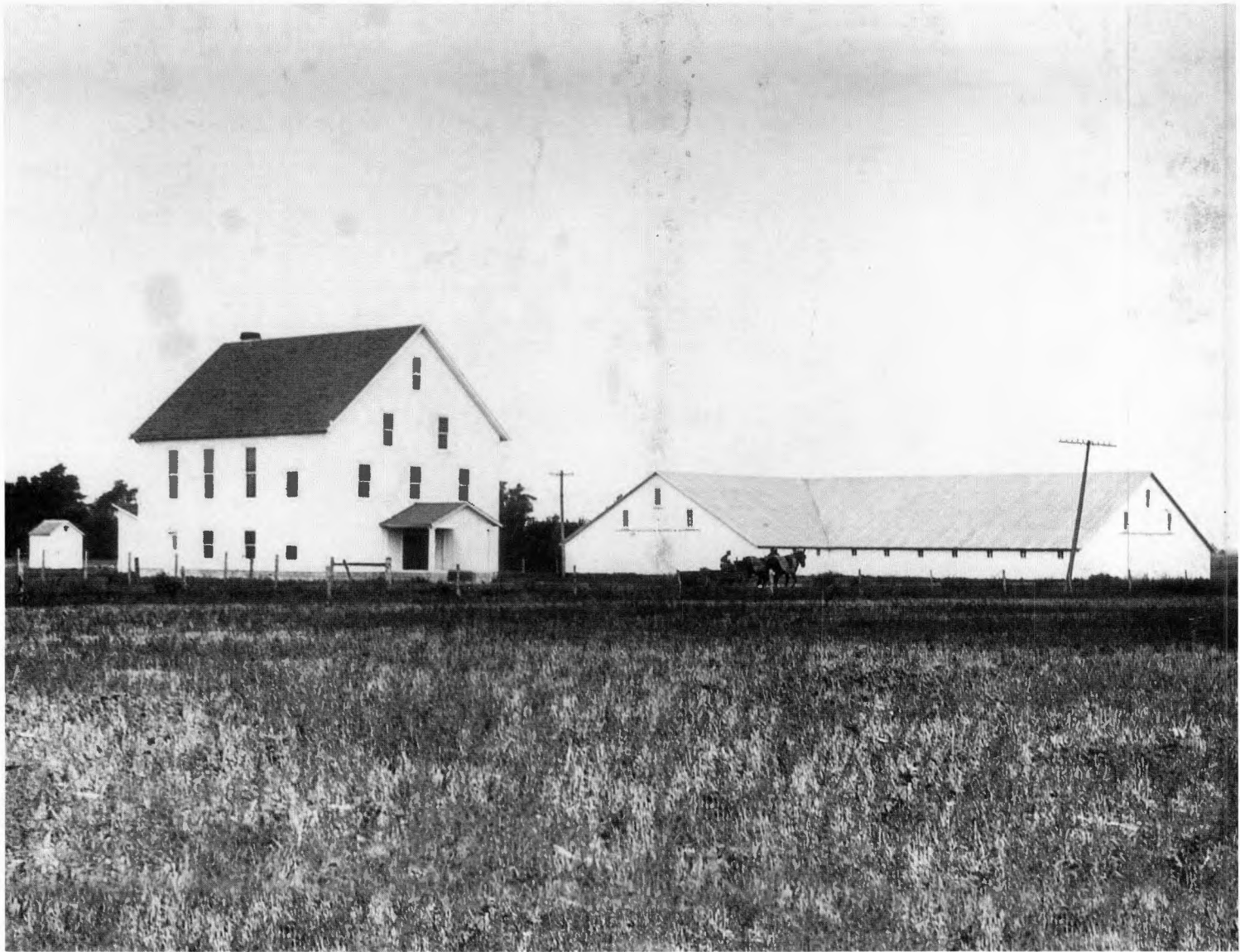
There is something consoling about this phenomenon. Even though I cannot get anything done in my lifetime, at least not to the extent I dreamed of, such as seeing a new church established in Japan every three years, it remains to be seen how much someone else, whose life I have touched, may be able to accomplish, by God’s grace. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among

many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (II Timothy 2:2). This is the same principle as that which applies to mothers. You mothers no doubt hope and pray that your children will be able to accomplish what you have been unable to carry out because of lack of time and too much pressure. Or it may not be your children but someone you have influenced, someone else’s child.

Thinking along these lines, I have great hope and expectations for our church in the future. As we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, we will be more completely dead to self and increase in the Spirit, completely nullifying the efforts of the Wicked One.

Mothers, you are the mother of all your posterity, but the same concept applies to all the rest of us. It is very encouraging to know that we can each make a difference over a long period of time.

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Francesville, IN - 1912

The Francesville congregation had its beginning in 1905 when families settled in the Francesville area.

Philip Gutwein Sr., a minister, moved from Hungary with his family and settled in Francesville in 1906. Meetings were held in homes until 1912 when a church building was built on the Albert Gudeman farm at the west edge of Francesville. A large barn was built on the same site to accommodate the horses and buggies.

Philip Gutwein Sr. was ordained in 1932 as the first resident Elder at Francesville. Philip Gutwein Jr. began the ministry at the age of seventeen years and served until he died in 1962. Wendell Gudeman was ordained as Francesville's second resident Elder on April 13, 1969.

The original church building has undergone many additions and alterations since 1912, leaving the first structure still part of our present church. The brethren who lived during the early days of the church testify that even though the building has changed, the Faith has not. Salvation is attained through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and in obedience to God's Word.

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