

The Silver Lining



The Good Shepherd Giveth His Life for the Sheep

March 1997

"THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD"

Sermon by Bro. Clark Stoller of Gridley, IL
Acts 20

We have all had situations where we were in someone's presence that we knew we were going to see them no more. Those times are very touching, and generally, there are tears.

Paul encountered that here when he told these individuals, "I am going on this ship. I likely will see you no more." That reminds us of how short life is. That reminds us why we come to church on Sunday, why we need a Saviour, and why our sins have to be blotted out.

That reminds us why God looked down on us and said, "I see these people here. They need a Saviour. There needs to be a sacrifice for these people. There is only one Person who can do it." Only one individual can be that sacrifice, and that is the only begotten Son of God and His blood.

We never want to take the Bible lightly, or never take a Sunday in church lightly, or take a day of grace lightly. Do we thank God every day? I trust that we do for this day of grace that we have been given. We kneel beside our bedside and say, "God, Almighty, thanks for this day of grace." We will need grace from day to day...grace to overcome.

Several years ago, we had a Sunday school picnic and there was one of our friends there, a mother, who was about 34 years old. She was sitting there with some sisters and they were starting to clean up. She said, "You know, I don't think I could ever be a child of God. I just don't think I could continue to overcome like I need to."

One of the sisters reminded her, "You are right. Physically, you cannot do it. We poor humans are not capable of that. It is God's grace that helps us overcome and

stay true and faithful. It is not what we do of ourselves."

When we reach Heaven's door, and Judgment Day, it will be the shed blood of Jesus Christ that is our atonement, not anything that we have done.

So, loved ones, if you and I face discouragement at any time and we say, "There is no way that we as mortals can be found worthy," remember, it is the blood of Jesus Christ and His grace that will help us and be the atonement.

This morning you may sit here and say, "Yes, I would like to repent. Yes, I know I have sins that I have committed. Yes, I know I was born a sinner." If we acknowledge all those things and still do not have faith to proceed with repenting, remember this: all of us felt that way. All those of us who are converted felt unworthy and felt we could not complete a life for the Lord.

I remember, as a teenager, talking to a seventy-year-old cousin of my father's. He said, "It's the amazing grace of God" that allowed him to repent of his sins and remain true and faithful. Now that dear old soul is nearing the end of his time. He still is counting on grace. You and I can count on grace every day because it is boundless! It has no limits!

No matter how many people came repenting today, God would have grace enough to help each one in their walk of life. There is mercy for every soul.

To finish the story, this young mother at the Sunday School picnic thought on the words of those people around her who had encouraged her and reminded her that it was God's power that would help her repent. It would be God who would forgive her sins. Last

year, she was baptized. She found grace to repent of her sins, found grace to live faithful, found peace with God and with man and is a very, very happy individual. She is very thankful to know she is ready to die. She works on the ambulance squad. More than once, she has held the pulse of a dying soul and felt them slip from life into eternity.

Paul was not afraid to die for the faith. Are you and I? I sometimes question where I would stand if the authorities walked in here and said, "All right, we are going to lock everybody up that believes in Jesus Christ. We will put them on trial and those that are found guilty will die."

In another account, Paul writes how many times he was beaten because of his beliefs, and how many times he was locked up in prison. What did he do in prison? Sing praises to God! Do you and I sing praises when we are not in prison? Do we sing praises to God when we're not afflicted, and have many reasons to be thankful? I trust that we do.

Sermon continued on page 45

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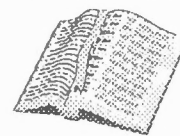
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*"The entrance of thy words
giveth light; it giveth under-
standing unto the simple."
(Ps. 119:130)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 1997

Is Obedience to the Church Necessary?

In an era of independent thinking, when the world glorifies individualism and pluralism, the question of obedience to the Church is a timely one.

Diversity has become a standard in the national mindset. Satan would love to make it a standard among the brethren. Therefore it is profitable to search God's Word for an answer to the question—Is obedience to the Church really necessary?

The Church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18). It is the pillar and ground of truth (I Tim. 3:15). The Church is instituted of God for the purpose of preaching the gospel, preserving godly order, and perpetuating the truth to future generations so long as the Lord tarrys.

Clearly defined spiritual direction, offered lovingly and with a "certain sound" (I Cor. 14:8), is given by the leaders of the church because elders are charged with the responsibility to "...watch for your souls, as they that must give account,..." (Heb. 13:17). They do not "...have dominion over your faith but are helpers of your joy:" (II Cor. 1:24).

A pluralistic response to the Church's Bible-based direction undermines the unity and closeness among the saints. As God's people submit to God-given counsel, and serve the Lord in a like-minded way (Rom. 15:5), a much richer sense of brotherhood ensues. The "unity in diversity" concept so profoundly promoted in society today is a contradiction.

Because Christ is the head of the Church, it is reasonable to assume that Christ (the head) and the Church (its members) are inseparable. Thus, obedience to Christ is obedience to the Church; and obedience to the Church is obedience to Christ. It is a simple truth that stands against a tidal wave of diversity in our time. It rebukes the mistaken pattern that it is acceptable to do "what is right in your own eyes".

Godly authority in the Church is vested in and administered by elders. In the spirit of Acts 15 they offer deliberate and kindly guidance to God's people. Because the Word is of no private interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20), they seek its counsel and then collectively confirm how it can best be applied in a practical way.

The leadership's intent is to sincerely seek the truth and convey it to the brotherhood. Because the doctrine of "following Christ and the apostles" (as opposed to having faith "only") is a sound biblical concept, the matter of applying scriptures to everyday life is a sound, essential, and biblical ideal.

The Church, as led by God's Spirit, teaches us that if we want to fulfill the Word, we must apply it to our daily lives. It is important that the individual members of the Church follow this teaching. We are instructed to "Obey them who have the rule over you" (Heb. 13:17).

Hebrews 13:17 also says to "submit yourselves". In this we are to yield ourselves to those who have earthly authority over us. Additionally, the Bible teaches us to "Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (manner of life) (Heb. 13:7).

As individual members of Christ's body, we are to submit to our spiritual leaders (whom God has placed over us for our benefit). They are accountable to God for their stewardship over us—"...for they watch for your souls as they that must give an account..." (Heb. 13:17). If we are not submissive to those with God-given authority, it will take away the joy of those in authority and be unprofitable to us.

The scriptural requirement to obey the Church lends a sense of stability to the community of saints, and it further enhances the preservation of the truth of God's Word and our spiritual heritage, for subsequent generations. Moreover, scriptural obedience is pleasing to God.

Obedying the Church also helps to insure a common application of doctrine. The Bible emphasizes the need for likemindedness (Phil. 2:2) and keeping the same spiritual judgments (I Cor. 1:10). When we are likeminded, the possibility of each brother and sister walking by the same rule and minding the same thing is assured (Phil. 3:16). Our collective yoke is stronger if we all pull in the same direction.

As the Church, after prayerful consideration, gives definition to the Word, a common (like-minded) application of doc-

trine results. Similar application of God's Word results in a warmer and deeper spiritual unity. A diminished or diverse application of scripturally based doctrine, where each individual takes whatever liberties they wish, creates a sense of unease among the brethren which results in confusion, spiritual insecurity, and disunity which constitute the very antithesis of what the Bible teaches.

Dismissing Church guidance is injurious in at least three ways: (1) it violates the scriptures, (2) it can cause well-intentioned fellowbelievers to become weak and perhaps stumble, and (3) it blurs/dims a consistent witness to the world and to our children.

We who have repented for our sins and propose to seriously follow Christ's Spirit (and His Word), are no longer in authority. We have forfeited our fleshly preferences; our old man is spiritually dead (Col. 3:3). We have become crucified with Christ and are to be subordinate to Godly authority; therefore our "former lusts" (I Pet. 1:14) of pride, vanity, highmindedness, stubbornness, and self-will are to be replaced (via an inner presence of the Holy Spirit) with submission, humility, and yieldedness.

Obedience, even if we don't have a strong conviction, is required for good order in various aspects of life: A child is to obey his parents; A servant is to obey his master; A wife is to submit to her husband (as it is fit in the Lord); Citizens are to honor the king. Kindly authority and a willing response surely create order in the Church and are pleasing to God.

If we disobey the Church, we are exalting ourselves. The Word teaches us that we are to esteem them that are over us in the Lord "very highly in love for their works sake" (I Thess. 5:13). To disobey is to show a lack of esteem.

Finally, our calling to Christ is one of submission. His obedience was unto death. Rather than ignoring those who are in authority, or dismissing their wise counsel, we are to submit, obey and support them by "holding up their arms" of guidance. It is our duty to obey the Church. The Bible tells us to do so regardless of the pressures of society.



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

USA Board – Meeting needs in America

When the Work Projects Committee was integrated into the World Relief Committee, the geographical area of the United States was without a coordinating sub-committee or board. That need was satisfied with the establishment of the USA Board at the World Relief Committee Meeting held at Taylor, Missouri in December 1992. Previous established boards were the European, Caribbean, Mexico, and India Boards that covered the other areas where there were approved projects or spheres of World Relief interest.

Board coordinates efforts

The USA Board is the focal point for coordinating the World Relief Committee's efforts in the United States to fulfill the biblical directive,

"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

While we live in the country with one of the highest standards of living in the world, we find those in need and hurting, the down and out, especially after natural disasters. Because of generous giving from our congregations across the land, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to respond to these needs.

Needs being met

Our work projects have helped meet needs by cleaning up and rebuilding dwellings, and by providing material support directly to the victims, and through established disaster relief agencies. Many willing volunteers have responded to hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, earthquakes in California, floods in Ohio, floods along the Mississippi River, in Oregon, and

tornadoes in various places. Each of these disasters gave opportunities for many of our brethren and friends to become directly involved in these projects.

Construction projects

New dormitories have been built for children's homes in Kentucky. Many volunteers have remodeled and built new churches for our congregations. One of the latest projects was providing materials and the installation of a waste water system for a Navajo Indian Home for Abused Children in Arizona. We also built a storage building from which they distribute the food grain, clothing, and health kits we have collected and donated to them.

Opportunities at home

While the field work projects may require certain abilities and interests, the Lord gives others the desire and the talents to assist those in their local area. We have on-going local projects that provide opportunities for us to serve others and yet be near our home.

Some of these include the sewing groups where many quilts and health items are sewn and assembled. Sunday School pupils and young folks across the land assemble health and school kits for children in destitute third world countries.

Distribution centers

Food parcels are packaged by the food packaging project at the Bluffton, Indiana Distribution Center and are then shipped to our brethren in Eastern Europe. Our Distribution

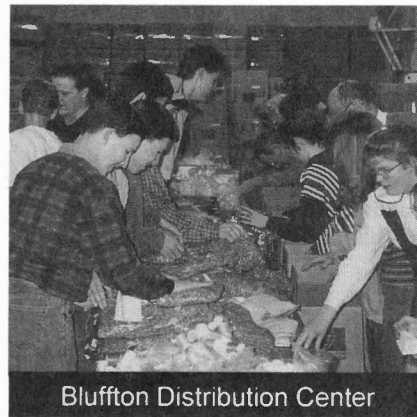
Centers, with the help of volunteers, collect, prepare, and containerize material donations for shipment to hospitals, nursing homes, and schools in Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico.

Other ongoing projects help provide for the physical, social, and spiritual well being of those in their areas. Examples are the Open Tomb in Champaign-Urbana, IL; Woodford County Heart House in Eureka, IL; and Faith, Hope, and Love Living Center in Peoria, IL. Some of our congregations support and volunteer to staff soup kitchens.

If you see a need

If anyone knows of a situation that is too large for the local congregation to fill, they should contact their World Relief Treasurer-Representative.

The suggestion should first be discussed with the local leadership. If it is found worthy of further consideration, a project request form should be completed and sent to the USA Board.



Bluffton Distribution Center

The Board will then consider the merits of the proposal based upon the criteria established by the national World Relief Committee. If the criteria have been met, the proposal will be presented to the World Relief Committee at the next scheduled meeting. If approved at the Committee level, the proposal will be considered an authorized project. Projects are not products of the Boards nor the World Relief Committee, but are the results of brethren and friends communicating needs and the desire to "do good to all men."



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

(Article on Rural Gospel & Medical Missions of India. Continued from last month)

Continuing their journey, having been given our church minister book, they stopped in Bluffton and Leo, where they met Elder Bros. Sam Aeschleman and John Yergler. They also learned of our congregation in Altadena, CA, not far from their home in Pasadena. They felt this, too, was providential. There they contacted our Elder and began attending services.

This led to mutual deep respect for each other and our church. It awakened in their hearts the prospect of God leading them toward the answer to their most fervent prayer, that He provide a source of spiritual guidance and counsel to sustain their work in India after their deaths. In 1969, convinced of God's guidance, they placed this request with our Elders. In response, Elders on several occasions visited them in Pasadena. This included Bros. Noah Schrock, John Bahler and Silas Leuthold among others. They were impressed with Mr. and Mrs. Bhagwats' conversion testimonies, the descriptions of their work in India and their deep concern for the future of RGMMI. By this time, Mr. Bhagwat had complete confidence in our brotherhood and pleaded for our assistance. These Elders' reports were presented in meetings with the Mission and World Relief Committees as well as the full Elder Body. Records of these meetings show that recognition of God's leading in this matter had sufficient substance and that it should not be dismissed out of hand. It was decided to send three brothers to India to determine the status of the work there and potential compatibility with our faith and doctrine. This trip took place in March 1970. These brothers reported to the Elder Body that they were impressed with the spiritual work which they found to be as Mr. Bhagwat had described it. They found, of course, several cultural differences that would need to be recognized and addressed. Also, the medical and orphanage activities seemed well established albeit at a poverty level. They did find some

deficiencies in the management group in India. The conclusion of that meeting was that no firm action or decision would be taken until RGMMI was operating with a workable committee in India. Only then would our brotherhood be in a position to evaluate what help we could be, if any. There was approval given to provide some necessary material aid through the World Relief Fund. Thus, a time of prayerful waiting and monitoring ensued.

During the watchful decade of the '70's, several events occurred that signaled indications that God was leading us to further involvement in India. In 1973, Dr. Shantwan from India visited the U.S. where he was exposed to our Apostolic Christian faith and doctrine. Dr. Gajanin Bhagwat also visited. In 1976, three World Relief Brothers visited India to review the material needs and were impressed with the spiritual and material work of RGMMI. In 1977, our church provided funds to build a new church building for their largest congregation at Balhana. Towards the end of the '70's as the Bhagwats' health waned, they felt the increasing urgency for the provision of oversight of their India work and again requested our church to assist them. They took some legal steps to pave the way for this if God so directed. They revised their wills to establish a Trust putting their resources in the U.S.A. and India into the hands of our brothers as Trustees. In 1979, they dissolved their U.S. Board of Directors and reestablished it with brethren from our church. This latter was done after permission was granted by the Elder Body. In January 1980, Mr. Bhagwat passed away. This prompted a quick journey to India in March 1980 by two of the U.S. Directors and an American attorney to deliver Mr. Bhagwat's will and to start probate on the Mission properties in India which the Bhagwats privately owned. As 1981 approached, the Elders planned another inspection trip to India by our brethren to determine the status and practicality of our further involvement there. In January 1981, Mrs. Bhagwat passed away. What now, Lord? The planned visit proceeded in February 1981.

The report brought back described the

great need for on-going guidance and counseling. It was felt the work in India had been established at the Lord's direction and that He had brought our church into this acquaintanceship with RGMMI and that it was of the Lord for us to try to provide as much help as we could. We would do this by having brothers visit India periodically to inspect the work, to provide spiritual guidance and counsel and to help with the administration of their operations and provision of material support. Our role would primarily be one of stewardship in an administrative capacity to shepherd, guide and advise but not to become active at the local level in terms of participating in the sacraments or rites of the church, i.e., communion, baptism, ordination, etc. Three criteria were established for the continuance of our involvement:

1. That we would be welcome in India.
2. That we would be free to counsel and to teach according to our Apostolic Christian doctrines and principles.
3. That we would see evidence of fruits of these efforts. This, in effect, would give us complete control in doctrinal matters. With the Lord's help, we would try to fulfill their request to, "*Teach us to be Apostolic Christian-like.*"

Thus, the pattern of visiting India to keep watch and to assist them both spiritually and materially has continued to the present time. Sixteen trips have been made to India involving nearly 20 different brothers. Most of them have been Elders. The Mission Committee provides the support for the spiritual work in India and the World Relief Fund the support for the medical, orphanage and administrative work. Reports of the status and progress of RGMMI are given at each of these committees' regular meetings.

At present in India, there are 17 congregations, 625 members, a number of baptisms each year, over 2,600 patients treated each month, 78 boys and 34 girls provided care by the orphanage/boardings arm and 23 paid staff members.

It was by the grace of God that our beloved church became involved with this work in India. As He daily supplies encouragement and support to our brotherhood, the work continues.

Alternatives to Public Education

From the Elder Body

Two editorials on The Education of Our Children have focused attention on public education. Several alternatives to public education are discussed below.

Many parents are justifiably concerned about the spiritual well being of their children as they come into contact with worldly influences at school. Alternatives to public education are becoming increasingly more popular.

The Elder Body recognizes that despite the best of efforts, public education may not be the best option for everyone. In some cases, home schooling or private schooling may be in the best interest of the children and the family.

The Elder Body supports the decision of parents who have a conviction to home school their children. For those who choose home schooling, the following concerns need to be considered. Home schooling has proven to be a blessing for some, but it is not for every family. Not every mother is capable of this heavy responsibility of maintaining the continual discipline of managing the home and teaching the children. Nor does every family have the necessary skills to be teachers of academic matters. We would want to be sure that we don't create more problems than we solve.

Parents involved in home schooling will often seek out some form of support organization to help each other in the selection of study materials, to discuss how to handle various discipline problems, how to schedule the day, and in general to give moral support to each other.

Intermingling with other faiths in home schooling organizations can lead to spiritual confusion. The potential for doctrinal confusion and deception resulting from this can be very great. It can also result in a feeling of separation from the brotherhood.

If families choose home schooling, it is very important that the entire responsibility not be left to one parent. In most cases the greater responsibility will fall upon the mother. Fathers must realize that this could place a very heavy load upon their wives and they need to be willing to help with this important task. If these factors are considered, then home schooling can provide a very appropriate way to help our children.

If parents have a conviction to do so, the Elder Body also supports their efforts to establish their own private schools. Many of the concerns about home schooling also apply to private schools. In either case, participants should avoid intermingling of either the students or the adults with other "Christian" groups. The potential for doc-

trinal confusion and deception resulting from this can be very great. This can also tend to separate us from the fellowship of brethren by the social fellowship of others outside our church. Parents who turn the education of their children over to other believers, such as in a private school, should not become lax in their own efforts to "...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

There are a number of factors to be considered in planning to establish a private school. It is important that a project of this nature be carefully planned with much prayer. The Scripture teaches that we are to count the cost (Luke 14:28-30), to make sure we can finish what we start, and not to be a poor example to our neighbors. Some of the cost issues associated with a private school include legal requirements, financial cost, time commitments, and spiritual impact. A private school will likely take about a year to adequately plan.

We believe that the following guidelines, if considered when establishing a private school, will help make this effort more successful.

1. Because of the commitment that will be required to make a private school work, it is important that those involved give good time to prayer and meditation to be sure that they are following their convictions and not just being influenced by others.

2. The desire to start a private school should be discussed with your local Elder and with other area Elders if their congregations will be involved. Those parents who do not feel moved to participate should not be made to feel that they are negligent in their parental duties, nor should those participating have to feel that they are in conflict with our church's position.

3. A study committee of interested parents can be established to prepare a plan for organizing and operating the proposed school, including the best estimate of costs (financial, time, and effort). Economic aspects, including time commitment, are substantial. Unless teachers are willing to serve for well below public school salary levels, annual operating costs will be about \$2400 per elementary student per year, with high school costs 50-100% higher. This cost could possibly limit private school availability to smaller or more well-to-do families, or it could lead to an undesirable increase in the number of working mothers.

4. Consideration should be given to 1) the effect the private school will have on the relationship of the brotherhood in the

local church or churches, and 2) the effect the private school will have on the public school system in the area. Good planning and communications can avoid offence. Care should be taken not to undermine the efforts of conscientious public school administrations.

5. The mission or purpose of the private school should be clearly understood. The school's mission/purpose should not be for the teaching of church doctrine or the conversion of souls. It should be focused on providing a safe, non-worldly environment to teach the children the skills needed to function in future jobs, training or education. The objectives of the school need to be clearly understood by all involved. If the purpose of the school is for "training up a child," a school for younger children is appropriate. However, if the purpose is to shield them from the world, the older grades become more important. Pre-schools which take children away from their parents is not appropriate nor consistent with our church teachings.

6. The state board of education should be contacted to obtain the requirements for establishing a private school within that state. This can minimize potential conflicts with the authorities. There are no current legal restrictions or regulations preventing the establishment of private schools that cannot be overcome. Some restrictions exist such as recordkeeping of attendance and immunization, and some minimum curriculum standards.

7. Any school that is started should not be licensed or chartered. This would only bring the school back under the control of the state.

8. The curriculum should be developed, or purchased, with a focus on education. Carefully screen any "Christian" literature selected for use as it generally has a doctrinal impact. Curriculum materials are readily available, with good freedom of choice; however, considerable time is required to screen.

9. Inter-scholastic competitive activities such as sports, math leagues, etc. should not be part of the curriculum. Exercise can be accomplished through means not in conflict with the long standing position of the church.

10. A school board chosen from the brothers of the church will avoid an unequal yoke with the world.

11. The administrator and teachers of the school should be members in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church and should be supportive of rules, regulations, customs and practices of the church. They should not serve simultaneously as a

member of the board.

12. We recommend any activities of a spiritual nature be according to the rules, regulations, customs and practices of the Apostolic Christian Church of America as set forth by the Elder Body in accord with the Holy Scriptures. This will bring peace in the church and a blessing upon the efforts.

13. To avoid confusion, the school's name should not include the name of our church.

14. Be sure before starting the school that those involved are able to handle the increased financial responsibility, or that

other financing is available.

15. A handbook of expectations such as organizational structure, teacher, parent, and student responsibilities, dress code, etc. prepared in advance can avoid many problems. The administrative structure of a private school must be well established, with discipline policies established in advance. The disciplinary approaches must not adopt the "world's" motivational techniques. Decisions may need to be made as to who is eligible to attend, and how the expected pressure to add extracurricular activities will be handled. Limiting attendance to families of like values, or

screening out students with behavioral problems can cause stress in the brotherhood.

16. Having the local Elder(s) and/or a minister, appointed by the Elder, as an ex-officio member of the school board is a good way to maintain good communications within the church.

17. School problems must be kept out of church worship. For the benefit of the teacher, school problems should not be discussed with the teacher at church or any church function.

The Three Trees

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell.

"Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be

a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, with treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river; instead she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..." Many many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered.

The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth. One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

“And Are You Barabbas?”

Barabbas hunched on the cold stone floor
 'Gainst the moldering wall of his cell
 A glimmer of light from the crack 'neath the door
 Was the only way he could tell

That morning had dawned. An awakening world
 Stirred with the bustle of day,
 And none in that city remembered or cared
 That Barabbas was locked away.

Perhaps he thought of those whom he loved
 Of those he would see no more.
 Perhaps he wished he had never done
 The deed he was punished for.

Perhaps a tear rolled down his cheek,
 Perhaps he longed and sighed;
 But the merciless manacles about his feet
 Would bind him till he died.

At length, a commotion in the passage outside
 A clanking of armor and spear
 A clatter of boots! The door burst wide,
 And Barabbas was filled with fear.

Was this the day he'd be crucified
 On the hill called Calvary?
 “Barabbas!” one of the soldiers cried,

“We've come to set you free!”
 The brilliant sun streamed into the cell
 Dispelling the dankness and gloom;
 Barabbas, bathed in the sunlight, fell
 On his knees in the midst of the room.

“But...how can this be?” he quavered in shock;
 Doubt mingled with awe on his face.
 Removing his shackles, the soldier replied,
 “Because Jesus took your place!”

And are you Barabbas? And does your soul lie
 In a moldering dungeon of sin,
 Kept by the twin jailers of Satan and pride,
 Who will let no light shine in?

But do you not know that the key's in your hand,
 And a way has been made to escape?
 Why do you yet languish in sin and despair
 Knowing that hell is your fate?

O come to the Saviour and give Him your life,
 He will grant you abundance of grace.
 You need not stay captive, but come and go free,
 For Jesus has taken YOUR place.

—a Sister in Faith

Thanks and Praise to Jesus

What better thoughts are there ever to
 think —
 Than of Jesus, our Saviour, who in death
 did sink.
 All out of love that we may live,
 Surrendering His all, is what He did
 give.
 Think of the thoughts He knew out
 ahead —
 Of that dark night where His steps were to
 be led.
 In the severe testing of Gethsemane alone,
 Oh, that He wouldn't have to bear
 this, to atone —
 For all the sins of humanity, that ever
 gave birth,
 He would have to suffer before He could
 leave this earth.
 His own chosen friend gave Him a kiss
 that would kill,
 Surely causing pain in His heart, that deed
 did fulfill.
 Submitting completely in the hands of evil
 men.
 Were His thoughts easy when He went
 with them then?
 The trials and testing He had to listen to,
 When He was Greater than those that
 this would do.
 To be spit in His face with His hands tied
 behind His back.

How dirty this would feel, what love they
 did lack.
 Scourged with those whips until He did
 bleed,
 And who helped the Saviour in His hour of
 need?
 The crown of thorns crushed down upon
 His head,
 The curse of earth that men deserved
 instead.
 Blindfolded, and a hand struck Him across
 His face,
 He didn't deserve all this for the human
 race.
 And on, and on, the trial went throughout
 the night,
 Not a glimmer of love from those men
 were in sight.
 Going to Calvary with the cross, what a
 load —
 Tired, and wounded, Satan would have
 liked to take hold.
 He could have called legions of angels to
 set Him free,
 Submission was His life, that He gave for
 you and me.
 The final steps to Calvary, He came to at
 last.
 Then down on the cross He was laid for
 each blast —
 Of the hammer, with a nail His flesh was

pierced through,
 Oh, the pain He did feel, not any of us
 knew.
 With His body on the cross, it was made
 upright to stand,
 Not with gentleness in the hole, was it
 made to land.
 The seconds, the minutes, the pain and
 torment,
 Through His mind and body, what a terror
 it sent.
 “Oh, My God, My God, why hast Thou
 forsaken Me?”
 Let us not forget this pain that God let it
 to be.
 He did not deserve one thing of all He bore,
 We were the ones deserving of this and
 much more.
 He gave up the Ghost, “'Tis finished,” He
 had said.
 Oh, what sin has brought, and on Him was
 laid.
 These thoughts of His suffering, we should
 think upon,
 Until our life is finished, and the crown is
 won.
 Thanks and praise to Jesus, who has loved
 us so —
 Of all His suffering, none of us can truly,
 truly know.

—A Believer

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

We're distributing more used Bibles in the United States now, although some are still sent overseas. Thanks for your continued support. You may get your books to either of us or Wing or Bluffton World Relief Centers.

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles distributed by our Churches

1997	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL — 14 YEARS
Feb.	3,281	7,063	351,142

* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

NOTE: A new listing of Bibles and Testaments available for distribution can be obtained through a note or call to:

David Bertsch
11520 Grabill Road
Grabill, IN 46741
(219)627-2923 (fax the same number)

**PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS**

A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

There are seven Testaments in each plastic box. This requires a regular check and re-fill of the boxes.

The plastic boxes and labels are available at the Leo Bible Distribution Center, 11520 Grabill Road, Grabill, IN 46741.

baskets, playing T-Ball and playing catch in the Multi-Purpose Room are a few of the ways the residents keep in shape during the winter months. We must keep in shape for the Special Olympics events coming in Spring. Many residents also enjoy watching slides of current and past residents and employees. This is one of our favorite pastimes. We also made up our own Valentine Bingo game on Valentine's Day which included candy prizes. The residents were thankful for the many cards and letters they received on Valentine's Day.

We welcome two new residents to our large facility, Marjorie Feller and Richard Harvey. There has also been facility moves for some residents in February. Marian Funk and Rhonda Pullen moved from Oakwood Estate to our CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) on Minnesota street. Sharilyn Rowell and Janet Schweigert moved from Linden Estate to join Marian and Rhonda at the Minnesota CILA. Nancy Theis and Delores Wieland moved from our large Home to Oakwood Estate, and Karen Blunier and Nancy Jones moved to Linden Estate.

April birthdays for all facilities are: ACHH - Gail Kennedy (4), Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Zita Palko (27), Jon Terhorst (30). OAKWOOD - Sonja Metzger (14). Mark Gundy (17). LINDEN - Jane Kohler (1), Nancy Jones (27).

Eureka Apostolic Christian Home

Spring Auction and Bake Sale

The Eureka Apostolic Christian Home Auxiliary is planning the Spring Auction and Bake Sale to benefit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be held April 19th at Eureka Middle School. The Benefit will include a bake sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sandwiches, pie, and drink) will be served at 11:00 a.m., auction will begin at 12:00 noon, with quilts sold at 2:00 p.m.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As the cold winter months make it more difficult to get around and visit friends and relatives, it is not uncommon for some people to experience loneliness and become anxious for Springtime. Jesus tells us in St. John 14:18, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." As we remember the gift of God's Holy Spirit, it gives us faith and confidence that the Lord will provide for our every need from day to day.

For the past few months we have spent most of our time in the warmth of the indoors. We do have quite a bit of space inside our facility, and we have made good use of it. Shooting

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

In a rapidly changing world where information multiplies at astronomical rates, where access to that information is so immediate, and where news is old before we read it, what can we really count on? With such an increase in learning and information, why does it seem that illusion, confusion and deception have increased as well? What is reliable? Who is dependable? What can someone really believe?

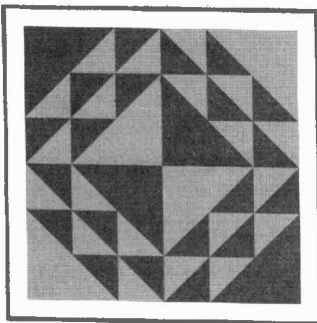
In a recent discussion with some

HOUSE PARENT NEEDED

We at Gateway Woods have enjoyed being fully staffed for some time now. Trent and Heidi Schrock have informed us that they will be leaving the Alternate Houseparent position and moving on to other work in the Spring of 1997. This will offer an opportunity for someone, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry with the rest of us at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close working relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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



GATEWAY WOODS Apostolic Christian Childrens Home

Annual Auction and Sale

Saturday, August 16, 1997

We invite you to join us. Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office at 219-627-2159.

men at the rescue mission, these questions were posed, "How do we know what is true?" "There are many things that are 'true' in a given time or place, but what is Truth with a capital 'T'?" "Isn't Truth something that is always true for all people at all times in all situations?" I could think of no other answer but Jesus Christ and the Bible. I was also reminded of Pilate in John 18 when he asked the rhetorical question "What is truth?" Pilate did not even wait for an answer from Jesus. Neither did he or nor did the learned high priests realize that standing before them clothed in human flesh with blood dripping from His thorn-crowned head was Truth with a capital T. Jesus had said just the night before, "I am the way, the truth, and the life;" (John 14:6) but I'm not sure the disciples really understood it either.

Perhaps a prayer and a challenge for us as we work with troubled children and families who need to hear and see the truth would be that we have our lives built and grounded upon Jesus and His Word. Paul said it this way in I Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

We are excited to share that our Specialized Foster Care program has grown to the point where we have 12 foster children and 10 licensed foster families. We have thus hired Bro. Bill Baumgartner (Leo) to be our Foster Care Manager. Bro. Bill served Gateway Woods in the past as a Board Member and a Houseparent. In more recent years, he has been a child protection caseworker with Allen and Wells Counties.

We are also glad to have one of our former residents, Jenny G., back with us in a Christian foster home. Courtney H. (15) has joined the Schrock family here on campus. Our prayers are with both of these young women.

Bro. Jeff Thames, the director of Gateway Woods Family Services of Illinois, has presented the marriage seminar "Greater Love" to several churches in Central Illinois. Also, "Bring Them Up", a parenting seminar was presented for the first time in

Gridley, IL recently. The response has been very positive.

Our annual Representatives Meeting will be held here in Leo on March 15. It is a great occasion for our Representatives and their spouses from around the country to learn more about our program as well as various service opportunities through presentations made by children, staff, board members and local social service professionals.

Finally, as mentioned in the ad in this issue, we will soon have an opening for an Alternate Houseparent couple. Please pray that the Lord will provide.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Doris Fischer

The weather this week has taken a turn toward beautiful, and our lively group of 50 preschoolers has enjoyed every minute of it! We teachers are thankful for it, too, because it means the children have been able to play outside for a change. One five-year-old described our weather for the day as "clowny". Her insistence that it's "clowny" and not "cloudy" makes me wonder how often God must shake His head at us!

We have experienced several changes in the past month, mostly among our small staff. Sis. Tricia and Bro. Dan Tucker's first baby was born on January 28, so she has not been teaching since then. In her place we welcome Sis. Molly Stickling (Peoria, IL). "Miss Molly", as she is called by the children, is kept busy by the three-year-old class, and we are very thankful for her willingness to come here. Also, while Sis. Doris Moore is taking a medical leave for a few weeks, Sis. Barbara Coulter is working in her place. We are thankful for the help of these and other sisters in the Athens church also, as they help whenever the school has a need.

We celebrated on February 14 with a Valentine's Day party. We ate special treats, opened Valentines, and played games. Also during the month of February we have been teaching the children about the five senses,

emotions, the color red, and letters R, S, T, and U. While these lessons are important in preparing the children for kindergarten, we pray that our other teachings will last much longer—the instructions to love each other, to be honest, to love God, the Bible stories, songs, and memory verses. In a world that will attack Christian values, we must repeat them to our children often. Deut. 6:7 says, “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.”

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Pam Moore

The new year has brought another baby girl to the Athens congregation. Timber Danielle Tucker arrived on January 28 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker. New grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN) and Jerry and Sarah Tucker (Montpelier, IN).

On February 9, a pizza party was held for the Sunday School children for their attendance in Sunday School in the past month. The adults enjoyed the pizza party also.

Everyone is welcome to Memorial Day weekend at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. It will be held on May 24 and 25. Please let Bro. Lavoyd Moore know if a large group will be attending - (205) 232-2035.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

Psalm 51:10

Robin Lemons gave her testimony on January 18 and was baptized on January 19. Hearing Robin tell of God's loving kindness and assurance “to follow Me” was a joy for all. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) assisted Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Sis. Robin's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons. A church fellowship dinner and singing was enjoyed by

many later in the day.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Loren Knapp and Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA).

We've been blessed with many visitors. We appreciate your coming and promise sunshine and mountain views when you return. God made Arizona a natural beautiful place. The mountains etched in the blue sky are awesome.

Welcome to Blake and Denise Wysong from Lester, IA. May God's love help you as you settle in to worship with us.

Our Elder brothers mid-winter Conference was held in Bay City, MI this February.

Our junior and senior Sunday School classes went to Tucson on February 15-16. God, Christian fellowship and love are the staples of life for everyone. Thank you to the teachers and parents for their labors of love.

Sis. Doris Kokanovich had surgery.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank every one who made our 50th anniversary so blessed and enjoyable. God bless you.

Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier

Reminder: An offering is being taken (Phoenix congregation) for the Silver Lining at this time. Please make checks payable to Apostolic Christian Church.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Our congregation was blessed the end of January by a visit from some members of the Mission Committee, specifically the Building Advisory Committee, who came to advise us in our search for property. We are grateful and wish to thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. Orin Rufner (Rittman, OH) and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for their love and counsel. Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich was also with us for the weekend to give us his direction and support. May God bless them all for giving of their time and wisdom. We ask for your prayers as we strive in

unity to make plans to have our own place of worship in the Prescott area, the Lord willing.

Bro. Henry Volz continues to need our prayers as he struggles with physical ailments. May God grant him returning health according to His will.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The Tucson church was privileged to host a Sunday School fellowship weekend February 15 and 16. We were host to the Phoenix, Altadena, Prescott and San Diego Sunday Schools. We enjoyed a weekend of beautiful weather in the 70's. The weather always seems to be perfect for our Sunday School weekends; we are most thankful to the Lord for this wonderful blessing. The Tucson church certainly reaped many benefits from our fellowship with the students and teachers from our neighboring churches. We are so glad they made the effort to come! Many thanks to the Tucson church for rolling up their sleeves and working so hard to make the weekend possible.

Bro. Gregg Gramm and his wife, Sis. Denise (Phoenix, AZ), were with us for Sunday services on the Sunday School weekend. We thank Bro. Gregg for taking time to share the Word with us.

A birthday celebration was held recently for our Sis. Martha Blessman. We wish her the Lord's richest blessings as she continues to walk the pathway the Lord has set before her. She has not been able to come to church for quite some time now.

Wednesday evening, February 19, our ministering brethren were able to take a break from serving on the pulpit as Bro. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR) was in Tucson and had the evening service.

A pancake supper was held in February as the men got together and flipped pancakes, cooked sausage, and served the rest of us dinner. Although their menu doesn't change much from year to year, their pancakes are getting much better!

I neglected to report that Bro. Bob Haas lost his mother, Sis. Margaret

Haas, around Christmas time. Our prayers were certainly with Bro. Bob, Sis. Carole, and their family as they traveled for the funeral and are still with them as they cope with their loss.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

The milestones of life continue in their unabated pace towards eternity, i.e., birth, marriage, death, etc.

Little Rachel Beth Dreste was born to Sis. Kathy and Bro. Mike. She takes her place along side Rebecca, Philip and Daniel. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Mildred Dreste (Washington, IL) and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Bradford, IL). We pray for God's blessings upon this precious young family.

A number of our congregation were present in Washington, IL for the marriage of Bro. Joe Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) to Sis. Sue Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie). May God's further blessings be present as they establish their home here in California.

The death of our dear Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA) came as a shock to our California congregations. Her dear husband, Bro. Victor, who so faithfully cared for her for many years, may be assured of our prayers on his behalf with the Heavenly Father who now provides the comfort for him in his sorrow.

As we think upon these life-changing events, we are reminded that the Bible says they will continue from generation to generation until the coming of the Son of man shall be (Matt. 24). The important thing is that we be ready when He makes His appearance, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (vs. 27). As God has given to all the opportunity to make preparation for that time, may we, His children, take pause to once again acknowledge the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we approach the Easter season, which perhaps includes Communion in many congregations, let us spend more time in reading and contemplating the Scriptures. Hearts

need to be prepared to receive the special blessings afforded in the holy sacraments and remembrance of the Saviour's dying and resurrection. As spring time brings forth the renewal of nature's bounty, may it also bring forth a renewal of our hearts to more fervently serve the Lord and to reach out to others, lifting them up and sharing with them the wonderful hope that lies deep within our hearts.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Marian Petrovic

On February 1 and 2, we enjoyed the fellowship of the Altadena and Phoenix young groups here in San Diego. We had a wonderful weekend full of service, worship and encouragement in the Lord. Special thanks to Bro. Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA) for his love and effort in preparing a Bible Study for us on "Freedom in Christ".

Ministers visiting us this past month included Elder Bro. John Klotzle and Bros. Fred Witzig and Richard Aberle (all of Altadena, CA), and Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). May God richly bless our ministering brothers who serve us so willingly. We also want to thank the visitors who come and worship with us. You are a blessing to our congregation.

We bid our earthly farewell to Sis. Anna Jevremov who has been suddenly and unexpectedly called to her Heavenly Home. Many precious memories live on in our hearts and minds as Sis. Anna was an active part of our small church. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her husband, Bro. Victor Jevremov, and six daughters, Sis. Marian Petrovic (Bro. Peter), Sis. Lillian Wagenbach (Bro. Doug), Maria Wernli (John), Sis. Anna Hoerr (Bro. Scott), Brenda Koehl (Troy), Sis. Rose Waibel (Bro. Mike), and 20 grandchildren. We look forward to the day when we will never have to say goodbye to those we love.

The following letter was submitted by a dear Sister from church:

Dear Anna,

The last time I saw you, what a happy time we had together, and this is how I will always remember you.

You have been my kindred spirit and bosom friend. Together, we were

often able to share His love and our faith in the deepest sense, even as our Lord instructed us.

What a true friend and wonderful Sister you have been to so many of us. "MS" put you in a wheelchair, but your faith was standing tall, soaring high, making those who lived around you the most blessed people. We can never say good-bye to you, even though we will miss your presence on a daily basis.

You never preached from a pulpit, but we all saw a sermon in you. You didn't merely tell the way to go, you would show the way to walk. I often thought when you served us your wonderful Sunday luncheon from your wheelchair, how you put so many of us to shame. We had good legs to walk on, but did we have the right spirit to serve with? And did that serving just become a routine? God brings so many opportunities our way where we can serve.

The question is, do we recognize this "privilege"? You are always going to remind us to do our best today...because there might not be a next time. Thank you, dear Anna, for your overflowing love. We will hold onto your legacy of love and service. We hope one day that God will give us the ultimate gift, to see your shining face once again, in His everlasting Home.

One of your least sisters in faith

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who have so lovingly touched our hearts with the cards, gifts, flowers, meals and most importantly, prayers, following the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother. May our Heavenly Father reward you richly for your love and care.

The family of Sis. Anna Jevremov

ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter

"O, Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God

are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

Psalm 51:15-17

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

I Sam. 15:22-23

I was reminded recently how important it is to have a humble and obedient attitude before we do any service for God. God is not delighted or pleased with our service for Him unless our heart is right, even if we are rewarded with the praise of man. And God equates the sin of stubbornness with the sin of idolatry and the sin of rebellion with the sin of witchcraft. May we all work to have a more humble heart and obedient attitude.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher were blessed recently with a new grandson. Tristen Edwin is son of Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). May God help them raise their son according to His Word.

We want to thank our many visitors and ministers for coming to fellowship and serve us this past month. We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for ministering God's Word to us.

We welcome all visitors. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information and directions.

Reminder: March is the month for collecting Silver Lining dues. Please give or send the dollar amount which you feel appropriate to: Laura Baxter, RR 1, Millbank, ON NOK-ILO.

COLORADO, DENVER

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Christian greetings across the miles!

Brad and Karen Metz left our area for a job transfer to Bloomington, IL

at the beginning of February. We are excited for the new opportunity for them but will miss them and their two adorable little girls immensely.

We wish to thank Bro. Mike Martin for his service as trustee, Sis. Cindy Schmidt for her time and planning as a member of the kitchen committee, and Sis. Marlene Leman for her hard work on the World Relief sewing committee. It takes a lot of time and effort to complete each of these tasks and we are grateful to each one for their commitment. Our new trustee is Bro. Joe Hohulin, Sis. Leona Lehman will be filling the position on the kitchen committee and Sis. Cindy Schmidt is now a part of the World Relief sewing committee. We are thankful these individuals are willing to share their time and talents to meet the needs of the church.

Our prayers have gone out to Sis. Kris Bauman (Bro. Ben) and her family as she has undergone surgery. We ask God to put His healing hands upon her and know that His perfect will is going to be done. We were also reminded at this time to pray for those who are having spiritual battles as well as physical ones. Ofttimes they are harder to pray for because they aren't as visible or as easy to cure, but nevertheless are much more vital when it comes to eternal life.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Ephesians 6:11-13

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Cherie Galat

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim Schneider welcomed a precious baby boy, Stephen Emmanuel, born on January 21. He joins his sister and brother, Joanna and Joseph, at home. His grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis.

Marge Schneider and Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter. May God guide them in upbringing Stephen.

We are saddened by the deaths of two of our dear sisters in faith. Sis. Lois Ann Bahler was taken from this life on January 25. She leaves her husband, Bro. Owen, her sons, Bro. Dave (Sis. Peggy) and Bro. Glenn, and daughters, Lynn and Debra. Her sisters are Sis. Harriet Farney (Bro. Clifford) and Sis. Aline Bahler (Bro. Kenneth).

We will also miss Sis. Christine Virkler as God has called her from this life on February 14. She leaves her husband, Bro. Kenneth, daughters, Karen Geiger (Don) and Sis. Lynette Goric (Bro. Robert), and son, Bro. Dan (Sis. Dorothy). Her brothers and sisters are Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Bro. Werner), Sis. Adele Trueb (Bro. Ron), Sis. Elizabeth Luginbuhl, Bro. Martin (Dorothy), Bro. Robert (Sis. Martha), Bro. Edward (Sis. Alma), and Bro. Rudolph (Sis. Evelyn). Previously deceased are Bro. Urban (Sis. Charlotte), David (Lillian), and Bro. Emanuel (Sis. Florine). May God comfort these dear families in their loss of their loved ones.

We appreciate our visiting Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for his support.

Our beloved Elder brethren gathered for the winter Conference. May we keep them in our prayers all year long as they continue to serve us and consider the concerns that plague our beloved church.

As we approach the season when we commemorate our Saviour's death, may we remember His suffering. Let us look inward to purge out those things in our lives that displease Him as we prepare to partake in Holy Communion.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"He is not here: for he is risen."
Matthew 28:6

May your heart be glad with the news that the tomb could not hold our dear Lord. We can have the hope that

we will also rise and meet our heavenly Father if we kneel at the cross.

Our ministers this past month were Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN). Other visitors were from Fairbury, IL.

Many from our congregation traveled to Philadelphia to attend the reception for Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman for their hospitality.

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. There are several Sundays the next few months when we will be unable to use the hotel. Please contact the brothers listed below to find out where we will be meeting the Sunday you are in the area. 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) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 724-4470.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10:11-15

A precious privilege is ours to obey and follow our Father and Saviour Jesus Christ. Why would we not want to be obedient? He wants what is eternally best for us even though we don't always understand the way He may

lead us. He doesn't ask us to understand, but He asks us to humbly and submissively obey Him. May we remember that the most important thing is to do His will.

The Lord again blessed us with visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), and Bros. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL) and Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La-Crosse, IN). Elder Bro. Joe assisted with the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate their willingness to be used on our behalf in God's service. May the Lord richly bless them.

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

Hebrews 13:17

Our prayers were with Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen) Luginbuhl as he spent several days in the hospital. We are thankful that he is out of the hospital and doing well.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Anjie Baum Kay Eisenmann

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman and Don Sauder (both of Roanoke, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), and Bros. Carroll Gerber and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We want to give our sincere thanks to these brothers and their wives for their most welcome visit and we want to have them return.

We want to give a big thank you to the Ft. Lauderdale and Sarasota churches for making our "cookout" such a joyful time. It was good food, and most of all, precious fellowship!

We also want to thank all those who have duties in the church for their willing support. That's what keeps everything running smoothly.

The Lord has truly blessed us with many encouraging sermons. Three words to always remember, regard-

less of what happens to us, is "trust in God"! He knows what is best for our never-dying soul. Jesus is asking, "What do you want from Me?" What is your answer? Do we want the rich and easy life? Or are we brother's keeper? If we let Jesus lead us, we will have untold riches, with the joy of serving Him and His promise to never change or leave us alone!

When Jesus started teaching about His Father, the world as a whole didn't understand, and within seven days they were throwing palms and praising Him, "Hail, hail, hail". The next week it was "nail, nail, nail". Let us endeavor to strive more to follow the will of God and not the cares of this ever-changing world. Remember, we are just passing through this world; our real goal is Heaven. May we ever be praying for more willing people to serve in the army of God, telling all who will listen how Jesus called us out of sin and darkness.

To anyone who is planning on relocating, please think of our little North Ft. Myers church!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Melissa Sabo - Rachel Koehl

He Arose

Very early in the morning
Before the break of day,
The morning star shone on that
tomb
Where our dear Saviour lay.

The earth was clothed with
darkness;
The shadows had not fled,
The city slumbered on that morn—
They thought that He was dead.

It still was dark when He arose
And stepped forth from the grave,
The victor over sin, and death
With power your soul to save.

So shall it be when He returns
And calls His own to rise;
While this old world is sleeping
We'll meet Him in the skies.

—Anne Moore

We are happy to celebrate the birthdays of Bro. Ernie Koehlert, 94, and Sis. Katherine Schroeder, 93.

Great news from Sis. Marie Rardon—she is finished with her chemotherapy and back attending church. Truly our prayers have been answered.

We are sad to see Bro. Chris and Sis. Dana Leman moving to Tremont, IL. Our congregation will surely miss them, although we wish them God's direction in their new step towards His will.

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Tom Hoffman (both of Roanoke, IL), and also ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless them for their willingness to be spent in His service.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We were again blessed to have three visiting ministers this past month. We want to thank Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) for ministering to us.

Our annual business meeting was held February 9. We appreciate those who serve faithfully in the various duties in our congregation.

For all those heading to or from Florida, please stop in and worship with us. The Atlanta church is located south of the city. Take I-85 south to Exit 13 (approximately 7 miles south of I-258). Exit 13 is State Route 138. Go west 4 miles. The church is a ranch style brick building and will be on the left side of the road. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 for further information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Millie Jepson

We were privileged to have Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) at our Wednesday evening Bible study teaching on the topic of the Christian

Family. One interesting comment he made was that we "raise" crops and animals, but the Bible tells us to "train" our children. We are extremely grateful for his insight in this crucial area of our lives and thank God for this ministry for our church families. Our guest ministers this past month were Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Gary Anliker and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). We again thank these brothers for their faithfulness to the Lord. Each one gave us many good teachings from God's Word and we appreciate their willingness to come with their wives to our small congregation and minister to us.

There is never a time that is right in our lives for losing a person we love, even though they have lived a long life and we have the promise they are safe in the arms of Jesus. In January, our sympathy was extended to our friends, Ernie and Annette Schambach, at the going Home of Ernie's mother, Sis. Pauline Schambach. May God continue to comfort Ernie, Annette and their family.

The Chicago and Belvidere ministers are having a church service in Waterford, WI at the Lakeside Neurological Center where Bro. Bob Waibel (Peoria, IL) resides. Bro. Bob is not able to attend church regularly, so the ministers, church members and friends in the area are gathering there for a service on the third Saturday evening of each month. Anyone interested in attending and would like more information, please call Bro. Dean Steffen or Bro. Art Mueller.

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

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

After a long winter, we are all looking for those signs of spring. We are also looking forward to the Easter program our dear children and young people have prepared for us. The Easter program with the recitations, songs and sermon is always another reminder for us to keep "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our

faith."

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me
most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Were the whole realm of nature
mine,
That were an offering far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!
Gospel Hymns #709

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Carol Sauder - Janice Horner

"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:45-47

May this Easter season open our understanding of Christ's suffering, so that our daily walk is more aligned with God's will.

At our mid-January hymn sing, the Brothers in Faith quartet blended harmoniously. We also enjoyed the 3-year-olds and kindergarten children singing with enthusiasm.

Sis. Tillie Nussbaum asks for your prayers for her continued healing as she recuperates from knee surgery. She is thankful for God's blessings thus far.

February 14 was a special Valentine's Day for Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman. Their bundle of joy arranged perfectly in Heaven is Timothy Jay II, born on his dad's birthday. Grandparents are Sis. Ann Leman and the late Bro. Sam Leman, and Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Easter is just around the corner, and how refreshing it is to celebrate it each year after the long winter! As we think of the supreme sacrifice that Christ paid for our sins upon the cross, we often wonder how to thank Him. He paid so much to save us, but all He asks in return is a lifetime of service to Him and obedience to His Word.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33

How often do we get discouraged in life when things don't go the way we think they should? We have a tendency to wonder how God could let things like this happen to us. But when we can look back on it later, we can see how God had a better plan than we did and how He worked it out to perfection. I am sure many of Jesus' disciples thought that it was all over with Jesus' death and wondered how God could let it end this way. Not till He appeared unto them after He arose did they understand God's perfect plan. May we trust God with steadfast faith.

Our congregation welcomes a new baby boy! Steven Jay was born on January 17 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue Hausmann. He has one big sister, Amy, who is 2. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann and Bro. Noah and Sis. Evelyn Herrmann (Princeville, IL). We pray God's wisdom and grace as they raise their children to know Him.

February 8 and 9 was a special weekend as we welcomed a new sister in faith into our church family. Rachel Knobloch gave her testimony of faith and was then baptized. We are so thankful for her. Her parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane Knobloch. May God give her the grace to daily strive to do His will.

Bro. Bruce Endress and Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on February 16. What a blessing it was for each

of us to share this special day with them. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL). We welcome Sis. Elizabeth into our congregation and pray God's blessings upon their life together.

Sis. Barb Klumpp (Bro. David) had surgery on her foot this month. She is getting along well for which we are thankful.

Our deepest sympathy goes to our dear friend, Jean Ehnle, as her dear husband, Robert, passed away this month. Also in our prayers are their children, Paul and Cheryl Ehnle and Alan Ehnle, both of Kewanee, their grandchildren, and Robert's brothers, Bro. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Ed Ehnle (Sis. Verla), and his sister, Sis. Mary Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell), from Detroit, MI. We pray God's nearness and comforting spirit to each one. Robert will be greatly missed!

We once again appreciate our dear visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) were here with us. May God continue to bless them.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"The good for which we are born into this world is that we may learn to love."

—George MacDonald

On February 8, the lives of Ethan Hanson and Ernee Dinesto were joined in a beautiful wedding ceremony before God, family, and a few friends in Urbana. Ethan, son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan, has lived in Arizona for several years now and it was there that he met Ernee. They have established their home at 3109 S. Wy-cliff, Mesa, AZ 85210-8271. We offer our best wishes as they establish this new marriage where love may continue to grow for many, many years.

This past month brought several visitors to our church. A men's group from Tremont was with us for the January family hymn sing. Visiting

ministers were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank all of our visitors—whether they sang, preached, or just spent the day with us!

Although we can only really claim one of the current converts that assembles with us as being from our own congregation, we are blessed that several in our student group have found it needful to seek the Lord's forgiveness. They are at different points along this journey, with one having made the decision in the past month (Jason Dotterer of Forrest), others having been announced for upcoming baptism (Lee Hoffmann of Cissna Park and Rachel Schrenk of St. Louis), and still others between the two points. Each day, we are thankful for these converts and continually pray that many more would answer the call to seek the gift of salvation. As Easter and springtime approach, thoughts naturally turn to undeserved salvation and renewal of life.

Barabbas was the robber who was condemned to die with Jesus. However, a Passover custom made a provision for the release of one of the condemned and the people chose Barabbas. "[Pilate] answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas." (Matthew 27:21). We know that Barabbas was a person of some infamy among the people, but he did nothing worthy of having his life spared. His release was totally undeserved after he had been condemned. Had the people chosen Christ to be set free, Barabbas would have died. Christ's death spared the criminal, and we know nothing more about Barabbas from that point forward. We are quite similar to this criminal. We have the hope of salvation only because Christ died on that cross on Calvary. Like the robber, we are guilty and have done nothing to deserve being set free. It is up to the sinner to make that decision to receive this great gift of salvation. As Easter season comes with the warmer weather and the renewal of vegetation, let us all keep this gift of salvation in our daily thoughts. May we use

this season as a time of reflection and renewal for our personal commitment to Jesus and thank Him for the gift of Himself.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Kathy Schlatter

Oh, what is more delightful,
And in what blessed state,
When we our souls and bodies
To God do consecrate?

Zion's Harp #139

The closer we are to Him, the more we can approach the glories of Heaven while here on earth. Speaking for myself, I am so often drawn away into the petty details of life here—either through my feelings or through the sheer numbers of “other things to think about”. I am reminded of the decision of a believer in prison who is now taking two classes towards his education. He plans to take only one class for the next session because his study time for two classes is encroaching on his time in the Word. And he says he has five years to work on the degree yet while in prison. Who is really imprisoned? I may have those same five years. Who will have spent more time in the Word? And what is more important, more delightful, more blessed for us?

Emily Marie Plattner was officially born into the Christian family of Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner, Anissa and Jonathan, on February 12. Loving grandparents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS). We are overjoyed to welcome little Emily and hope to be the support to her family that a loving, praying church should be.

I hope that I am not out of line to mention the passing of un uncle, not only of mine, but also of Bro. Greg Rassi and Sis. Charlotte Meyer of our congregation and numerous great-nieces and nephews. Uncle Dave's death brings the number of brothers and sisters down to 12, an amazing group yet. Grandpa and Grandma Rassi would have been surprised, I believe, at the staying power granted their 15 children who lived to adult-

hood. They prayed for them often, we believe, and for us, their posterity. Yet, what is it that can still separate us from them spiritually? Has Satan a secret weapon trained on those who have been brought up under the sound of the Word, given goodly heritage and training, who remain of service and close to His people? Does he convince them that, like Eve, there is no harm in being less than obedient to God's Word? I tremble, remembering my unconverted state, when I had similar thoughts—and I am so grateful that it did not take catastrophic difficulties to “wake” me up. Do we live in a dream world, believing that what we have been part of is enough to “engraft” us into Heaven? The Word does not say that any of us can do enough to get our own selves into Heaven, much less someone else. Christ, given by the Father, to die in our stead, is the only vine that we can be “grafted” into—and then only the individual conversion of each one of us by Him, through the relinquishment of that will and pride we cherish so—but which bars us from Himself—can put us on the stairsteps up. Otherwise, no matter our thoughts, our feelings, our wishes, even our inmost desires, the stairsteps for here-after lead down. Oh, Lord, protect us from Satan's subtleties. Engulf us with Thy conviction for sin and the remedy of Thyself.

When we see Jesus coming in glory,
When He comes from His home in
the sky;
Then we shall meet Him in that
bright mansion,
We'll understand it all by and by.
Farther along we'll know all about
it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my brother, live in the
sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.
Gospel Hymns #779

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen

We were blessed this past month when Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) came to minister to our

congregation. We also appreciated the efforts of our local Bro. Wayne Laubscher for the topical Bible study he gave on the fruit of the Spirit. May God bless all our ministers and their families in a special way for their willingness to serve.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...”

James 1:17

A baby is such a wonderful miracle and gift from God. Joyful parents over the birth of Amanda Rose are Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann. Amanda's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rose Frank (Tremont, IL). Sis. Velma Rinkenberger became grandma again. Little Brooke Evelyn was born to Bro. Wendall and Sis. Karen Schmidt (West Bend, IA). Also, Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser welcome a new granddaughter to their family circle. Kelly Jo was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser (Fairbury, IL). We pray for much Godly wisdom for each of these families as they raise the gifts they have been blessed with.

Meeting with misfortune this past month were Sis. Bev Knapp (Bro. Curt) and Ashley Stock (Ed and Dawn). We are thankful to report both Sis. Bev and Ashley are recovering from their mishaps. We thank God for His tender healing mercies.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those of our church family who have lost loved ones. Sis. Judy Edelman's father, Leonard Gudeman, passed away February 8. Also that same day, Bro. Paul Hodel left this earth for his Heavenly Home. Bro. Paul leaves behind five daughters, Sis. Joyce Bauer, Carol Crist (Waterford, CA), Sis. Lois Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Gloria Leman (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Mildred Vogel (Bloomington, IL). Also surviving is Bro. Paul's sister, Sis. Anna Sauder (Francesville, IN). May God seem extra close to each of you during this parting time.

Rod and I recently came upon a tragic accident that took the life of a 16-year-old boy. It was a vivid reminder to us that life is uncertain and

very fragile. We need to be ready. "Ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill. Ready in life, ready in death, ready for His return." (Hymns of Zion #124)

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Linda Knobloch
Missy Banwart**

Two families have been blessed with new babies this month. Kent and Sis. Crystal Remmert, Brooke and Blake welcomed little Whitney Nicole on January 16. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon McClure and Waldo Remmert and Sharon Remmert.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Knobloch, Russell and Reuben are thankful for little Ruth Esther born February 9. Grandparents are Bro. Orvie and Sis. Laurretta Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Eldon and Irene Stahl (Princeville, IL). May these parents be blessed with Godly wisdom to raise their families in the fear of Him.

We are so thankful to have three new converts. They are Isaac Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Tonya Scott (Sis. Janelle), and Chet Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat). May we always remember to pray for and encourage our converts.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Greg Stoller and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). We thank these brothers for allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them.

What a blessing it was to hear the testimonies of Andy Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) and Elizabeth Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) on January 25 and to witness their baptisms the following day. May we each strive to remain true and faithful to those vows we made in the baptismal waters.

Art Miller passed from this life on January 28. May God comfort his wife, Lena, and children, Carolyn Carter (Montgomery, TX), David (Mackinaw) and Sue Harmon (Athens, IL).

We're thankful little Wyatt Hurley (Kim) was only in the hospital a short time.

The Eureka Apostolic Christian Home Auxiliary is planning the Spring Auction and Bake Sale to benefit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be held April 19th at Eureka Middle School. The Benefit will include a bake sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sandwiches, pie, and drink) will be served at 11:00 a.m., auction will begin at 12:00 noon, with quilts sold at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of crafts, services, and miscellaneous items will be appreciated.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, food and gifts of kindness. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. May God richly bless each of you.

Sis. Mary Schieber

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

Elgin was once again privileged on February 2 to witness wedding vows as our Sis. Jolene Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Tom Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) of Forrest, IL promised to be faithful till life's end. Many visitors joined us to share in the blessings of the day. Among them were ministering Bros. Greg Stoller, Gary Brown, Earl Gerber (all of Forrest, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL).

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

Our annual business meeting was held the end of January. We don't always realize or appreciate the endless efforts put forth for the physical care of the church. Our new trustee is Bro. Bob Cox; Resthaven directors are Bros. Jerry Cargill and Dick Kilgus; and land site trustee is Bro. John Steffen. Thank you to those whose terms have expired, and may God continue to bless our church.

The tradesmen continue to work

toward the completion of our new church. They expect to drywall within a few weeks.

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital recently. They are Sisters Edna Bolliger, Leola (Bro. Charles) Schambach, Evelyn (Bro. Bill) Gudeman, and Bros. Don (Sis. Leann) Schambach and Frank (Sis. Lois) Schock. We are thankful for those who are able to be in our midst again, and continue to pray for those who still cannot assemble with us.

Sis. Erica (Bro. Les and Sis. Alison) Schambach testified of her desire to sing in that heavenly choir when she gave her testimony on February 8. We welcome her into our church family. Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) was here to rejoice with us. It is uplifting when young lambs are added to the fold.

February 15 was the marriage of Brian Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peggy) and Kelly Park (John and Linda). We pray that God will abundantly bless their lives together.

May God comfort Bros. Art (Sis. Alma) and Delbert (Sis. Jeanette) Schmidt at the passing of their sister, Carolyn Overton, of Winthrop.

Thought for the day: The Ten Commandments are not multiple choice.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dori Blunier

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:6

Let us appreciate the sacrifice of our Lord and praise Him for bearing our iniquities. May we be of those sheep which stay in the sheepfold and close to our Shepherd.

We rejoice with Tim and Kathy Knecht who have a new little baby daughter. Maddisen Elizabeth, born January 3, is the granddaughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knecht and Duane and Mary Ann McClure (Bloomington).

Wade Robert was born January 21 to Rob and Diane Gregoire. He is wel-

comed home by his big sister, Whitley, and grandparents, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Clara Lou Blunier and the Bernard Gregoire's of Arkansas.

A son, Sawyer Brent, was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla Cottrell on January 29. He has an older brother, Kurt, and his grandparents are Bill Cottrell and Sis. Judy Cottrell, and Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann (Forrest, IL). We wish God's blessings on all of these families, and may they seek God's direction in raising their children.

Joyce Rocke (Bloomington) and Courtney Sauder (Bloomington) have announced their engagement. Joyce is the daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, and Courtney is the son of Gary and Sis. Phyllis Sauder (Roanoke, IL). May they always seek God's direction in their lives.

We appreciated the recent visits of Bros. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) as they taught us from the Word.

Jeanette Schumacher (Rochelle, IL formerly of Eureka) died on February 7. She was the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Hanna Schumacher. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Eleanor Meyer, of Morton. We also pray that God will give comfort to Bro. Don and Susan Jones as Bro. Don's father, Stephen Jones, of Metamora, recently passed away. We also want to express our sympathy to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber at the death of Sis. Clara's brother, Bro. David Rassi, of Morton.

It was a blessing for us to host ACYF in February. We enjoyed listening to the young people sing, and are thankful for the desire in their hearts to participate so willingly.

The Eureka Apostolic Christian Home Auxiliary is planning the Spring Auction and Bake Sale to benefit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be held April 19th at Eureka Middle School. The Benefit will include a bake sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sandwiches, pie, and drink) will be served at 11:00 a.m., auction will begin at 12:00 noon, with quilts sold at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of crafts, services, and miscellaneous items will be appreci-

ated.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

Gethsemane, O woeful place,
Where Jesus sought the Father's
face!

O take the cup of death from me,
Its awful pain and agony!
Yet not my will, but Thine be done;
This was the plea of God's own Son,
None other could for sin atone;
In anguish deep He pray'd alone.

Hymns of Zion #63

Once again, as the Easter season draws near, we pause to reflect more deeply on the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we, in our everyday lives—even as the apostle Paul—be “always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” (II Cor. 4:10)

Truly we are rejoicing with the angels in heaven as Denise Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna) has made a beginning in repentance! We pray that she may also experience this brokenness and yielding of her will to God's, even as the Lord Himself did.

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity...”

Eccles. 9:9

January 19 was the day that Bro. Bruce Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie) and Sis. Beverly Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) committed their lives to one another in the Lord. May the grace and peace of the Holy Spirit rest upon their new home. Ministering Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) shared the day with us. We appreciate your efforts.

How thankful we were to hear of the engagement of our Bro. Lloyd Bachtold to Sis. Nancy Honegger (Forrest)! May God draw them closely together and bless them as they plan for their April 9 wedding.

Clayton Steidinger will enjoy his new playmate, Jordan Koehl, born to

Bro. Rick and Sis. Kim Steidinger on January 21. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser were blessed with a new little bundle on February 5. Kelly Jo joins her big brothers and sister, Lee, Lynette and Thadd. Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. John and Sis. Carol Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) are her grandparents.

“...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours...”

Rev. 14:13

Sis. Ada Hartman entered into rest from her earthly labors on February 3. She was 96 years old. She formerly assembled with our congregation, but has been residing in the Eureka nursing home.

Also, Clara Ramseyer passed away on February 2. She was 90. We extend sympathy to the families of these loved ones, and especially to our Bro. Melvin Hartman (Sis. Ada's stepson).

Hospital patients this month were: Ross Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Collin Steidinger (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori), Layne Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Kendra), Bro. Vernon Hartman (Sis. Pat) and Sis. Joan Zehr.

Food For Thought

It's easy to say... “If I were in that person's shoes, I would never do what they are doing.”

It's hard to say... “there, but for the grace of God, go I” and realize that that grace is given, not because I am deserving, but only because of God's infinite mercy.

It's easy to look at a situation and think I know how it ought to be handled.

It's hard to see with the eyes of compassion and realize that I may not fully understand the situation.

It's easy to try to “help” someone and perhaps interfere with a lesson that God is trying to teach them.

It's hard to step back—to keep "hands off"—to provide loving, gentle support and let experience teach the other person what I may already know.

It's easy to lecture someone on how they should improve.

It's hard to give gentle, encouraging advice and admonition.

It's easy to try to help someone by discussing their problems with others.

It's hard to go to them alone and humbly point out to them, in light of the Scriptures, what they ought to be doing.

It's easy to be angry and vindictive when someone irritates or hurts me.

It's hard to say "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

It's easy to be judgmental and critical.

It's hard to be compassionate and Christ-like.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

We thank Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly bless them.

A sweet baby girl has arrived in the home of Daton and Kathy Kupferschmid. Madison Kay's happy grandparents are Lynn Fogal (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid. Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda are also welcoming twin grandchildren, Nicole Rae and Lincoln Ray. Bro. Stan, Sis. Kristen Mueller and big sister, Allison, are thankful for the safe arrival of this special double blessing. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

As the angels in Heaven rejoice, so do we as we see another soul turn his life to God in repentance. We pray that the Lord will grant Jason Dot-

terer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy) much grace as he begins this new walk with Him.

Bro. Tom Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) and Sis. Jolene Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on February 2. We welcome Sis. Jolene to our congregation and pray that God will grant them many blessings as they walk together as husband and wife.

Kevin Ricketts (Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean) and Georgia Fenwick became husband and wife on February 14. May they look to God for guidance as they begin their life together.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Nancy Honegger and Bro. Lloyd Bachtold (Fairbury, IL). We are thankful to see how God provides for those who put their trust in Him. May they continue to feel His nearness as they make wedding plans.

Hospital patients this past month have been Carl Bachtold, Sis. Wilma Knapp, and Kathy Kupferschmid. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Hazel Karcher and Sis. Mary Schmidgall who have been housebound after having suffered falls. May these loved ones feel God's healing power.

Funeral services were held on February 1 for Glenn Honegger. We sympathize with his sisters, Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL), Sis. Verna Schaefer (Morris, MN), Sis. Leona Tanner (Goodfield, IL), Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT), Sis. Ruth Roth and Sis. Donna Leman (Forrest, IL); and his brothers, Max (Morton, IL), Bro. John (Peoria, IL), Bro. Perry, Bro. Edward and Harley (Forrest, IL).

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Edelman and family in the death of her sister, Sis. Shirley Sinn (Silverton, OR). May the Holy Spirit comfort these loved ones in their time of sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all my families and my church family for all the kindness shown to me through the holiday season and all through the year 1996. May God reward each one in abundance.

In Jesus' love, Sis. Marie Hohulin

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Trish Gerber

A Word of Encouragement

God saw he was getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around him and whispered "Come with me."

With tearful eyes we watched him suffer and saw him fade away. Although we loved him dearly, we could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands were laid to rest;

God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Our sincere thanks to all for the phone calls, visits, cards, memorials and prayers during the loss of our dear son and brother, Delmar Alsine. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Gertrude Alsine, Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn Ott

We welcome our new brothers and sisters to the family of God. We enjoyed listening to the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Noel and Diana Baer, Susie Wiegand, Kerstan DesCarpentrie and Tim Blunier. May God be near them as they live their lives in His grace.

Thanks to Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) for sharing the Holy Word and a very inspiring weekend with us.

The Eureka Apostolic Christian Home Auxiliary is planning the Spring Auction and Bake Sale to benefit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be held April 19th at Eureka Middle School. The Benefit will include a bake sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sandwiches, pie, and drink) will be served at 11:00 a.m., auction will begin at 12:00 noon, with quilts sold at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of crafts, services, and miscellaneous items will be appreciated.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the birthday cards, money and especially for their prayers. It really meant a lot to me. May God bless all of you.

In His love, Sis. Shirley DeBolt

May God bless everyone who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with prayers, cards, gifts and thoughts of love.

Bro. Floyd (Shorty) and Sis. Evelyn Hofmann

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We rejoiced on February 9 when four souls were taken into the church, after giving their testimony of faith and conversion. A part of Christ's body are Sis. Arianne Howell (Jim and Sis. Eloise), Bro. Ryan Prevo (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb), Sis. Candace Stoller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Katrina Stoller (Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy). These souls have sought the Lord in their youth. May God give them much grace and favor as they daily humble themselves in His presence.

February 16 was the wedding date of Sis. Elizabeth Klopfenstein and Bro. Bruce Endress. She is the daughter of Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. His parents are ministering Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress of Bradford, IL.

It is a joy when souls enter matrimony after the sincere seeking of God's will in the selection of their lifetime mate. May the dear Lord grant many years of happiness to this couple. It is heartening to witness how their relatives and brethren supported them as evidenced by the large crowd who witnessed their vows.

On February 2, the wedding engagement of Sis. Jamie Knapp to Bro. Casey Knobloch was announced. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch (Bloomington, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp (Taylor, MO).

On February 17, a daughter, Rachel Lee, was born to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb. She has several siblings: Melissa, 8; Kristin, 7; Brandon,

4; and Seth, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Donald and Sis. Rosie Gramm of Gridley.

A second son, Colin Reed, was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Sarah Wettstein on January 28. He has an older brother, Taylor, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Ronald and Sis. Loida Mueller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria Wettstein.

May God bless both of these parents. The rearing (and training) of children is both a responsibility (given in the Word) and a challenge in today's often immoral world.

Bro. Ed Stoller was hospitalized, and is now residing at the Meadows Mennonite Home, hopefully on a temporary basis.

Several ministers have preached here at Gridley. On February 9 (baptismal weekend) was Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). On February 16 (wedding), we had Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). It was a blessing to have these dear brothers with us. May God reward them!

ILLINOIS, MORTON **Phyllis Farney** **Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Daren Metz and Sis. Rita Beer (Milford, IN) were united in Holy Matrimony on January 19. Their parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN). The Morton congregation warmly welcomed this new couple with an all-church singing shower on February 8. We thank the Lord to have this new Christian home established in our church.

We rejoice that the Lord has brought together two more dear couples. The engagement of Sis. Sandy Mott and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Chicago, IL) was announced. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chi-

cago, IL). May the Lord richly bless them in their life together.

The engagement of Sis. Tasha Kaiser and Bro. Tom Steffen (Washington, IL) was announced. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy Steffen (Washington, IL). May the Lord continue to bless and guide them.

There is also cause for rejoicing when newborn infants join our church family. Jessie Rose was born on January 18. Her parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones, and her big brothers, Bobby, Caleb and Zachary, welcome her. Her grandparents are Sis. Sherrill Jones, Gene Jones and Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock, all of Morton.

Mandy Lynn was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold on January 21. She is loved by her big sisters, Michelle, Melissa, and Marla. Mandy's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunie Wuthrich and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred Heinold (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. David Rassi was called Home on February 3 at the age of 90. May God comfort and bless his daughter, Judy Rassi (Nashville, TN), and his son, Charles (Southfield, MI); his five brothers, Bro. Arnold, Bro. Carl, Bro. Elias, Bro. Solomon, and Robert; his seven sisters, Sis. Anna Freidinger, Marie Pfaffman, Margaret Romersberger, Naomi Kaufman, Sis. Clara Huber, Leah Warren, and Sis. Matilda Legel; and his three grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bro. Ben Moser passed away on February 8 at the age of 94. May God bless and comfort his son, Bro. Robert (Morton); his daughters, Sis. Virginia Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Sis. Betty Moser (Morton), and Sis. Doris Kuntz (Oakville, IA); his sister, Sis. Verena Heiniger; his ten grandchildren and his 21 great-grandchildren.

Our congregation had an opportunity for fellowship and singing on February 16 when our Young Group sponsored their annual Pork Chop supper. The proceeds were donated to various charities. A hymn sing followed and the group Heart to Heart from our Bloomington, IL congregation ministered to us in song. We thank them for coming. We also thank

our young members for serving us so well and for the blessed evening.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers we had this month. They were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN). We appreciate their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Gene Yergler wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and gifts of love while he was in the hospital and since coming home. May God bless all who were so kind.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Blustery weather followed several mild winters. Wednesday evening services had to be canceled on January 15. On January 26, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer began the services by mentioning how pleasant it is to assemble in a warm building and more so to feel the warmth of the love of God and the brotherhood. Special thanks to our unsung heroes who so diligently labored to keep the sidewalks and parking lot free of snow with push shovels, snow plow and endloader.

Converts are the bridge to the future church. We are thankful for 16 last year and the 25 souls now seeking the Lord in repentance, some of pre-teen age. May they develop patience and the other fruits of the Spirit until the time comes to give their testimonies of faith to the church, and for their future walk with the Lord.

The Passion Week (Palm Sunday to Easter) will soon take center stage in our Christian lives. Jesus held the Passover on Palm Sunday with His 11 disciples (Judas left during supper) in Jerusalem, possibly less than a mile from the temple. Death had no power over Him and the dispensation of grace and salvation was ushered in. Judas probably did an acceptable job as treasurer of the disciples, and may have speculated Jesus would save Himself from the cross at the last moment and expected the thirty pieces of silver would look good in the bag. He hung himself when realizing he had

totally missed the point. May we receive the true message of the Lord and stay (or get) on the right spiritual wave length.

Sis. Caroline Schmidtgall passed away at the Home (Skylines); 97 is beyond the New Testament longevity. Her life was one of humility and graciousness. Sis. Ada Hartman, originally from Kiowa, KS passed away at the Eureka Home. She was the mother of Bro. Bob Miller. Viola Fisher passed away on February 5. She was the daughter of Bill and Anna Fisher. Bro. Ben Moser, 94, father of Sis. Virginia Hoerr, went to be with the Lord on February 8 after a life of faith of 76 years. He set an enduring example of love and goodness to all who knew him. Sis. Anna Jevremov, mother of Sis. Rose Waibel, suddenly passed away at her home in Escondido, CA. Bonnie Beender, sister of Bro. Dwayne and Donald Bowald, passed away recently.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereft families. May they feel the comforting Spirit of God and the love and shared grief of their brethren and friends.

We welcome Juliette Kurth and Larry and Esther Riggerbach, coming from the sister church, into our membership. Sis. Juliette was born in Mulhouse, France, lived a few years in Switzerland before emigrating to California, and now resides in a Skylines duplex. Bro. Larry ministered the Word over 40 years and worked at R.G. LeTourneau; Sis. Esther was born and raised in Akron, OH. They also live at the Skylines.

We are thankful our three hospital patients, Bros. Jess Leman, Walt Plattner and Sis. Emma Schneider, could return home. May they feel the healing hand of God as they fully recover.

Thanks to Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) for his message on bows and arrows, based on Psalm 127, for our family night service on Wednesday, February 5.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Miriam Messerli celebrated their 50th anniversary on February 8. Congratulations and best wishes to them and their families for the continued blessings of God.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Joanna Herrmann

We shared a blessed weekend together January 18 and 19. On Saturday, we heard the conclusions of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) came and assisted Elder Bro. Joe Stoller. When we think of the great responsibility laid upon these brethren, "...for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Hebrews 13:17), it stirs us to be obedient, that they "...do it with joy, and not with grief:" (Hebrews 13:17). We were reminded that the way of the Lord is plenty wide for those who really love Him.

Following the reading, after several weeks of prayerful consideration, we were made aware of the Lord's leading as we placed two brothers into the ministry. Our new ministers are Bro. Glen (Sis. Audrey) Braker and Bro. Craig (Sis. Terri) Martin. We pray for these brothers and their families, praying that "...He would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;" (Ephesians 3:16) "...that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified..." (II Thess. 3:1).

On Sunday, January 19, we enjoyed a day of worship together and then our annual all-church potluck, followed by our family hymn sing. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) ministering God's Word to us.

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

Psalms 116:15

Bro. Robert Herrmann passed from this life to eternity, January 20. The love and prayers everyone has shown has been a great comfort to his wife, Sis. Esther; and children, Bro. Howard (Sis. Mary Ann), Bro. Allan (Sis. Rose), and Karen (Joe) Burgess, and daughter-in-law, Kathy Herrmann. We would like to thank the congregation for the love, prayers, cards, food, memorials, and acts of kindness shown to our family at the

loss of our loved one. We pray God will bless each one.

Sunday, February 16, marked a milestone for Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle, as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them and pray God will continue to be near them and bless them with many more years together.

Our thoughts and prayers go to those who have been ill this past month. We remember Bro. Dave (Sis. Ruth) Kieser, Sis. Alvina Streitmatter, Sis. Martha Jane Siebenthal, and Bro. Ezra (Sis. Lucille) Rumbold.

Note of Thanks:

May God bless everyone who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with cards, gifts, prayers, and thoughts of love.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

We wish to extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Mabel Bowald in the passing of her daughter, Bonnie Beenders. May God comfort her and her family, and grant them many precious memories of Bonnie.

We rejoice with Bro. Ken Stoller and Sis. Ann Hohulin as they have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Shirley Hohulin and Bro. Rich and Sis. Barb Stoller.

Our hearts are touched with joy as Bro. Phil and Sis. Lynne Hodel welcome Ruth Marie into their hearts and home. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder and Bro. Stan and Sis. Verna Hodel.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Stacy Leman are thankful for God's blessings in the birth of their second child, Madison Jo. Welcoming Madison home are her big brother, Grant, and her grandparents, Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Helen Leman.

We are thankful for those who came to share God's Word with us this past month: Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). May God richly bless them and their families.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who made our 50th wedding anniversary so pleasant and blessed. God bless you all!

Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier

We wish to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, cards and gifts given during Bonnie's illness and since her passing. The Christmas cards and letters were especially appreciated by Bonnie. God bless each of you.

The family of Bonnie Beenders

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

Two families in our congregation have been blessed with baby daughters. Bro. Mike, Sis. Michelle, Jeremy, and Caleb Oswald welcome Hannah Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Don Jr. and Marcielle Oswald. Megan Lee has joined the family of Bro. Marvin, Sis. Paula and Lucy Wagenbach. Her grandparents are Bro. Elmon and Sis. Janice Koch and Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner were blessed with a little boy on January 25. His name is Corbin Kenneth and he is welcomed home by his siblings, Victoria and Trent. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner.

We are grateful for the visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month. They are Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Several of our loved ones who have been in the hospital recently are Jerry Hangartner (Sis. Melba), Bro. Walt Aberle (Sis. Vera) and Bro. Chris Schweigert (Sis. Ida). May they feel God's love and care.

Many hearts have been saddened as loved ones have passed from this life. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi in the passing of his brother, Bro. David Rassi (Morton, IL); Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert in the passing of her

brother, Arthur Miller (Congerville, IL); and to Madeline Hermann in the passing of her brother, Eugene Kinsey. May they all look to the Lord for comfort and strength in their sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits that I received while I was at Restmor and since I have been home. May God richly bless you.

*In Christian love,
Sis. Elsie Sinn*

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

"Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."

Psalms 40:5

The Washington congregation has been busy this month with many events. The vitality these events bring to us is one of God's blessings.

Sis. Tara Baker (Joe and Sis. Karen) shared her testimony and was baptized. We rejoice with her family and with the angels in Heaven.

On February 2, Sis. Sue Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie) was married to Bro. Joe Klotzle (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois) of Altadena, CA. We wish them many blessings from the Lord in their new life together.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). Also present was Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) who assisted in the reading of the Memorandum.

Hospitalized this month were Jackie Feucht (infant daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth), Sis. Esther Banwart, Sis. Sue Ruppert, Sis. Cheryl Ricketts, and Sis. Marty Teubel. We are thankful to the Lord for His healing and protective hand

that was present throughout their illnesses and surgeries.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Tasha Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelle) of Morton, IL as their engagement was announced. May God bless them and guide them in this new step of life.

As this is being written, the news has come of the loss of the stillborn infant of Sis. Marty and Bro. Mark Teubel. We pray to the All-knowing, All-loving God into whose hands this little one has gone. He will provide grace to all that trust in Him.

The Eureka Apostolic Christian Home Auxiliary is planning the Spring Auction and Bake Sale to benefit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be held April 19th at Eureka Middle School. The Benefit will include a bake sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sandwiches, pie, and drink) will be served at 11:00 a.m., auction will begin at 12:00 noon, with quilts sold at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of crafts, services, and miscellaneous items will be appreciated.

Note of Thanks:

To all who expressed concern and offered prayers, to all who made phone calls, sent flowers, gifts and food or in any way helped to make my surgery and hospital stay easier, I want to say a most grateful and sincere thank you. May you reap a rich reward.

Sis. Esther Banwart

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Brenda Bertsch
Kim Maller

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

1 Peter 1:7

We started out this month with a snowy and icy week which resulted in the cancellation of our mid-week services. Our weather now has been more

normal for our area with some snow and very cold nights. With these cold nights it makes us thankful we can get in and out of the cold to our warm homes. Our hearts here in Bluffton have been warmed also by the births of a few babies. Bro. Kurt and Sis. Angie Ifer received a boy on February 3, Hank Urban. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer and Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Frauhiger. Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber have another girl, Cordin Elizabeth, on January 25. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner of Detroit, MI. Our long distance birth goes to Bro. Dan and Sis. Trisha Tucker who now live in Athens, AL. They now have been blessed with a precious girl born on January 28, Timber Danielle. Grandparents are Jerry and Sara Tucker and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner. Tina Raber was blessed with a boy, Jared Jordan, on November 29. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber. We pray that all will be blessed by these new arrivals.

We have had two souls who have passed away. Shirley Aschliman (Glen) and Mildred (Isch) Krill. We extend our sympathy to their families and to their brothers and sisters.

Those who could benefit from our prayers are Dylan Gerber (Randall and Karen Prater), Jenny Klopfenstein (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Sis. Karen Kaehr (Bro. Richard), Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Bro. Herb Frauhiger (Sis. Lucile), Bro. Ed Schwartz Sr. (Sis. Josephine), Sis. Minnie Isch (Bro. Elmer), and Sis. Marge Ringger.

Two different weekends we have rejoiced with baptisms. Those giving their testimony were Joe Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby), Clint Moser (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean), Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barbara), Curt Moser (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Pat), Eric Tonner (Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda), Gwen Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay), Carla Gerber (Bro. Leon R. and Sis. Pat), Kevin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda), Mindy Sipe (Bro. Keven and Sis. Andrea), Molli Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene) and James Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan).

Helping out at these blessed events and visiting our congregation this month were Elder Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (both of Bloomington, IL), and Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Dave Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Nile Bucher and Bob Meyer, Jr. (both of Bluffton North, IN). Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) lended his services during the reading of the Memorandum which took place February 1. We want to thank all of our visiting brothers and we hope you and your families will be greatly blessed for your efforts.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Marie Kipfer asked us to sing a song of love with them as they enjoyed 50 years of marriage on January 20. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings for the future.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father..."

John 14:21

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) with us on January 19, to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We certainly need to be reminded of the joys and concerns that face us as a congregation and be encouraged to press forward to our Heavenly goal.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Phil. 2:12

Sis. Esther Isch has spent time in the hospital. May we be prayerful for her and also with others that may have crosses to bear.

The Easter season will soon be approaching us as we once again wish to remember our suffering Saviour, as He died on the cross and shed His precious blood that we might have salvation through Him.

Come children, join in singing
Sweet praises to the Lord,
Who blest us with salvation,
Through faith in His good Word.
He is the faithful Shepherd,
Our Rock and Refuge true.
Who lovingly doth lead us,
Whose Word doth us renew.
Zion's Harp #136

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
Hebrews 9:28

Is Jesus our best friend? May our hearts flood with thankfulness for His sacrifice on the cross.

We rejoice as two dear souls have repented and made known their peace with God and man. They are Teresa Houston (Diana) and Betsy Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda).

Many have felt God's healing hand. Spending days in the hospital were: Bro. Glen Gutwein (Sis. Mary Ann), Josiah Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Viola Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil), Bro. Harry Yaggie and Bro. Irvin Yaggie (Sis. Lois).

May Sis. Elsie Yaggie feel God's nearness as she has moved to Parkview Haven.

We extend sympathy to three families. Sis. Barb Huber (Bro. Gene) laid to rest her mother, Theresa Pesaresi. Sis. Louise said good-bye to her dear husband, Ed Onken. Sis. Lois Neihouser (Bro. Andre) lost her father, Bro. Paul Hodel. May the God of all comfort be very near as they have a hope of meeting again.

Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) shared the Word with us this past month. We thank him for being a willing servant.

May God grant grace to the following Brothers and Sisters in their new responsibilities in our precious church: Jeff Neihouser - Sunday School Superintendent two more years; Teachers - Matthew Gudeman, Gene A. Huber, John Huber, Roger

Overmyer, Madeline Gutwein, Barb Huber, Joy Huber; Church Trustee - Ron Vogt; Ushers - Dale Gudeman, Jeff Tanner; Missionary Committee - Phil Gutwein; Parkview Haven Board - Bob Clauss; Fellowship Center Trustee - Mike Putt.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Missy Baumgartner Lauretta Schafer

On January 19, our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler visited our congregation and made known that Nathan Freed, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy, is at peace with God and man and desires to give his testimony and be baptized. We look forward to this blessed event. We were also thrilled to hear that John and Rochelle Ward are repenting and turning their backs to the world. John and Rochelle moved to Indianapolis from Remington last summer.

Our annual business meeting on January 22 entrusted faithful brethren with physical duties. Elected as the new Silver Lining Correspondent is Sis. Lynn (Bro. Jeff) Dotterer. The new trustee is Bro. Don (Sis. Jackie) Hoerr, who will be working with Bros. Bill Witzig and Blake Wuethrich. The new ushers are Bros. Doug (Sis. Jeni) Hart, Corey (Sis. Erika) Gerber, and Jerry (Sis. Doreen) Leuthold, who will be working with Bro. Bruce Schafer.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Edye (Bro. John) Mayer for the passing away of her brother, Bro. Ben Oesch, in Mansfield.

We have enjoyed the blessing of several church fellowship opportunities with a potluck weekend and a Valentine Dinner combined as a wedding shower. We do enjoy the time we spend visiting, encouraging, uplifting, and learning from each other.

Moving from one home to another is hard work, but exciting. Getting boxes packed forces us to make decisions about what we really need or what we can live without. We work diligently because we know the moving day is coming and we want to be ready. When is your moving day scheduled for Heaven? Decide now what you really need for Heaven and what you can live without. Work dili-

gently, because you know your moving day is coming and you want to be ready. Simplify your life. Spend quiet time with Jesus asking Him to help you decide what to pack and what to leave behind. He lives in Heaven. He knows what you need. Trust Him.

There were two thieves who were crucified with Jesus. One had a heart-attitude looking toward Heaven; one, toward earth. Which direction are you looking? Does your life show it? All the time? Or just most of the time? Maybe some of the time? May God give us grace to be more yielded to Him all the time.

INDIANA, LACROSSE Anna Marie Stoller

Today is a warm, sunny, late winter day with the beautiful white snow glistening as it drips, drips away. Inspiration seems to be everywhere, but especially in the words of some Zion's Harp hymns. Number 184 is a prayer hymn to the "Slaughtered Lamb, by whom the seal was broken, that gave me comfort and eternal cheer!" Hymn 183 is a song of exhortation, while it exalts our risen Saviour where "there is comfort, and we are blest. Everything we have in Thee, Life and Hope and Victory." Why would we not rejoice to sing the words of 209, "Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine..." A lifetime of praise for our Lord and Master could never be enough for the wonderful salvation He has given and the many blessings of peace He bestows.

"In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour." (Zion's Harp #46). Sis. Lina Bock has needed special comfort as she mourns the death of her brother in Germany.

Bro. Ralph Levy is going through the earthly schooling of illness which has caused him to miss many Sundays of church worship. Praise God for His presence wherever Bro. Ralph worships, and His strength during times of weakness.

As the beauty, warmth, and new life of springtime unfold, so begins the life of a new baby in our congregation. Precious little Megan Jean Heinold has arrived and fills the lives of Bro.

Glen, Sis. Sandy, Bro. Eric, Melinda and Mark with bountiful blessings. The whole congregation is delighted with this new addition and shares the joy of the Heinold family.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold were united in Holy Matrimony 40 years ago. Their love has not diminished over the years, but grown more solid with the Lord guiding them through the joys and trials of life.

Brothers who have served through ministry this month are Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. John Laukhauf (Latty, OH) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). "Speak the gospel of salvation boldly in the wilderness!" (*Zion's Harp #112*)

Springtime is here! Turning back to the Zion's Harp we are reminded of our blessings and reasons for praise to God during this happy season. Hymn #244 bids us "see the husbandman, his seed now strewing on the earthly field in hope and fear, in God's promise still his trust renewing 'till spring sunshine makes the sprouts appear. Few fruits ripen from the springtime sunshine; not till autumn is abundance shown; without waiting we ne'er feel the rapture of a precious, bounteous harvest grown." The opportunity of spiritual springtime is here where we have the privilege to sow seeds that will become fruits in the Lord's field.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We bring those who suffer the afflictions of the body before the throne of grace. Our prayers are that they may feel God's comforting spirit and healing hand.

Bro. Marvin Fischer was hospitalized due to a stroke and underwent surgery for a blood clot, which should prevent further strokes.

Sis. Mayme Getz is experiencing much back pain since a fall, but is at home.

Bro. Steve Stieglitz humbly conducted our topical Bible study this month. He spoke on the "Conscience" and quoted the adage "Let your conscience be your guide." He asked, "Is this true?" Then he proved we can

mold or shape our conscience to be our guide by obeying the voice of the Word of God.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11). This is not necessarily memorization, but rather, what we have heard and learned which has become the source that guides us in every action and thought.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."

II Cor. 5:17-18

To commemorate Good Friday, I have chosen a poem written and published in 1965 by Bro. Henry Kipfer, who has gone to his eternal rest.

Redemption's Price

The sinless Lamb of God,
Jesus of Galilee,
Was called a transgressor
And died on Calvary.

He suffered for the sinner
Almost beyond belief.
And we helped nail Him there,
To cause Him all His grief.

To atone for our mistakes
And His great pardon win,
We must crucify the flesh
And die unto all sin.

It was His great desire
To share the cup and bread
With His beloved disciples,
Before dying in our stead.

With anguish in the garden
Of dark Gethsemane
He prayed to God, remove this cup
Which weighs so heavily.

While praying in submission
"Not my will but Thine,"
An angel came to strengthen Him
At this most sorrowed time.

The Lord in all His grief
Was forsaken of His own.
When told to watch they only slept,
While He prayed all alone.

They led Him to the Judgment Hall
Crying, "Crucify Him for His crime."
In innocence He suffered all
To redeem your sins and mine.

Compelled to bear the cross
Was Simon of Cyrene,
With many following after,
Jesus the Nazarene.

They nailed Him to the cross
And still He was so true.
And prayed, "Forgive them,
Father,
They know not what they do."

Thirsty and exhausted
He bowed His head and died,
With blood and water flowing
From His wounded side.

Joseph begged His body
And carried Him away,
To lay it in the tomb
Till Resurrection Day.

God's plan to save the sinner
Started with the dying thief,
Who asked of Jesus on the cross
For pardon and relief.

To those lamenting Him
It was an awful loss,
But the world's greatest victory
Was achieved upon that Cross.

INDIANA, MILFORD Linda Beer - Renee Beer

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Hymns of Zion #237

On Sunday, January 19, we rejoiced with Bro. Daren Metz of Morton, IL (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Rita Beer (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby) as they were joined together as husband and wife. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them as they establish a Christian home.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) and Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) in

our midst for this special occasion. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Haab (Bro. Don) as Sis. Martha's sister, Lizzie Ann Burkholder, passed away. We think of Sis. Mayedene Lehman as her husband, Bro. John, Sr., received his eternal reward on January 25. Sis. Karen Pamer's (Bro. Matt) mother, Grace Conley, passed away on February 15. May God continue to comfort and strengthen these families.

We think of our loved ones in our congregation who have been hospitalized or continue to experience tests: Sis. Mary Ann Haab (Bro. Art), Sis. Betty Beer (Bro. Maurice) and Bro. Theo Beer. May each one continue to feel the Lord's healing hand.

We gathered together on February 1 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) assisting our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in lovingly exhorting us to hold fast to the sound doctrine of our faith.

We are thankful that we have had many opportunities to assist others through our World Relief efforts. Several from our congregation traveled to Wolcott, IN to help in soap making. We enjoyed a family night where we gathered together to work on projects. We currently have a large number of brethren and friends traveling to Mexico to help on the work team there. Many thanks to all those who willingly give of their time and talents.

The Lord has once again blessed our Elder brethren as they assembled in Bay City, MI for the Brotherhood Conference. May we be attentive to the instructions and conclusions that they bring forth.

Note of Thanks:

I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love I received through cards and letters for my 99th birthday. It was a wonderful time in my life.

My 77 years as a member, and now retired minister and elder of the Apostolic Christian Church have been richly blessed by your God and mine. Thank you from the bottom of my

heart.

In Christian Love, Bro. Theo Beer

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

With Easter approaching, may each of us reflect with a thankful heart of the suffering and the great price Christ paid for us at Calvary. But let's not stop there. Let's also think of His resurrection and let His Word fill our hearts with the hope of meeting Him face to face.

We rejoice the Lord continues to call souls unto Him. Rustin Meister (Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon) and John and Rochelle Ward have answered God's call this past month. John's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Ward (Wolcott, IN) and Rochelle's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark. May His grace be abundant in their lives.

We shared a blessed weekend together on January 25 and 26 as we heard testimonies and witnessed baptisms of Joy Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) and Dale and Andrea Schneider. Dale is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and Andrea's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rogers (Brookston, IN). We pray these souls will always feel God's nearness. Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea and their children will be attending church in LaCrosse, IN since their recent move. We bid them farewell and pray the Lord will continue to lead them in a plain path.

In Romans 10:15 we read, "...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler with testimonies and baptisms. Also, Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) spent the weekend and took part in sharing the Word with us. Bros. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were with us on Saturday evening for the testimonies.

On January 30, our church had the opportunity to travel on a bus to the Bluffton distribution center to help package food that will be sent to Romania. It was a blessed evening to assist in this very worthwhile program and to fellowship with one another. We thank the Bluffton brethren for all the time and effort that goes into this project.

On February 8, Bro. Kurt Munzel from Bay City, MI showed the Remington and Wolcott congregations slides of Jamaica. As the scripture says, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men..". May the Lord move our hearts to share with those around the world who have such great needs.

We welcomed two new little lambs into our flock this month. Hannah Elisabeth is the first child in the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer. Grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer (Goodfield, IL) and John and Bev Wohlrab (Kewanee, IL). Another little girl arrived in the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody Waibel. Kaitlin Grace joins her two brothers, Mark and Colby. Kaitlin's grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta Waibel and Sis. Doris Getz (Francesville, IN).

Sis. Charlene Getz had an unfortunate fall which required surgery on her ankle. She is recovering at home and we wish her God's peace and complete healing.

We do miss several couples who have been able to travel south this winter and look forward to some of them returning by the end of the month. Praying the Lord's protection will be with them as they travel "home".

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Marci Neuenschwander

Sue Beebe

Spring is a season of renewal. As God brings forth new life in the world around us, we can't help but marvel at the perfectness of it all. The song "How Great Thou Art" by Carl Boberg (Hymns of Zion) serves as a reminder of the greatness of God's love for us—that He provides, cares and desires to share the beauty of His creation.

Similarly, the Easter season is not only a time of rejoicing but also of spiritual renewal. As we contemplate the price that was paid for us at Calvary, let us not forget the cause and effect of Christ's sacrifice. May we ever strive to be worthy of this gift we don't deserve.

We thank ministering Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and David Graf (Akron, OH) for their visit on February 2 with their wives and for the messages they brought forth.

The weekend of February 8 and 9 was a blessed one, as we listened to the testimony of DeAnn Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) on Saturday night and witnessed her baptism on Sunday. We thank all the visitors that came to share this weekend with DeAnn's family. We especially thank Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and their wives for giving of their time.

I asked Jesus...

"How much do You love me?"

And Jesus said...

"This much."

Then He stretched out

His arms and died.

—author unknown

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

May this writing find you all in good spirits and feeling the love of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) can tell you about that love that surpasses understanding. We were all privileged to witness his testimony, see the baptism and witness the laying on of the hands receiving the seal of that blessed Holy Spirit. Praise God, another soul has found the Lord. May he ever remember the joy for him on this happy occasion. We wish him the Lord's blessings.

Also in this past month we held our annual church business meeting. As has already been expressed, we thank all who have served in this past year and pray for all who will now have these duties. Organization is so important for us all to stay in step with the Lord. We all know who the author of confusion is and we dare not let it

run it's course.

Visiting ministers in this past month have been Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). Thank you all for coming and sharing God's Word with us. Your reward will be great in Heaven.

Until the next writing, Lord willing, keep up the good fight of faith and if you are in the area, please come and join us.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Willis Feller want to express their sincere thanks for all the love and work done during Willis' sickness and passing on to the Lord.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Jody Bahler - Beckie Lehman

We are thankful for the visitors we received this past month. We were blessed to hear the Word spoken by Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Our prayers were with Amber Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody) and her family as she was hospitalized this past month. We are glad she is home again and in good health.

We were privileged to hear Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) speak to us for our mid-week Bible topic. His subject was Talents. Through God's Word we are encouraged to use our talents wisely and for the Lord.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Monica Eisenmann

Edith Massner

Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz were with us recently. We are always grateful for their visit, as well as for their love and concern. We pray God's blessings and direction to all our dear Elders during their winter Conference. May we continue to support and pray for them.

Sis. Ruth Reiman is a hospital patient, but is recovering and says she

feels good. Sisters Katie Schumacher and Lula Landes have not been able to assemble with us for some time. May we remember all these loved ones with prayers and with an occasional note.

Note of Thanks:

With humble hearts, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to our brethren, near and far across the land, for the overwhelming love, support, prayers, and acts of kindness extended to us in these months since Brian's diagnosis of leukemia. Words fail us to convey how much each word of encouragement, each token of love, has meant to us. It brings tears to our eyes to be remembered by so many—even those we have never met—because our hearts are linked by the love of Christ. How precious is our Faith! We are so unworthy. Though we cannot thank each of you personally, please know we pray God's supreme blessing on all who have cared for and upheld us in any way.

"If a single fervent pray'r
Of a soul prevailing
On the tender heart of God
Brings its fruit unfailing,
How much more is in store
When whole congregations
Bring their supplication?"

Zion's Harp #174, vs.6

Truly, God answers prayer! We believe that it is because of your fervent prayers that we are able to report with great joy and thankful hearts that, following chemotherapy, Brian's leukemia is currently in remission. He has been able to start back to work. Praise God for His goodness and mercy! None of us know what tomorrow may hold, but we are so thankful for today. We do know Who holds the future, and ask you to continue to remember us in prayer that Brian's remission may be permanent, if it could be God's perfect will.

Least ones in Christ,

Brian and Lorna Knapp

*Jordan, Kyle, Trevor, Krystal,
Derek, Wyatt, Travis and Darrin*

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

There can be no victories if there are no battles, and as long as we continue to walk in the Spirit, we will always have battles. We read in God's Word that "the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other."

We want to thank Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for expounding unto us the exhortations of the Memorandum. How encouraging to be reminded how we can be victorious in our daily battles.

With Easter soon upon us, I am reminded how even the Lord's close followers had to endure the battles of the flesh against the Spirit. Peter, James and John had good intentions, I'm sure, to "watch" as our Lord commanded while He went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, but when He returned, He found them sleeping. When Jesus told His disciples "all of you shall be offended of me this night", I'm sure Peter was very sincere when he boldly said, "though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended". But in the heat of his battle, he denied the Lord, not once, but three times. Surely we are no different today. The Spirit is still willing but the flesh is weak. May we be granted grace daily to "put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".

Our thanks also to Bro. Jim Knobloch (Winthrop, MN) for serving us and encouraging us to "remember our first love".

Our thoughts and prayers are with our hospital patients, Sis. Leona Fehr (Bro. Scott) and George Schupbach (Mildred).

In closing, I'm reminded of the words from a song from the Tabernacles.

Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall;
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all
Hearken, what meaneth the sudden call!
What will you do with Jesus?

Will you evade Him as Pilate tried?
Or will you choose Him whate'r
betide?
Vainly you struggle from Him to
hide.
What will you do with Jesus?

Will you like Peter your Lord deny?
Or will you scorn from his foes to
fly?
Daring for Jesus to live or die?
What will you do with Jesus?

What will you do with Jesus?
Neutral you cannot be.
Someday your heart will be asking,
What will He do with me?

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

We are thankful for the efforts of all those that stand to preach the Word. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). May the Lord bless all those who visit us. We appreciate each and every one.

We held our annual business meeting. We want to thank those who have completed their terms and pray for those filling those positions. We pray for peace and unity not only in God's spiritual house, but also the physical house.

Bro. Dan Reinhard was a surgical patient recently. We wish him a complete recovery.

Redemption's Price

The sinless Lamb of God,
Jesus of Galilee,
Was called a transgressor
And died on Calvary.

He suffered for the sinner
Almost beyond belief.
And we helped nail Him there,
To cause Him all His grief.

To atone for our mistakes
And His great pardon win,
We must crucify the flesh
And die unto all sin.

It was His great desire
To share the cup and bread
With His beloved disciples,
Before dying in our stead.

With anguish in the garden
Of dark Gethsemane
He prayed to God, remove this cup
Which weighs so heavily.

While praying in submission
"Not my will but Thine,"
An angel came to strengthen Him
At this most sorrowed time.

The Lord in all His grief
Was forsaken of His own.
When told to watch, they only slept,
While He prayed all alone.

They led Him to the Judgement Hall
Crying, "Crucify Him for His crime."
In innocence He suffered all
To redeem your sins and mine.

Compelled to bear the cross
Was Simon of Cyrene,
With many following after,
Jesus the Nazarene.

They nailed Him to the cross
And still He was so true.
And prayed, "Forgive them,
Father,
They know not what they do."

Thirsty and exhausted
He bowed His head and died,
With blood and water flowing
From His wounded side.

Joseph begged His body
And carried Him away,
To lay it in the tomb
Till Resurrection Day.

God's plan to save the sinner
Started with the dying thief,
Who asked of Jesus on the cross
For pardon and relief.

To those lamenting Him
It was an awful loss,
But the world's greatest victory
Was achieved upon the Cross.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
Can we comprehend the horrible pain
and suffering He endured in our
stead? Are we thankful?

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! As I'm writing

this, snow is falling gently outside. Somehow it is not as pretty as it has been the past few months—I think it's time for spring!

One of the new signs of spring in our congregation is preparation for an Easter program. This has not been done for several years, and the students, some liking the opportunity to be "center stage" and some not, are all interested since the idea is something new and different for them. Sometimes in planning the Christmas program, it's a challenge to "tell the old, old story" in a way that captures their attention. Focusing on the crucifixion and resurrection this time has captured their attention—we pray the story of Jesus' love for us all will also capture their hearts.

*Just in time for
the Passover Feast*

Jesus into Jerusalem rode
On a donkey, like the prophets said
With palm branches and clothes on
the road.
"Hosannah," the people shouted,
"Hosannah to our King!"
None but Jesus knew, that joyous
day,
What events the next week would
bring.

The disciples, in an upper room,
The Passover Feast prepared.
At Jesus' last supper with His
chosen twelve,
His body and blood he compared
To the bread and wine they would
eat.
And told how He would be
betrayed,
But they didn't really understand
Many of the things that He said.

After the supper, Jesus went,
To the Garden of Gethsemane to
pray.
Although He knew of the pain
ahead,
"Not my will, but Thine," He did
say.
Knowing this was the only way
That God would forgive mankind's
sin,
He put aside all thought of Himself
And let His love for us win.

To the Garden, that very night,

Judas lead the soldiers to take,
Jesus to the judgement hall
The Jews had accusations to make.
Although He had the power to
escape
Jesus went with the men without a
fight.
All alone He faced the shame and
the pain
Even brave Peter denied Him that
night.

We extend our thanks to our many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and their families. We all appreciate their traveling many miles to share God's Word and love with our congregation.

**IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner**

We are beginning to see early signs of spring in our area, and the miracle of God's changing seasons is a wonder to behold. Even greater than this is the miracle of a soul who, by God's grace, turns their life on the world and becomes converted. We are rejoicing with Jared Metzger who has found the grace to repent.

A reception was held for Bro. Damen and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch who were united in marriage on January 19 in Winthrop, MN. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN). They will be attending church in Minneapolis, MN. We congratulate them, and pray that God will always be in the center of their marriage.

On January 29, a precious son, Trevor John, was born to John and Karmin Popkes. Trevor has a sister, Shayna, and loving grandparents, Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Eleanor Popkes.

Little Addie Deonne Meyer was born to Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer on February 2. She is welcomed home by big sister, Elyse, and brothers, Tad and Sam. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer. Great-grandmother is Sis. Emma Meyer. May God grant these parents His wis-

dom to rear their children according to His Word.

On January 27, Sis. Pauline Schambach was released from her earthly body. At age 93, Sis. Pauline was the oldest sister in our congregation. We pray that God will comfort her daughter, Sis. Helen Knobloch (Bro. Wilbert), and their family. Sis. Pauline was buried in Bartlett, IL.

Our prayers are with all those who suffer bodily afflictions. Surgical patients from our congregation were Sis. Mary Metzger, Sis. Marianne Metzger (Bro. Elmer) and Janet Oleson (Kevin). We are thankful they are all home now and recovering. Sis. Emma Knobloch is currently a hospital patient.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Chalea Knobloch (Bro. Vernon) and their family on the death of her mother, Janet Teunissen. We pray that God will comfort them and heal their aching hearts.

We bade a fond farewell to Sis. Brenda Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) and Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) who have both moved to the Silverton, OR area. We pray that God will bless them at their new home, and be with them until we meet again. The Sunday School children will miss Sis. Brenda and all of the fun "Field Trips" she took them on.

**IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debbie Wagenbach**

Congratulations to Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee Massner on the birth of their third grandson. Wyatt Curtis is the first child of their daughter, Mara, and her husband, Curtis Orr.

"In sorrow and pain, thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour..." (Zion's Harp #36). Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Doris (Bro. Leon) Kuntz in the loss of her father, Bro. Ben Moser, of Morton, IL. May the love of God comfort and provide peace to all those who have lost loved ones.

**IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht**

After pondering the March topic of

Easter, I knew I could not adequately express in words the Lord's deep suffering, and my feelings of thankfulness for His amazing love. I appreciate the hymn "And Can It Be" and believe its words are a reflection of all converted hearts.

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His
pain?

For me, who Him to death
pursued?

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace!
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race?
No condemnation now I dread,
I am my Lord's and He is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness
divine.

Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for
me?

Gospel Hymns #762

A very special thank you to our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in the Memorandum services held January 18, and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) for serving us on Sunday, February 9. We, as God's children, never want to lose the desire to hear the truth that will someday set us free.

Our prayers were with those hospitalized this past month, Bro. Ron Joos and Bro. Bill Wuthrich.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr - Lela Banwart

Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) was our visiting minister this past month. May he feel God's blessings for coming and sharing God's Holy Word with us.

How thankful we are that our Heavenly Father still grants grace to those who will humble themselves before Him in repentance, and find salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice with Paul Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) who has taken this step and has found peace with

God. May the Lord continue to be with him and grant him the needed grace for each day.

Our thoughts go to those who have been ill and hospitalized. Loved ones who have had recent surgery are Joan Traub, Kurt Metzger and Helen Gerber. We pray the Lord will be with them to heal and bless with better health.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Ruth Dodd in the passing of her dear mother, Marvel Forbes, of Minneapolis, MN. May she feel God's love and nearness in her lonely days ahead. The yearning for Heaven becomes stronger as we see our loved ones passing from this earth. May we all walk a little closer with God each day so that we can be worthy to enter into that beautiful Home and be reunited with our loved ones.

On January 27, Brooke Evelyn came into this world to join the family circle of Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt. Big sister, Dana, is happy to have a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt, and Sis. Velma and the late Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL).

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Teena Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy) and Jerry Hogan (Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hogan, Dundee, MN), both of Sioux Falls, SD. May they look to God for His guidance and blessings as they plan an April 19 wedding in Lester, IA.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner Holly Meyer

"I thirst," He cries in pain,
For there is no distress,
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,
Endured not at His death.
He bows His head and cries,
"Tis finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul."
Life's victory is won.

Zion's Harp #89

Three souls in our congregation will have a deeper appreciation of Christ's death on the cross, as Trent and Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis.

Kathy Rokey) and Timothy Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) have made that most important decision to follow Jesus and repent of their sins. We know how the angels are rejoicing over this, and a special one in particular, Trent and Ryan's late father, Leroy Menold, who went to be with the Lord when they were yet small boys.

Our congregation is also rejoicing as Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim Baumgartner were blessed with a healthy daughter, Tabitha Kay, on January 26. Older sisters, Miranda and Olivia, are excited and eager little helpers. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner and Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer. Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner also welcome a granddaughter as Emily Marie has joined the family of Bro. Craig, Sis. Raelynn, Anissa, and Jonathan Plattner (Chicago, IL). Our congratulations to both of these families!

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). May they be blessed for their extra efforts.

We had a special Saturday evening on February 1 as Bro. Perry Klopfenstein spoke to the Bern and Sabetha congregations on "Nurturing Children". Much food for thought and encouragement was given to all who attended. May we strive to be more zealous and sincere in our calling, as we train our children—for their soul never dies! The following Sunday, we had a potluck and singing for Bro. Perry, Bro. Clark, and their families and enjoyed some final thoughts from both brothers after the singing. We welcome them back anytime!

Our congregation gathered with Sabetha two other Saturday evenings this month. Elder Bro. Gene Marti presented his slides of Yugoslavia and other parts of Eastern Europe, and we also heard the reading of the Conference Memorandum. We thank our Elders for helping guide us in obedience to the Lord and in keeping His Church holy.

On February 9, the Senior Bible class, teachers, and sponsors enjoyed a day of worship and fellowship with the Kansas City congregation. We

thank them all for their wonderful hospitality.

Harlan Wittmer passed away on February 10 at the Sabetha Hospital. He is survived by his children, Ron Wittmer (DuBois, NE), Larry Wittmer (Colony, KS), and Susan Traw (Iola, KS). May they find comfort in the everlasting arms of God. Also seeking comfort from our Lord and Saviour are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and their family, as Linda's sister, Sis. Shirley Sinn (Silverton, OR), was called Home and relieved of her earthly pain.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Joe Marti. After living his entire life in his boyhood home, he is now adjusting to living in an apartment in Sabetha. Let's remember to pray for those, by name, who need special prayers...but he heareth the prayer of the righteous (Proverbs 15:29).

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Tammy Sinn

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was with us January 23 to assist in the reading of the Memorandum. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our Elder brothers. May we be willing to lighten their load by adhering to the kind admonitions and exhortations that are brought forth.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Don Banwart received support to fill the position of trustee, and Sis. Ruth Bahr was chosen to serve on the Food Committee. We wish to thank those who have served us in various capacities throughout the past year.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Lucille Schurter and Sis. Mabel Springer as their step-mother, Sis. Ada Hartman (Eureka, IL), was called to her eternal reward on February 3. May they feel God's comfort in their loss and yet look forward to a reunion in Heaven.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

Be true, be true! The Lord is by thee standing;
Joyful with Him at last will be the ending!

Tho' hard the strife and long the conflict be,
Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be!

Be true, be true! If guard we are not keeping,
Then we are lost, for Satan is not sleeping;
And if we are not watchful at the post,
That which we once had won will all be lost.

O, faithful Lord, thy love and truth sincerely
Thou dost bestow on us each day so clearly,
So grant that we also each day anew
Become more faithful, loving, kind,
and true!
Zion's Harp #172

Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie (Bern, KS) were with us in January to share the Word in all its truth and sincerity, and also to sit in on our annual meeting. Be True seemed to fit the occasion in a two-fold way! Many of us gave our hearts to our Lord a number of years ago, with a promise to be true and faithful to God until life's end. Are we faithful to God in attendance at Sunday, Wednesday, or other church gatherings? Or is it a bother to give of our time? Are we faithful in the office we hold in the church? Or do we do it half-heartedly? Are we faithful in our place of business, honest in our dealing outside the church? Or does it just not matter because they are the world? If we are not faithful in that which is least, how can we expect God to grant us a task that calls for more faithfulness? God gave His ALL for us; let's be true to our calling and give our ALL to Him!

Ada Farney Miller Hartman had the blessed privilege this month to fall asleep in the arms of her precious Lord whom she faithfully served to the golden age of 96 years and 17 days. I'm certain there has been rejoicing in God's presence of a faithful one coming Home. To her loved ones here we extend our deepest sympathy, for she was still Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma, Sister, Friend, and will be missed till we should meet her again on yonder shore. There were services

held in Kiowa, also, with our ministering brothers presiding.

To all who shared in rest home services this past month, thanks and God bless you!

Our hospital patients this past month included Sis. Edna Reed, and Sis. Mildred Farney. We are thankful they are again able to be in our midst, and hope that many others that have been ill from the flu, colds, pneumonia, etc. are feeling much better with God's healing strength.

This next month as we walk the road to Calvary, let's again read Zion's Harp #89.

Out onto Calvary's hill, where
Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks, to see
Him in His woe.
How great the pains, O Lord,
afflict Thee on this day;
"My God, my God," He calls,
"forsake me not, I pray."
No vengeance fills His heart; for
them I hear Him plead;
"They know not what they do;
forgive them for this deed."
Now Mary weeps for Him; in love
He soothes her lot;
"See mother, Thine own son!"
"Thou friend, forsake her not!"
The thief in penitence is pardoned
ere he dies;
"Today shalt thou yet be, with me
in paradise."
"I thirst," He cries in pain, for there
is no distress
Which Christ, the Friend of man,
endured not at His death.
He bows His head and cries, "'Tis
finished, all is done,"
"O God, receive my soul. Life's
victory is won."

Christ died for us, but let's not leave Him in the grave. He arose too and is alive on the right hand of God today, interceding and guiding us with love and understanding until the day He says our work on earth is finished and welcomes us Home.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Julie Bahr

The Easter season is upon us so quickly! A time especially given to us to reflect on the Saviour's humility

and suffering for each one of us. He didn't withdraw from the trial God had placed before Him, but rather yielded himself to "The Father's Will". What a perfect lesson for us as God's children. Adversity has its classroom. Problems have their advantages. If we can only remember to not run from the pressures that life deals us. God has a specific purpose to help us learn and grow, so that someday we can be used to help out someone else. We only pray, Dear Lord, choose for us our portion, so we can earn the crown.

The pain goes deep, but God's promises are everlasting! Our prayers and sympathy are far outreached to our many dear ones this month. Our loving God has called Home four dear souls. Sis. Ada Hartman (Fairbury, IL) is the dear mother of Sis. Doris (Bro. Roy) Bahr and the grandmother of Bro. Brian (Sis. Julie) Bahr. Sis. Ada passed away at the age of 96. As the oldest child of a family of 15 children, Sis. Ada faithfully served others all her life. "Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth, in Heaven now proclaimed."

Sis. Eva Emch also was called Home at the age of 100. Sis. Eva gave her heart and hands to the Lord at a young age, and never did marry. Another dear sister who faithfully served others all her life. Our sympathy goes to Bro. Bill (Sis. Susan) Emch and those who are her surviving family and grieve her loss.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

Psalm 73:26

This scripture is comforting as we wish to extend our deepest and sincere sympathy to Maria (John) Wernli in the sudden loss of her dear mother, Sis. Anna Jevremov (Bro. Victor), of San Diego, CA. Our hearts are touched and we are grieved for those who are around us.

Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd) lost her only dear brother, Harlan Wittmer (Bern, KS). We can only ask for God's comforting Spirit upon each one and a healing for each broken heart.

The Physician's hand, spiritually as well as physically, was called upon many times this past month, as several of our dear ones underwent surgery. Bro. Lloyd (Joann) Luthi received a knee replacement, Bro. Victor Edelman (Sis. Hope) required eye correction, and Kathy (James) Kraft required corrective surgery. Also, Bro. Rudy Bahr (Sis. Eileen) received a diagnosis which required surgery unexpectedly. However, the power of prayer prevails and we have interceded to the Father to carry our loved ones through. "One day at a time—each burden He'll bear."

Our only visiting minister was Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). The seed was sown and the invitation was given to all present! "To him who hath an ear, let him hear," and heed the invitation.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards, and gifts I received since my knee surgery. May the Lord bless each one for their kindness.

Sis. Edna Somerhalder

Correction: I recognized a misprint for the wedding date of Dora Edelman and Tony Hines. The date is set for May 17 rather than May 7.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger**

Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle Meyer are happy with the addition of a new son, Blake Edward, born January 16. He will be given much attention from his sisters, Allison and Lauren, and brother, Grant. Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer are thankful for the new grandson.

The Sabetha-Bern single group is thankful for a Bible study presented on "Creation". Many interesting thoughts were given to consider how things all came to be in six days. One side issue was to think of how many times certain numbers are used over and over in the scripture and they must be important. Examples are #3 (things closely related), #6 (man's incompleteness), #7 (completeness) and #40 (trials).

We were privileged to have Martin

Froelich (Berne, Switzerland) visit our congregation while traveling in the United States. We hope he had a safe journey home and feels welcome to come back and see us.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) being with us to share the Conference Memorandum with Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO). May God grant us the grace to apply what we have heard to our lives.

We had our annual business meeting. Our prayers and support are extended to those who have been given duties to perform. We thank each one for the various ways they have helped the church function in the past.

Bro. Virgil Hartter (Sis. Marie) and Sis. Matilda Steiner were in the hospital. We are thankful they have been released. We are also grateful Sis. Ruby Grimm's (Bro. Gerald) surgery was a success.

Our sympathy to Sis. Helen Bahr (Bro. Roy) whose brother, Everett Williams, passed away. We also extend sympathy to Sis. Mary Aberle on the passing of her sister, Sis. Ada Hartman, who was living in Fairbury, IL.

Bro. Kent Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) will be away from us for several months as he is working on a dairy farm in Minnesota. Our thoughts and prayers will be with him.

Bro. Perry Klopenstein gave a talk for the Sabetha and Bern congregations on family relations and training children. Closing thoughts were made by ministering Bro. Clark Stoller, also from Gridley, IL. It was a very informative evening. There was something for every listener to consider in how they can be a better influence in the life of a child.

A slide presentation was given by Elder Bro. Eugene Marti concerning living conditions in Eastern Europe and how they struggle for the day to day necessities. When we stop and compare that to the blessings we have in America, it makes us think, "What do we have to complain about?"

Our prayers are with our Elders as they are meeting at their mid-winter Conference. We know they have many

weighty matters to consider and we pray for God's direction.

A reminder that next month we will be using the collection boxes for our annual Silver Lining collection. There is no longer a set rate. The Publications Board has decided to just take up a voluntary collection. Any address changes should be addressed to your correspondent. Your prayers and support in this work are appreciated.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Holly Wales

Another semester is in full swing here at K-State. I think all of us enjoyed our semester break but it's back to the books for most of us. Leaving us this past December was Sis. Jeanne Edelman (Bro. Loren) to do her student teaching around the Sabetha area. Graduating were Carrie Grimm (Wayne) and Sis. Wendy Edelman. We wish them all luck in their chosen career paths.

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life.
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Most of us were blessed to witness the marriage of our Sis. Dayra Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jean) to Bro. Terry Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou) on December 29 in Bern. Our prayers are with them as they are now united as one in the Lord.

We welcome Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada) back to school as a Brother-in-faith. His provings and baptism were January 11 and 12 in Sabetha.

Haste and seek your soul's
salvation
Heed the Word of God today!
Haste to 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.
Zion's Harp #52

We are rejoicing as three dear souls
have turned their backs on the world

and begun their repentance. They are Ryan and Trent Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey) and Tim Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), all from Bern. It is such an encouragement to know that God is still calling and souls are still answering. May God use them as an inspiration to those yet outside the fold so that they may also enjoy salvation. Our visiting ministers this semester have been Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bro. Daryll Stoller and Bro. Jim Kaeb from Bern and Bro. Roger Aberle from Sabetha. May God richly bless them for driving to our campus on Wednesday nights to share the Word with us.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Four families in our congregation recently have experienced the death of a loved one. Bro. Virgil Barth's brother, Elmer, who lived in the Augusta community, has gone on to his reward. His funeral was the same day that Bro. Howard Warner's mother, Cleada, was buried. We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Virgil and Betty and to Bro. Howard and Sis. Ann. Next, Bro. Godfrey Miller's mother, Sis. Ada Hartman, of Eureka, IL died, and he and I have received loving support from our church family. And finally, Sis. Ann Farney's brother, Ben Oesch, of Mansfield, OH died. Ben visited in Wichita frequently. We offer our sympathy to his family. Such a recitation of deaths would leave us comfortless if we did not believe in the precious promises in the Holy Bible.

Happily, I can report that Sis. Gussie Wullsleger endured hip replacement surgery in late January, and is planning to go to her own home on this date of my writing. We are so grateful for the Master's touch in her healing. She will be home bound for a period of time. Bro. Godfrey Miller, too, is experiencing surgical procedures and problems. As our surgeon counseled with us, he told us, "God can work miracles through doctors." Bro. Godfrey and I have been surrounded by a caring family, a praying church family, and a supportive circle of friends.

Our Wichita congregation has been blessed nearly every Sunday with visitors. We are so happy to share our worship services with them. Again, I'd like to mention that the area economy is healthy and offers many job opportunities.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Doug and Rebecca Germann

Greetings from the Bluegrass State. We appreciate our many visitors this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and several others; and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and several others who came to share the weekends with our small group.

In other local news, the Sunday School enjoyed a get together this past month also.

If anyone is traveling through the area, we welcome you to call us and we will have a singing or supper while you are here. Also, for those planning summer vacations, please feel free to call or write the Germann's at (606) 224-8710, 737 Wellington Way, Lexington, KY 40503 for information on vacation activities here in Kentucky. We are three to four hours from five or six state parks, the Smokey Mountains, and within an hour of Shaker-town and Ft. Boonesborough. Please don't hesitate to contact us for information.

This past month, we were fortunate to have some relatives from Fairbury stay with us. After supper we had our family devotions, and we sang a few hymns together. As we were singing, I looked about the room and thought how fortunate we were to have four generations of family singing hymns together and the bond that unites our hearts together. May we as families enjoy these true blessings and strive to keep the flames of faith alive within the hearts of our children, so that they, too, will have the opportunity to see the faith in action for their children also. We must stand firm in the faith and support the brotherhood like the following poem so beautifully states:

Changeless Beauty

Have you ever stopped to notice
After winter's hardest freeze,
How the cedars somewhat differ
From the other woodland trees?

In the very heart of winter
They are easy to be seen
Maples, Oaks and Beeches are
naked
But the cedars still are green.

They receive the self-same
treatment
As the others we behold;
They are whipped by winds and
weather,
By the winter's frost and cold.

Yet they stand there brave,
unhindered
Giving off sweet scents of pine
Oh, thou common tree of nature
May my faith resemble thine!

Here amid life's raging conflicts,
With a heart both brave and strong,
May I with each blow that strikes me
Bear a sweeter, nobler song!

May I stand, a brave example,
In this world of sad decay;
Live a virtuous life and holy
In a pure, inspiring way.

May my trust be firm, unwavering
As a light for Jesus shine,
Clothed in changeless dauntless
beauty
Like the needles of the pine.
—Kentucky

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Melanie Kaeb
Michelle Oesch

As Easter approaches, it is a good time to reflect on the many blessings which the Lord has bestowed upon us. It is also a good time to think about what He has asked of us.

I gave my life for thee
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead.
I gave, I gave my life for thee,
What hast thou given for me?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy tongue can tell,
Of bitterest agony,

To rescue thee from Hell.
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for me?

And I have brought to thee,
Down from my home above,
Salvation full and free,
My pardon and my love.
I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee,
What hast thou brought to me?
Hymns of Zion #115

The waters here at Alto continue to be stirred, as Ben Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne) turns his heart to the Lord in repentance. As we rejoice with this new little lamb, may we reflect back on the joy that we felt as we began our own walk with God.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We voted Bro. Ron Erismann in as the new Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Fred Oesch as the new trustee. Bro. Nathan Steffen will be serving as the representative for Gateway Woods. Sis. Marguerite Blough will serve on the World Relief Committee and Sis. Liz Blough will take a place on the kitchen committee. May God bless these brothers and sisters as they begin their new service.

We ask for your continued prayers for Ronald Zaagman and his family as he continues chemotherapy and treatment for his cancer.

Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) spent the weekend after the Elder Conference with us here at Alto. He assisted Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen with the reading of the Memorandum on February 16.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Marlene Mosher
Rhonda Knochel

We were saddened but also full of hope in the passing of our dear aunt and mother. Sis. Kathryn Wackerle passed on to a better place leaving behind some tears and smiles, too, in our Lord and Saviour's will and time. Sis. Kathryn leaves behind her husband, Bro. Ronald; three daughters, Diane and Tom Sajdak, Shelly and Bob Suchy, and Sis. Rhonda and Bro. Bob Knochel; and many beloved grandchildren. Also, two brothers,

Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lena Wieland, Wilford and Creola Wieland; a sister-in-law, Sis. Marie Wieland; also sisters-in-law, Sis. Loretta (Bro. Winsor) Mosher, Sis. Neola (Bro. Byron) Nussbaum, and Myrtle Wackerle. She will be missed but with very good memories.

Bro. Gary Meylan (Sis. Marilyn) had a couple of surgeries but is doing well.

Sis. Inez Grew (Del) has spent time in the hospital but is doing better.

Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) had out-patient surgery but is gaining.

Sis. Marilyn Munsel cracked her knee falling on the ice and has a cast, but is doing fine.

Bro. Jerry Wieland (Sis. Lois) will be having surgery in Florida.

Bay City was privileged to host the mid-winter Elder Conference and as a church and body of our Lord, we were very blessed.

We were blessed to have open house and dedication of our new Apostolic Christian World Relief Distribution Center of Bay City. We are now able to bag beans and have our sewing group do their work in our new facility.

If we just trust in our Lord and let Him take the lead, all things will be well with our lives. Our Lord is never early or never late—always on time in all things.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer

Thus ever on through life we find
To trust, O Lord, is best,
Who serve Thee with a quiet mind
Find in Thy service rest.

Their outward troubles may not
cease,

But this their joy will be —
"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
Whose mind is stayed on Thee."

—Author unknown

On February 8, Bro. Greg Schlatter (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI) testified of his faithfulness and was baptized on February 9 in Bay City. We welcome him as a brother in Christ in our congregation as he is working in the De-

troit area.

On January 26, Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu (Kitchener) shared their testimonies. It was so refreshing to hear of the love in their hearts and the willingness to serve God. They have three children, Naomi, Jesse, and Jakob.

We welcome Ward Buster (Bro. Don and Sis. Ingrid Buster, Burlington, IA) as he is receiving medical training from a local hospital. We also welcome Greg Huette (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette, Tremont, IL) and Neil Seaman (Pekin, IL) who are attending Lawrence Tech University. May they all feel God's direction in the pursuit of their studies.

On December 12, Gary Diedrichs and Peggy Schlatter (Sis. Trudy Schmidt's sister) were married and have moved to San Francisco.

On January 3, two were made as one as Kevin and Dorothy Haines (Leland and Katie Haines) were united in marriage. May God's blessings of love be with both couples.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI), being with us on January 25 as we heard the Memorandum. Also, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife, Sis. Joan (Oakville, IA), were here on February 15 and 16 as we shared Communion.

On January 29, we held our annual business meeting. As some have completed their terms, we would like to thank each one for their service. The new officers are as follows: ushers - Bros. Keith Beyer, Jesse Bedolla, and Kurt Kaisner; kitchen - Sis. Jennifer Schrock; Silver Lining reporters - Sis. Manuela Denes and Sis. Kristie Meyer.

Our prayers are with Sis. Anna Magyar as she recently had eye surgery. May the hand of God be with her as she recovers.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Kaisner (Bro. Hartzell) as her brother, Robert Ehnle (Bradford, IL), passed away. Sis. Joyce Germaine (Bro. Milan) had an uncle pass away. Our prayers are with Sis. Ann Tachar, as not only has she lost a son in the past months, but also has lost a brother, Emil Dimitrie. Our love and

prayers go with each one who is sorrowing over their loss.

Sis. Dorine Kurkowski has returned from Haiti after helping with World Relief work there. Much good was accomplished and it truly is a privilege to have brothers and sisters help in foreign lands.

Another group is going to Haiti this week, which consists of Karl Moilanen, Bro. Randy Gasser, Bro. Tom Hitz, Bro. Mark Ramseyer and Bro. Ben Denes. Our prayers go with them that God may direct their paths and that it may be a blessing for all.

"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths."

Psalm 25:4

Haley Beth Knochel was born to Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth Knochel on February 17. Luke and Brooke look forward to the blessings of a baby sister in the family.

As we are getting closer to spring, we can look forward to more warmth from the sun, but if we dwell on the true Son, we can feel warmth every day.

"Life is too short to nurse one's misery. Hurry across the lowlands, that you may spend more time on the mountaintops."

—Phyllis Brooks

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

We extend our best wishes and Lord's blessings to Carol Luthi and Dale Richter as they recently announced their engagement and forthcoming marriage, planned for May 24. Carol is the daughter of Harold and Bernice Luthi of Morris, MN and Dale is the son of Donald and Johanna Richter of Woodbury, MN.

The Union of Hearts

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in

Jesus;

We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a threefold cord,

Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

We rejoiced with Bro. Damon Knobloch and Sis. Stephanie Messner as they were united in Holy Matrimony on January 19 in Winthrop, MN. May they feel God's love and guidance as they begin their life together in Him. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN).

We extend a warm welcome to Jeremy Schweigert (Alan and Sue, Princeville, IL) who is employed in our area. We hope he feels the warmth of our fellowship.

On February 2, we held our annual business meeting. Newly elected to offices were Bro. Anthony Fehr (Trustee), Bro. David Stewart (Treasurer), Bro. Duane Rocke and Bro. Anthony Fehr (Ushers), Bro. Doug Messner and Bro. David Stewart (Recorder), Bro. Leo Banwart (Handicapped Home Correspondent), Sis. Rachael Kent (World Relief Activity Group), Sis. Lila Fehr and Sis. Delores Sauder (Food Group Committee). We thank the brothers and sisters who worked so selflessly in the past and our prayers are with those who are now beginning a new term.

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

Colossians 3:15

It was announced that Joe Bednarski (Sis. Ethel) has peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing his and Jan Schmidt's (Darrin) testimonies (March 15) and witnessing their baptisms (March 16). We rejoice with them.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

The death angel has visited several families in our church this past month. Our sincere sympathy and

compassion is extended to these families.

Our dear friend, Linus Lienemann, 87, passed away February 13 following an extended period of ill health. He leaves his wife, Sis. Esther; a son, David (Glenda); one step-daughter, Phyllis Soder; three grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews. Linus enjoyed coming to church and visiting with the young people.

Our congregation also grieves the loss of our dear Sis. Laura Miller, 83, who passed onto her Heavenly Home on February 13. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Noah; 12 children, Bro. Don (Sis. Beradine), Melva Eckberg (Duane), Wayne (Ruby), Thomas (Maggie), Sis. Mary Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan), Roger (Ruth), Judi Feucht (Jerry), Jean Ishaug (Kelly), Mavis Hickman (Frank), Brent (Kathy), Ilene Grace (Eugene), and Michael; 35 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, 3 brothers, 9 sisters and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Sis. Laura enjoyed cooking, gardening, sewing, crafts and loved to sing. Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura helped establish the Minneapolis Apostolic Christian Church and were often called upon to provide meals and overnight accommodations. Sis. Laura demonstrated abiding support for her husband during his many years in the ministry.

Our prayers are especially with Sis. Esther and Bro. Noah in losing their longtime helpmates. We pray for God's comfort in their lonely hours and may they always feel God's presence.

We were grateful to have Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Morris, MN) with us this past month. We thank them for lending themselves as God's servants.

"Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter."

Psalm 74:17

Anticipating Spring

When Wintertime seems very long,
Remember comes the robin's song;

As well as flowers in glorious bloom,
And wiped away is Winter's gloom.
Our lives are as the seasons go,
A time to rest and time to grow;
And Spring personifies the Christ
Who broke the bonds of death's
dark strife!

So let us neither weep nor wane,
Because the skies will smile again;
And when we feel the weight of care,
Remember God is always there!

—*Sancie Earman King*

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

Note of Thanks:

The family of Nichole Messner wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all the love and sympathy shown to them since the tragic death of their daughter and sister. Our sincere thanks to each one of you for all the kind deeds, food, cards and prayers.

Doug, Sue, Alissa and Chelsey Messner

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Nancy Wulf
Linda Schmidgall**

What a blessing to be able to trust God for guidance in the second most important step in life. We pray Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie Strahm will continue to seek our Father's guidance in their married life. Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie were married February 2. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm (Sabetha, KS).

We are thankful the weather permitted the many visitors who traveled to be with us for this special occasion. We especially want to thank the ministering brothers, Bros. Mike Rinckenberger (Congerville, IL), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Our prayers go out to those who

spent time in the hospital. They were Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion), Sis. Margery Koehl and Bro. Otto Schaefer.

On February 8, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Art Nohl with the reading of the Memorandum. We are also thankful for the encouragements and warnings. May God richly bless them and may we support our Elder brothers.

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sally Feuchtenberger and sons, Ryan, Kyle and Wade, were thrilled with a baby daughter and sister born February 6. May God bless these parents with wisdom to raise their children in the fear and admonition of Him. Grandparents are Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

Greetings! We are still missing our snow birds and waiting anxiously for them to start arriving back home! This also warms our hearts in knowing Springtime and Easter is close at hand. This is a special time set aside for us all to remember that our Saviour died on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of our sins. How thankful we can be that He gave His life for ours.

This union of our hearts,
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.
This God made union then,
Shall never more be broken,
Where faith and love have been,
The holy cov'nant's token,
Where God the seal does give,
The hope shall e'er remain,
Though parting be our lot,
To meet in heav'n again.

Zion's Harp #79

On January 19, we were so happy to be able to witness the marriage ceremony of our dear Sis. Stephanie Messner (Sis. Carol Ann and the late Bro. Dennis) to Bro. Damon Knobloch

(Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl, Lester, IA) of Minneapolis, MN. May they continue to look to our Lord for guidance in their new life together.

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

Acts 2:38-39

We were blessed this past month with the opportunity to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls, Bro. Derick and Sis. Ruth Schmidt (Bro. Darrel and Darlene). We rejoice with them and their family as they continue their Christian walk with our Lord and Saviour.

We would like to send special thanks to the visiting ministers who were with us and took part in the wedding and baptism weekends: Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) and Bros. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to share time with us.

This past month we were again blessed with a new arrival. Tristan Edwin was entrusted to Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie Schmidt on February 4. Loving grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt of Winthrop and Bro. Wladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher of Kitchener, Canada. We wish them God's grace in the raising of their precious gift from above.

Note of Thanks:

We want to say thank you for the many cards and prayers on the passing of our dear granddaughter, Nichole.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brent Kellenberger**

The last few weeks we have been

blessed with many visitors. The Bern, KS Bible class came for the day on February 9 and helped us fill the three front benches. The following weekend, single brothers, sisters and friends from six states gathered with us to fellowship and learn about the more important things in life. We are thankful for our visitors on both weekends.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We appreciated him coming with his wife, Sis. Lavonne, to spend the day with us. May God bless him for his labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR **Martha Kellenberger** **Carolyn Banwart**

Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi Luthi were blessed with a son, Caleb Ray, born on January 22. He was welcomed home by Audrey, Jared, Jessica and Ryan. His grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger (St. Louis, MO).

Our prayers are with Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) as he is recovering from surgery.

We were thankful to have Bro. Doug Grimm and his family from Sabetha, KS spend a Sunday with us. May God bless him for expounding God's Word to us.

As we approach the Easter season, may we remember the price our dear Lord paid by shedding His blood on the cross for our sins.

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

Matthew 28:5-6

Note of Thanks:

Rex and I want to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, food, visits and especially your prayers since my surgery. May God bless you all for the kind deeds showered on us.

Bro. Rex, Sis. Vera Frieden and girls

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Peter Schrenk

We are happy to announce that Rachel Schrenk (Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy) has found peace, and her baptism and testimony are scheduled on April 12 and 13. It will be such a joy to celebrate her new life through Jesus' resurrection this Easter.

We were reminded that the ministering brothers are only successful in bringing the Word to us if they bring nothing of themselves. We thank visiting Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) for giving of their time to serve us and bring the Lord's message to us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Tina Sutter

Salvation! During this Easter season, we think much about Jesus' anguish on the cross and rising from the dead. However, what does it really mean to us?

"Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Luke 3:7

Do we believe in Him only to escape punishment? Or do we really want salvation from our sin? Reformation? Before Jesus was taken to die, He felt the anguish. He did not look forward to the pain He had to endure.

"...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matthew 26:38-39

Thinking of Jesus on the cross, we've heard the story many times. He could have called a million angels to save Him from the pain He felt, but He was committed to do what God

wanted, so He stayed there on the cross. After Jesus had conquered death through God, He said, "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (*John 17:11*)

Do we carry out being one with the Lord? Is it our weaknesses that we can be thankful for to keep us communicating to Him for reformation?

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

II Corinthians 12:19

The Lord has blessed Sis. Tami and Bro. Keith Pflum with their first baby boy, Seth Michael, on January 23. He will also feel much love by his grandparents, Sis. Marian and Bro. Lyle Pflum (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Dona and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm.

Along with the joys we share, we must bear the pain of the passing on of dear loved ones. Our hearts were saddened and also rejoiced when Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA) was taken suddenly from this earth to be with her Heavenly Father. Our prayers will be with her family, who include her daughter, Sis. Anna (Bro. Scott) Hoerr. Sis. Anna held a special spot in our hearts for the stand she took for the Lord and for the suffering she endured.

Our sympathy and prayers for the family of Deannie Wuthrich (Iowa), sister-in-law to Sis. Lois and Bro. James Sutter.

We would also like to extend love and prayers for the family of Bro. Paul Hodel (Francesville, IN). Bro. Paul was a brother-in-law to Sis. Loida Hodel and an uncle to Sis. Kathy Haab and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm.

The adversary can use times of illness to discourage us, or we can use these times as a chance to slow us down and draw closer to him. We want to remember Bro. Norman (Sis. Sally) Haerr who was hospitalized this month, so the Lord can strengthen him.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Anna and Bro. Scott Hoerr would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who showed love and concern during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing on of their mother. It is encouraging to know so many care.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Alice Virkler**

Three Crosses

Three crosses on a lonely hill,
A thief on either side,
And, in between, the Son of God
How wide the gulf — how wide!

Yet one thief spanned it with the
words,
"Oh, Lord, remember me;"
The other scoffed and turned aside
To lost eternity.

Forsaken is the hilltop now -
And all the crosses gone,
But in believing hearts of men,
The center cross lives on.

And still, as when these sentinels
First met earth's wondering view,
The presence of the Lord divides
Upon which side are you?
—*Author unknown*

We will soon be celebrating the Easter time of the year when we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. If it were not for His sacrifice in this life for each of us, we would have no hope of living forever in Heaven. It is our prayer that many more will follow the teachings of our Lord and turn to His side in this lifetime.

Our dear friend, Gwen Lehman, has decided to turn her heart to God in repentance. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she is hospitalized for treatment in Syracuse. May God we with her at this time of trial and throughout all the days of her life. We look forward to the time when she will be able to assemble with us again. She is the daughter of Bradley and Sis. Regina Herzig.

Sis. Minnie Taube was taken Home to be with God on January 17, just a few days before she would have cele-

brated her 101st birthday. We will miss her smile which she always had whenever we visited her in her home as she sat quietly in her kitchen. She was blessed with a good mind and enjoyed visitors. Our Sunday School children were able to Christmas carol for her in December. She has been a widow since January of 1979 when her husband, Bro. Elmer, was taken Home. May God comfort each member of her family. She had two sons, Ralph and Harold, both of Naumburg; and two daughters, Mrs. Vincent (Mary) Gayliard, Willingboro, NJ and Mrs. Newton (Ruth) Mellnitz, Naumburg; 19 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Sis. Polly (Bro. Niles) Farney was hospitalized in Lowville, Utica and Syracuse following a heart attack. She is regaining her strength and was able to be in our assembly again. Sis. Bernice (late Bro. Leland) Hirschey was hospitalized in Buffalo for surgery and her recovery has been good. We look forward to having her in our assembly soon. Gayle (Bruce) Hirschey had surgery on her wrist. Don Petzoldt (Sis. Rita) is doing well after surgery in January on his shoulder. We are thankful for God's healing hand which has been extended to our loved ones.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Lois (Bro. Dave) Schamback and Sis. Carolyn Virkler. Their sister-in-law, Sis. Christine (Bro. Kenneth) Virkler (Rockville, CT) has been taken from this life into eternity. May God comfort each member of this family.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each and every one for all prayers, cards and calls on my behalf while I was in the hospital and during my recovery at home. May God richly bless you all.

Sis. Polly Farney

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Love and greetings from our congregation. We appreciated the ministering labors of Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). May God richly bless all those who faithfully proclaim God's Word in its truth, and may we

as God's children daily and hourly seek to be obedient to our Lord.

Sis. Alma Curie celebrates her 90th birthday on March 16. Sis. Alma was hospitalized earlier this month but we are thankful that she is now back at the Apostolic Christian Home. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with Judy Kaufman as she recovers from a fractured arm.

We will miss Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy Graf and their sons as they will be relocating to the Latty/Junction, OH area. We know that God will keep them as they remain in His perfect will. May God bless them in their new home.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Our guest ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

The annual business meeting was held and we wish to extend our loving thanks to those who worked this last year in their various positions. Sis. Ann Wulf will be serving on the Kitchen Committee for the coming year. Bro. Duane Wulf and Bro. Bill Sauder will fill the positions of Trustee and Usher respectively. Sis. Kara Stoller will return as Sunday School teacher for the young class. We offer our prayers of support to these and all others who hold offices within our churches.

February 15 and 16 was the Columbus Invite-a-Friend weekend with company in attendance from several Ohio churches.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

We were privileged to have ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) as our guest this past weekend. We look forward to his quiet, thought-

provoking messages as inspired by the Lord. Our thanks are extended to him, Sis. Sue, and their children for their visit.

Surgery patients this past month included Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise Manz, and Jodi Manz (Dave and Sis. Kathy). All of them are finally home again, and we wish them all faith to accept whatever healing the Lord will allow.

As we contemplate Good Friday and Easter, I would share a thought that struck me during one of our Elder's sermons. Isn't it so true that when we are facing tests and trials, we often become so focused on ourselves that we forget that others around us are still struggling with cares of this life? I have often caught myself doing just that. Yet during Christ's greatest trial, anticipating the great agony that awaited Him on Calvary's hill, He was focused on and praying for others. May we press on with our high calling of becoming more Christ-like.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Joyce Klopfenstein

The angels in Heaven rejoice for each sinner that repents, and we are rejoicing in Latty also. January 19, we traveled to Junction and welcomed Bro. Neil Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty) as a brother in Christ. We appreciate the kind hospitality of the Junction congregation.

Two more souls have reported they have found peace in their souls. They are Shelby Sinn (Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee) and Tim Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann). We look forward to welcoming them into the family.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein have welcomed their first little bundle from Heaven on February 3. Her name is Angela Rose. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bev Rocke (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein.

We are thankful to see Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Stan Sinn (Sis. JaNahn) gathering with us again following surgery. Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Es-

ther Stoller (Bro. Loren) and their family; and with Bro. Phil Grant (Sis. Gloria) following a burn injury at work. May God grant comfort and healing according to His will.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 10:7

How often can we hear this message during what we believe to be the latter days? As often as a brother stands before us on the pulpit! We are thankful that there are brethren willing to "go and preach" this message. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen (Alto, MI) for visiting us this past month.

We'll never say good-by in heav'n,
We'll never say good-by...
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-by.

Hymns of Zion #122

It is with much sadness that we say a temporary "good-by" to Bro. Ora Sauder (the late Sis. Dora) who has moved to one of the assisted living units at the Home in Rittman. Bro. Ora is a fine example to us all, for whenever the church doors were open, he was among the first to be there. We know that he is still close, but we will miss seeing him on a regular basis. His daughter, Sis. MaryAnn Domka (Bro. Dan), and their family will surely feel the miles separating them. Our prayers are with them all during this transition.

One Sunday afternoon before the service, as I went into the sanctuary, I heard two little girls singing one of the songs they often sing in Sunday School. They were singing softly to themselves, but there was such joy in their voices that it brought a smile to my face and tears to my eyes. I had to wonder if we as adults sing with such joy or do we let the cares of this world take some (or all) of the joy from our voices? May we ever sing and praise God with the joy of a child.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Ben Oesch

who took his final breath on February 8. May God comfort those of his family left behind. This includes his brother, Elmer (Doris); and sisters, Sis. Ann Farney (the late Bro. Harvey, Wichita, KS), Sis. Edith Mayer (Bro. John, Indianapolis, IN), Sis. Emilie Went (Harold), Martha Oesch, Sis. Helen Ramsier (Bro. Wally); and his sister-in-law, Sis. Kate Oesch (the late Bro. John). Preceding him in death were his parents, Bro. Karl and Sis. Tillie Oesch; his wife, Rosemarie; two brothers, Bro. John and Robert; and a sister, Rose Munson. May all of his family find comfort in God's arms.

The blessed story of the Christ,
The babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.
The fullness of God's love divine,
Surrounds the Christ so mild,
Alas how many only know
The Saviour as a child.
Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee,
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the
man
Who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross
That sets the spirit free.
Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart
And let the Saviour in.
Hymns of Zion #37

Yes, this is a song we often sing at Christmas, but even as we read the words of this song, we find that actually Easter is the more important holiday to the Christian. No, we could not have Easter without Christmas, but Easter is the reason there was a Christmas. As the Easter season approaches, let us all reflect on what Christ's death on the cross means to each of us on a personal basis. Let us think on the love He has for each of us that He would willingly give His life so that we might live forever. May

each of you enjoy the blessings of Easter all the year through.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Michelle Dotterer
Carla Stoller

We gathered January 25 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. We are grateful for their efforts.

John and Kim Deuber welcome their daughter, Cassidy Lyn, born January 18. Grandparents are Larry and Janet Hanzie and Fred and Doris Deuber.

Certainly we rejoice with Sis. Mildred Reusser as her granddaughter, Andrea (Maag) Steiner (Brent), has begun her repentance. We trust that she will feel God's grace as she walks this new path of life and assembles in the Alto, MI congregation.

On February 2, the engagement of Bro. Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane, Smithville, OH) was announced. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan to serve Him together.

February 9 was a joyous day for Bro. Eric Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Tricia Indermuhle (Bro. Galen and Sis. Cheryl) as they were united in marriage. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) took part in the wedding ceremony. May the couple receive God's blessings as they begin this life-long union.

The many of our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital recently include: Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Martha Dotterer (Elder Bro. Henry), Sis. Martha Koehler, Sis. Lucy Gasser, Sis. Judy Schar (Bro. Rowen), Sis. Martha Beery, Donna Duckworth, Sis. Melba Miller (Richard), Dave Plahuta (Sue), Jerry Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane), Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman, Nathan Hartzler (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Darin Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane).

After a short recess, we have once again begun assembling for Sunday School. It is truly a blessing that we

all have the opportunity to spend time before our morning service learning more about God and His teachings. We are thankful for our willing Sunday School superintendents and teachers.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joy Indermuhle

Greetings of love to each one. We are thankful for each visitor that has assembled with us in the past month. May we continue to find blessings in fellowship with one another.

"Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:"

Ephesians 6:6-7

Our annual business meeting was held in January, with new brethren being elected to fill various duties in the church. Those chosen to fill these duties are: Sis. Cyndi Figel (Bro. Andy) - kitchen committee; Bro. Matt Brake - Usher; and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy) - Trustee. We appreciate all who are able to give of themselves in service to the Lord and thank those who fulfilled their terms of service for the above listed duties.

As we look towards Easter and the death of our dear Saviour, may we be reminded of the gift of salvation that was given us by the Lord and the sacrifice He made to come to earth to live and die for us. We are so underserving and yet I wonder how much we are able to fathom such a sacrifice; could we do that for those we love most? May each one have a blessed Easter weekend.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

May our hearts each day be opened
Unto Thy good Word, O Lord!
Lest our calling be neglected,
Lead us on with one accord!
Let Thy Spirit, we implore Thee,
Teach us how we may adore Thee.
Close to Thee let us remain,
Till Thy likeness we attain.

Zion's Harp #217

On January 25, we were privileged to spend a blessed evening with the Rittman congregation to hear the conclusions of the 1996 Conference. We felt the Spirit's presence as Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) assisted our Elders in this work. May their efforts be rewarded, as they help us understand how to remain close to God.

We thank Elder Bro. Ray for ministering to us at Smithville the following day. May the Lord bless him for the work he performed throughout the weekend.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."

Col. 3:15

We rejoice with two of our converts who have expressed peace in their hearts and are awaiting baptism. They are Diane Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl) and Paul Moore.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing..."

Proverbs 18:22

Our best wishes are extended to Bro. Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) as their engagement was recently announced. May God bless them as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

We trust in God's comfort and healing to those who have been afflicted. Nancy Jordon was recently hospitalized for surgery, and her mother, Sis. Carolyn Gasser, has also experienced much affliction in recent months and has not been able to assemble with us. Our thoughts and prayers continue for Bro. Scott Stoller (Sis. Charlene) who suffered injuries in a tragic farm accident, as was reported last month. Bro. Scott's life was miraculously spared. In spite of losing his hand, he is healing and has been able to come to church again, for which we are thankful. May God be near unto him and his family as he adjusts to the many changes that are imminent.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"...I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Exodus 15:26

Sis. Herma Whittaker was a recent hospital patient. We are thankful that she is able to assemble with us again.

We are always glad for the special fellowship that comes when visitors are in our congregation. We enjoyed a recent visit from Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

We thank visiting ministering Bros. Bernie Messner (Morris, MN) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for sharing the Word with us this past month.

Our prayers go out to Lowell Ditch as he has experienced a fall and a broken hip. We must remember to pray for all of our aged brethren and friends as they often experience ill health and many hours of loneliness. We pray they continue to feel God's nearness knowing that He will provide.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Peggy Schulz

Our annual business meeting was held on January 18. The offices were filled as follows: Bro. Lynn Kuenzi - secretary/treasurer; Bro. Loren Dettwyler - trustee; Bro. Troy Kuenzi - sound system; Bro. Harvey Kuenzi - usher; Sis. Janet (Bro. Lee) Kuenzi - kitchen committee. We want to sincerely thank those who have faithfully served their term and give our support and encouragement to those assuming their duties.

The weekend of January 25-26 we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Nathan Kuenzi (Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet), his wife, Sis. Sarah Kuenzi (Stuart and Phyllis Martin), and Sis. Kristy Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan). May the Lord continue to share His grace and guidance to these lambs of the flock. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker

(Forrest, IL) was present to assist Elder Bro. Art with these duties. May the Lord richly bless him for his willingness to come and be spent on our behalf.

We rejoice with our convert, Vicki Klopfenstein, as it was shared with us that she has found peace with the Lord and desires baptism.

We want to extend a loving welcome to Sis. Brenda Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie) and Sis. Lisa Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky), both of Lester, IA to our congregation. We are thankful the Lord has directed them to move to Oregon and pray they will feel His continued guidance as they begin their new employment.

On February 9, Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) shared God's Holy Word with us. We pray the Lord will bless him for his willing service.

Our hearts were saddened and yet rejoiced as we learned of the passing from this earthly life of our dear Sis. Shirley Sinn on Sunday, February 16. After an extended battle with cancer, the Lord saw fit to take her Home and she has won the victory. As in her life, so also in her suffering and death was she a shining example to us all. We will miss her ready smile and the words of encouragement she so often shared. Our sympathy and prayers are with her parents, Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian; her brothers and sisters, Sis. Linda (Bro. Wayne) Edelman (Bern, KS), Jim (Irene) Sinn, Bro. Don (Sis. Linda) Sinn, Bro. Tom (Sis. Edith) Sinn, Bro. Mark (Sis. Elsie) Sinn, Bro. Dean (Sis. Heidi) Sinn, Sis. Diane Sinn, all of Silverton, and Sis. Carol (Bro. Kenneth) Edelman (Forrest, IL); and her 42 nieces and nephews.

Asleep in Jesus! blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to weep!

A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Asleep in Jesus! Oh how sweet!
To be for such a slumber meet!
With holy confidence to sing,
That death hath lost its venomed sting.

Asleep in Jesus! peaceful rest,
Whose waking is supremely blest!

No fear, no woe, shall dim that hour
That manifests the Saviour's pow'r.

Asleep in Jesus! far from thee
Thy kindred and their graves may
be;

But thine is still a blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to
weep.

Hymns of Zion #111

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"Let us therefore come boldly unto
the throne of grace, that we may obtain
mercy, and find grace to help in
time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan
(Rockville, CT) for assisting Elder
Bro. Edward Aeschleman in reading
the Conference Memorandum. We
thank these brothers for being such
faithful shepherds.

On January 31, Kenneth and Sis.
Monique Rader welcomed Gretchen
Marie to their family. Rachel, Megan
and Kenneth II look forward to wel-
coming their little sister home.
Grandparents are Bro. Adam and Sis.
Margaret Maurer (Bloomington, IL)
and Estrellita Sarao.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Beverly Rocke
and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Katherine
Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) became
grandparents February 2, when An-
gela Rose Klopfenstein was born to
Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry (Latty,
OH).

On Saturday, February 8, a group
of brethren worked together prepar-
ing schoolbags for a World Relief pro-
ject. Afterward, a church supper and
singing were held.

On February 9, after church serv-
ices, Elder Bro. Edward and Sis.
Nancy Aeschleman held a reception
for Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Stef-
fen. Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen were
married January 4 in Francesville,
IN. May God bless this special couple.

We continue to offer prayers for
Sis. Kathy Clough (John) as she re-
covers.

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller

(Rockville, CT) for sharing God's
Word with us. May God richly reward
him for his efforts.

With spring coming, we welcome
all who are in the area to come wor-
ship with us. Services are Sunday at
10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If you need
more information, please call Elder
Bro. Edward Aeschleman at (302)
478-7846.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"I am the good shepherd: the good
shepherd giveth his life for the
sheep."

John 10:11

During the past several weeks, I
had the wonderful privilege to travel
to Australia and New Zealand.
Throughout both countries, I saw
many farms with sheep peacefully
grazing on the hillside pastures. In
New Zealand, one particular hillside
was big enough to be considered a
mountain. Upon first glance, white
specks appeared on the hillside. Upon
closer inspection, each white speck
was actually a sheep. There appeared
to be at least 500 sheep and all were
peacefully grazing on the hillside.
How peaceful and serene was this set-
ting.

Suppose that the above mountain
with sheep was the Lord's sheepfold.
Could we fit into this tranquil and
peaceful setting as one of His
sheep...because we have met Jesus at
the foot of the cross, been forgiven of
our sins through His shed blood, been
baptized and are now walking peace-
fully by His side? If you find that you
could not be part of this sheepfold, the
upcoming Easter season is a wonder-
ful time to meet the Lamb of Calvary
at the foot of the cross. He will take
you on a journey that through His
shed blood, your sins can be forgiven;
by following Him, you can peacefully
walk through this life here on earth,
and you can have the hope of life in
Heaven above someday.

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

Jesus, that great shepherd of the
sheep, through the blood of the ever-
lasting covenant, Make you perfect in
every good work to do his will, work-
ing in you that which is well-pleasing
in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to
whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen."

Hebrews 13:20-21

This past month Elder Bro. Ken
Sauder (Mansfield, OH) shared God's
Word with us. We also had visitors
from Sabetha, KS. We thank all of you
for worshiping with us and pray that
God will bless you. Also this past
month, the kitchen carpeting was in-
stalled. We extend a special thank you
to Bro. Jim Zimmer, Jr. and his family
from Bluffton, IN for ordering and
installation. May the Lord richly bless
all of you for your labor of love.

Our upcoming services are sched-
uled for April 6 (Bluffton North, IN),
April 20 (Ft. Scott, KS), May 4
(Roanoke, IL), May 18 (Oakville, IA),
June 1 (Goodfield, IL), June 15
(Rittman, OH). Please contact Bro.
Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928;
Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940;
Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller (615)
384-8761; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean
Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville,
TN area) if you plan to be in the
Nashville area.

TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA
Lois Gray

Our thanks and appreciation are
extended to our visiting ministers. El-
der Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy,
West Bend, IA) and Bro. Leland
Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX)
shared Communion with us on Janu-
ary 25 and God's Word on January 26.
Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern,
KS) visited and ministered to us on
February 9.

Sis. Beth Beery (Rittman, OH) has
taken a nursing position in Austin for
several months. She gathered with us
last year while working in Dallas. We
welcome her back.

Our schedule this month varies
from the usual as there will be no
services on Sunday, March 30. Serv-
ices on March 23 will be held at the
home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in

Round Top.

The usual schedule is: Dallas holds services the first Sunday of the month. Central Texas services are held the last Sunday at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The Sundays in between services are held in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 71 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Contact persons are Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102 and Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222.

We heartily welcome visitors and remind all to please call ahead for possible schedule changes.

TEXAS, DALLAS

Dee Rapp

This is the time of year when we think of our Lord's sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection. I once heard this parallel of Christ's grave clothes which represent our sin before we repented and became converted. The removal of trappings from His head represent the freeing of our sinful thinking, thus opening the way for our salvation. The removal of the wrappings from His hands so that our hands are free to help others. Removal of wrappings from His feet that we may be loosed from sin and walk with Him. (Author unknown).

Reading about the empty tomb in John 20 we are told of Peter and the other disciple who ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Verse five says the other disciple stooped, looked in and saw. The Greek word for this "saw" is *vlept* and means to gaze about.

In verse six Simon Peter entered the tomb and beheld. The Greek word for "beheld" is *theore*, meaning to see with more detail. Verse eight says the other disciple who had come first to the tomb entered, and he saw. The Greek word for this "saw" is *ethe*, which means to see and fully understand the meaning.

After Christ's resurrection, He appeared to His disciples, but Thomas was absent. When Thomas joined the others, they told him about seeing Jesus. Thomas said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." Do you think Thomas actually touched Christ or was seeing Him sufficient? (John 20:25-29). Personally, I do not think he touched Jesus, just as we do not have to touch Him to believe.

We want to thank the brothers who have faithfully served us this past month. Dallas services are held on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 and 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn, DeSoto, TX.

Central Texas services will always be held the LAST Sunday of each month at the home of Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in Round Top. The remaining Sundays will be held at the Omni Hotel in Austin at the intersection of Highway 71 and 35W at 10:30 and 12:00 noon. Contacts are: Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp at (792) 867-4074 and Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Viola Perdelwitz

Melva Messner

Lila Plattner (Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary) and Rick LaGrange announced their engagement. They intend to be married in July in San Antonio where they will make their home.

January 19 was our annual meeting. Bro. Norman Frank replaced Bro. Elmer Fehr as a trustee. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart were chosen on the kitchen committee, replacing Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter. We thank these loved ones for their support and efforts.

Where would we be if it were not for the prayers of the congregation? With these prayers, Holy Communion was served on February 9; our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was assisted by Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL). It was a wonderful day in which we could greet our brethren anew and strive with more zeal to walk in the light of Christ. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT).

Sis. Lucy Rokey (Roy) is hospitalized. We hope she will soon be able to assemble with us again.

Our annual church cleaning was held on February 10. We wish to thank our many visitors for doing such a good job in such a short time. We enjoyed the fellowship while working together.



Sermon continued from page 2

It is a pleasure to be around an individual who from time to time will hum a hymn, whistle a song, sing a hymn that we recognize. Quite often, you notice folks turn their head because they are not used to hearing someone who is happy in the Lord and happy with the circumstances around them, whatever they are.

Paul was not afraid to go anywhere to preach. We read of all the places he had been. Some, perhaps, are not even on the map anymore, cities that have come and gone, but some we do recognize.

We have accounts of faithful brethren whom he was with. He talks about the disciples coming together and breaking bread. Paul preached unto them and continued his speech until midnight. God really gave him an extra measure of grace. I do not know if my voice would hold out preaching that long.

There was grace abounding. He preached until midnight. There sat on the window a young man who fell down. They thought he was dead, but God was with him, too. There was life in him and they brought him back upstairs. I wonder just how big that assembly hall was, up on the third floor. Wouldn't you have liked to have been there?

It does not say here that Paul took a lot of rest. It says that then he went next to the ship, ready to leave. It mentions several more cities where they were intending to visit. Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus because he would not spend time in Asia where he hastened, which means he was moving along and hurrying. In football, we used to have a term like that, called hustle. That way you get more things done.

Paul knew his time was short. He knew that the Word needed to be preached. He knew that there

were people that had to hear the Word, so he kept moving and kept preaching. When they beat him up, he would go right back out and do it again.

It is pretty easy for us as believers sometimes to get discouraged and say, "Well, I gave my testimony at work today and everyone turned up their nose and were unfriendly to me." Does that make us quit? Or, "Somebody picked on me today because of my beliefs." Does that make us give up and quit? No, we can't! God will grant grace today and tomorrow and as long as we live.

"I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house," (Acts 20:20). Paul was not afraid to preach publicly. You and I cannot be afraid to acknowledge God publicly. In Matthew it says that if we deny our Lord, then He will deny us. That is the last thing that we want done.

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32-33). You see, there is going to be Judgment Day, which we need to remember.

There will come a day when Jesus Christ, who has been the Intercessor for us, who is our Saviour, can say, "Father, here is brother so-and-so and sister so-and-so. They have repented of their sins. They have found peace. They have lived faithful lives. They have not denied God before men, but they have lived lives publicly in front of men. They have not hid their talents under a bushel. They have let their light shine."

Are you and I hiding today the facts that we believe in God? Or do

we stand up and say, "I will not partake in that because it is worldly. I am sorry, I will choose to withdraw from this because it has connotations that are ungodly. I choose not to get involved with this because it is dishonest."

There may be those who say, "Well, who are you?" But you can answer, "I do not wish to endanger my relationship with God. I don't want to be found wanting on Judgment Day or to be cast out."

How often Jesus and the apostles made the comparison of the sheep being divided from the goats when referring to Judgment Day. The believers and the unbelievers will be divided—one entering into eternal reward and the other entering into the lake of fire, eternal damnation. There is no in-between.

It does not say that we can live a good life and just do good deeds and enter into heaven's reward. In the first sermon by Jesus, His first words when He began to preach were, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17). Now people will say, "Well, does that Word really mean what it says?" You bet it does! Repent of our sins!

We are all born sinners. We all committed things that are an abomination to God. We need to ask Him for forgiveness of those sins. We need to change our life to become converted as the Bible commands. We must be faithful for it also says that if we are not faithful, we are as a pig that has been washed and goes back to his mire in the mud or like a dog that returns to his vomit. (See II Peter 2:22). Some very clear examples of remaining true and faithful until the end.

Why do you think Paul was so faithful? Why do you think he continued to preach, travel and endure what he did? Because he

Sermon continued next page

Sermon continued from page 45

knew the consequences were immense! He knew that souls needed to be saved. Eternity was at stake. He wanted everyone to hear that could.

"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21). Beloved, those of us that have been redeemed, practice your faith. Grasp your faith, love it, build on it and let it grow!

"And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me," he is not afraid, "neither count I my life dear unto myself..." (Acts 20:22-24).

One time there was a preacher behind the iron curtain in Eastern Europe. For years, he would dodge the authorities. He would try to preach here and they would close up the church. Then he would try to go there. He just kept hiding from the authorities. Finally, it came to a point where he realized that he was counting his life more dear than his mission to preach the Word. He finally stood up to the authorities and said, "I am going to preach here regardless."

That Sunday in church, there were people gathered and at some point in the service, the authorities walked in and said, "You are going to have to stop preaching or we are going to kill you."

The preacher said, "You know, to die for my Lord would be a very dear death. If you count that as your best weapon, go ahead and use it!" The authorities did not know what to do.

The preacher also said, "If you kill me, it will make this cause of Christ even more sacred, even more pursued after by people. People who hear that people are dying for their faith are going to come

and listen more to find out why people are dying for the cause of Christ." The authorities turned and left.

You and I, today, need to be careful that we are not counting on our conveniences and things that are easy for us when perhaps we should be making bigger sacrifices out of our life for others. I am talking to myself here first of all.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). Is it any wonder that the church is precious to Jesus Christ? He purchased it with His own blood.

Anyone here who ever raised a garden, or raised livestock, or raised a family, when you have cared for and raised something and have sacrificed much for the well-being of that cause, you guard it very carefully. You try to nurture it to the fullest fruit.

Jesus looked down and saw people who needed to be saved, and He died for us and shed His blood. Is it any wonder He loves us? Do we love Him that much in return? Oh, I trust that we do!

There are warnings that Paul gives here. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." (Acts 20:29). Are we watching out for those wolves? They will come in sheep's clothing. We want to make sure and prove the spirits, and make sure that we are not deceived. Are the things we believe, are they based on the Word of God?

"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember..." (Acts 20:30-31). When we were children, we lived in the country. About seven-thirty in the

morning, after breakfast was over with, what was the next thing to do? Watch for the bus.

Someone went to the north, east, west or south window, whichever way it was going from. You watched because you did not want to miss that bus. Whoever was watching would give as much warning as they could, "The bus is coming! It's at the neighbors!"

Then, everyone would have those last few seconds to get their shoes or boots on and the coats, grab the lunch box and run out the door. If the person who was watching let down their guard and was distracted and did not call out the warning, sometimes the whole family was late. Some might even miss the bus!

Today we are called upon in a world of darkness to preach the Word and sound the warning, "Jesus Christ is coming again!" His commandment is, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17). Are we hearing the warning and are we doing something about it?

We have a street sale in Gridley every year. One year we were helping unload things and the streets were full of people, merchandise and livestock. There were lines of merchandise, cars and trucks.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, I noticed this old, green Ford pick-up truck coming backwards down the street without a driver in it. Someone had left it and it jumped into gear. Here it comes fifteen miles per hour—too fast without a driver! I could see that there were people up and down the street. There was a row of cars and a row of pick-up trucks unloading merchandise and they were all nose to nose. The truck was heading right for them. There were people standing in between them. In the front truck that was about to be hit was a little baby in a baby seat.

I called out, "Look out! There's trouble! There's a truck coming! Look out!" I was too late. No one heard in time. There was a tremendous chain-reaction wreck! I can still see the head of that little baby getting jerked when the first truck hit. There was a man between the next two trucks who was smashed in between and on down the line. One catastrophe after another!

If we do not call out the warning and if people do not listen, there is going to be a tremendous catastrophe for those souls who are not ready to meet God. We all know it! We don't know how much time we have left. It might be tonight and then it will all be over.

Maybe each one of us have said to ourselves, "I have got a plan. I am going to repent as soon as I get married. I want to repent as soon as I get out of school. I have this new job that I am just about to get and that is my deadline. That is when I will repent and when I will make things right with God."

We need to ask ourselves if we remember the story of the man who said, "I am going to build big barns because I have a big harvest." God said to him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee..." (Luke 12:20). He was taken out of life into eternity, instantly.

I had a cousin who had his life all laid out. He was very intelligent—a wonderful singer, an excellent high school and college student, married with beautiful children. But he still had not worked out his soul's salvation.

Then he got a message from the head commander who told him, "Sit down, we have got bad news. Your mom and your dad were both killed in a car wreck last night. You are to report home at once."

He was devastated. He returned home to bury his parents, realizing now they were gone. He was an

only child. He realized now they could not see the day when he repented for his sins, and realizing there had not been a day when they could stand at the side of the baptism trough and watch their son make a covenant with God.

It wasn't very long and he started repenting for his sins. His wife did too. The night of his proving after he gave his testimony, it was ten o'clock at night and it was very dark. He said, "I have to go to the cemetery." He drove out to their grave and stood there. Can you imagine that conversation? "Mom, Dad, I am sorry, I wanted you to know..."

There was an off-duty policeman going by. You are not supposed to be in a cemetery after dark. The policeman thought, "I'll have to go in and make an arrest and write a ticket." But something, someone, told that policeman to back off. He drove away without saying anything.

If you and I think we have our plans all laid out, we had better put a plan right here. We better fall on the Rock that is Jesus Christ and say, "This is Who I want to live for! God, show me what I need to do to repent of my sins and who I need to make peace with! Forgive me when I have failed!" Do this while there is still life, for when life is gone, that is it.

I had a cousin who was shot down in the army on the Korean border between North and South Korea. They did not find his body for quite some time. I remember one of the ministers saying, "Well, if he is still alive, there is hope because where there is life, there is hope. Hope is a precious thing to cling to." You and I might have our days numbered right down to today.

I trust that we are remembering the verses that say, "Honor thy father and thy mother. Children obey your parents." I trust that we

are carrying that to the extent that we want to honor God.

If you and I are not reading the Bible like we should, maybe we need to get in here and dig a little deeper and concentrate and get on our knees first and say, "God, show me, show me what I need to do! Show me where I can be more faithful, and more useful in Thy vineyard."

If we are going to be a Christian, if we are going to be an Apostolic Christian believer, let it show in our daily walk of life. We have been called to be faithful. We cannot give up.

I learned that in the first grade. The coach came around and said, "Children, I want you to run a race. Here is the start and here is the finish. I am going to go down to the finish and I will watch you."

So we took off running and I found myself out ahead. I thought, "This is easy," so I slowed down. The other children passed me up. The coach said, "Stoller, you cannot slow down; you have got to finish the race."

I learned that from Grandpa Stoller, too. He said, "Children, it is not a good start; it is not a good medal but for those who endure to the end. The same shall be saved."

Today if you and I are fifteen, twenty, thirty, seventy or ninety years old, we've got a race that is started here. Our fathers are at the finish line and waiting for us. Let us make sure that we get a good start, a good middle, and a good finish to this race.



Faith of our Fathers

As we consider the Faith of our Fathers and the persecution they endured, it behooves us to reflect upon the cross and the death of Christ. Christ, the Son of God who dwelt in Heaven with the Father before the world was, came willingly to earth as a Babe in the Manger. This baby Jesus grew without sin to become the pure and perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. The most notable death and sacrifice was that of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He died upon the cross to begin a period of time wherein Grace has been dispensed to the faithful believer who lives in humility. His death and the subsequent shedding of His most precious blood, was executed by God our Father for the sole purpose of the salvation of those who would be sorry for past sin and abhor all future sin; crucify the flesh and believe in the saving power of Christ's shed blood. We understand this process today as repentance and conversion.

All of this was because of the submission of Christ unto the perfect will of God. Jesus died on the cross (Good Friday), and after three days arose (Easter) with a glorified new body that could eat, be felt, walk and talk, pass through closed doors, and disappear and reappear at will. It is in this risen Lord that we place our faith, our hope, and our future. No other religious entity, BC or AD, believes in a risen Master. The Christian who is a True Believer does.

As by the faith of our fathers, which is in Christ Jesus, we also through that same faith find grace, comfort, and direction for daily life, however we do not always find an easy road to travel.

Our life, as well as past believers' lives, is often tested and tried through tribulation and persecution. It may be a little different trial than the trials of fire endured by our forefathers, however they are certainly trials.

The First Century

The first century did not pass without the shedding of much blood of the saints; for since Jesus Christ Himself, the leader of all true believers, was subject to it, it was just that His members should follow in the same path. After the death of Christ, the fires of persecution raged exceedingly, consuming nearly all of the beloved Apostles and friends of Christ, according to the flesh. All of the Apostles except John died a cruel death for their faith in Christ. It is about John, the beloved of the Lord, that we would call to mind on this written page.

A Time Line

In the year of 96 AD, John was captured in Rome by Emperor Domitian, and began three years of grueling persecution beyond the finality of death. This was a time when the rest of the world was moving on seemingly oblivious to the life of John. The Chinese were in their fifth dynasty lead by Hoti. In this time period they were expelling the Huns from their country. The Roman government was being led by Domitian, who was the last of the Caesars. Jerusalem had been destroyed on September 8, 70 AD, leaving the Apostles dispersed. It is with this knowledge of history that we can vaguely see God's timetable and how five events or more can occur so that

His will is accomplished. Is that happening in our life right now?

The Apostle John

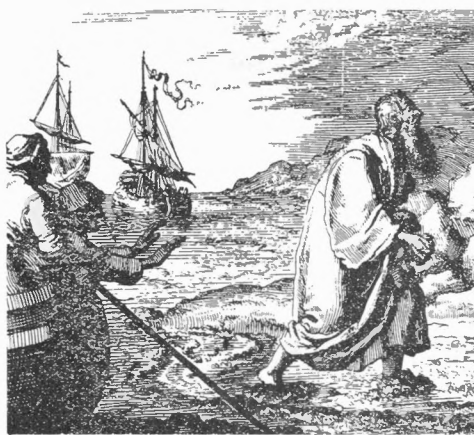
John, the son of Zebedee, was the brother of James the greater. If history has recorded the events correctly, John was also a cousin to Jesus through Mary and Salome, who were sisters. It is evident that he was of a well to do family since there were servants and Salome, John's mother, was one of the women who ministered to the Lord of their substance. Throughout the scripture we read of the closeness of the Apostle John and the Lord. He was one of three who was asked to share special events. He was with the Lord at the arising of Jairias' daughter, the glorifying transfiguration, and the watching with the Lord in the garden of Gethsemane.

When the Lord ascended into Heaven, we get only a glimpse of John's work in Jerusalem. The year could have been 37 AD or 33 AD, depending on the accurate date of the Lord's birth, when Jesus completed His ministry on earth. A few years after Christ arose, John wrote the Gospel according to John, to the honoring and magnifying of his Saviour. In the first chapter, verses 1-14, he wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." "And the Word was made flesh..." It was during this time that John took in Mary the Mother of Jesus, who would have been between fifty and sixty years old.

We also know that the Apostles

divided the known world and sent each other forth to preach the kingdom of God in the hearts of men. "...but go thou and preach the kingdom of Heaven." (*Luke 9:60*) The Bible and history are somewhat quiet about the life of all of the Apostles during the next 37 years, after which Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus. In 70 AD, Titus approached Jerusalem with an army of 60,000 soldiers. This army, through God's permissive will, caused the most horrible suffering since the world began. 1,100,000 people perished miserably at the hand of Titus. People were crucified until wood could not be found for crosses. Was this the fulfillment of Christ's warning where he said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."? (*Luke 23:28*) It was this destruction that dispersed the Jews to the four corners of the earth and we can believe that those Apostles and Disciples that were left, fled to various areas. Luke, for instance, went to Greece where he was hanged in 93 AD.

We believe at sometime, the beloved Apostle John went to Rome, where he preached diligently to the disdain of Domitian. He was captured and brought before the Emperor Domitian to stand trial for his confessing the Lord as Sav-



John at the Isle of Patmos

our and King. This preaching of John enraged Flavius Domitian and he ordered John cast into a cauldron of boiling oil, from which he was miraculously delivered. The pain must have been nearly unbearable. For a reason unknown to history, but to the revealing and revelation of Jesus Christ, John was then banished to the Isle of Patmos. Patmos was an uninhabited island in the Mediterranean Sea about one hundred and twenty five miles northwest of the location of Jerusalem, which had been destroyed twenty-seven years previous. This island became John's home for two years. We cannot even begin to imagine the pain involved as he departed the boat to take up the residence on this lonely isle of Patmos. Burned severely, John somehow with God's help was able to care

for himself and see some of the most precious visions ever afforded to man. The Book of Revelation, filled with divine truths, was written sometime later as John was restored by Emperor Nerva to Ephesus, where he had previously been a Bishop of the Church.

During the period of time John spent in Ephesus, from 99 AD to the day he fell asleep in the Lord, we understand that he was not free from persecution. The Ancients write that he suffered much yet for the name of Christ, and was compelled to drink poison, yet he remained unharmed, according to the promise of Christ; and then passed away in peace at Ephesus, in the time of the Emperor Trajan, who reigned from 98 AD to 117 AD.

John is the author of the Gospel according to John, the three Epistles of John, and the very precious book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The beloved Apostle John served the Lord and the Holy Gospel for many years, and was over eighty years old at his passing. His message to the Church was, "that we love one another." "And this is love, that we walk after His commandments." (*II John 1:5,6*)

How to be **A Blessed Man**

Blessed is the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches *shall be* in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: *he is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man showeth favour, and

lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see *his desire* upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever. Psalm 112





Part III - Planting The Seeds

The willingness of one person to do the Lord's work often results in much accomplishment for Christ's glorious cause. In Europe, Bro. Samuel Froehlich (against great odds), was willing to surrender himself to God, and thence begin preaching directly from the Word. The result was a spiritual awakening that subsequently reached many countries, including America.

Likewise, the willingness of Elder Benedict Weyeneth to travel to America and visit a struggling Mennonite community in upstate New York—and to boldly teach/explain the truth—led to the eventual formation of the Apostolic Christian Church in America. By 1997—our 150th year—we have 12,200 members in 85 congregations in 23 states and the District of Columbia. There are two congregations in Canada and three in Japan.

Bro. Weyeneth, only 29 when he came to America, probably had little realization that his travels across the sea to New York state would begin a church denomination in the United States in which multitudes over the years would find salvation, and a godly, biblical church structure.

While many congregations of our faith were established during the next several decades (from 1847 on), a great revival occurred in Lewis County, New York in 1881. During that summer, 140 converts were baptized on 13 consecutive Sundays.

An article in a local newspaper took note of this in-gathering. Entitled, "Great Revival in New Bremen," it read, in part: "Early last June Rev. Benedict Weyeneth from Illinois began a series of extra meetings at the church of this sect in New Bremen. The work is quiet, deep and thorough. The church is very particular in receiving members

and before baptism there must be evidence of sincere repentance and conversion."

Another article entitled, "French Settlement In The Early Days," appeared in the Black River Democrat at Lowville:

"When Elder Weyeneth began to preach the evangelical faith, the meetings were held in the homes of settlers. The message was, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you.' Repentance was not quite so easy as at first supposed. It must come not from the lips but from the heart; it had to be openly manifested before such repentance was accepted. The primary rule is the subjection of the flesh and the elimina-



tion of all carnal thought and desire."

The first Elder ordained in America by Benedict Weyeneth was Joseph Virkler, one of a family of seven sons who had come to America from Alsace-Lorraine. The spirit of zeal reminiscent of the beginnings in Europe—where 110 congregations were eventually established in 35 years—was taking root in America.

The second church of our faith was established at Sardis, Ohio, a site adjacent to the Ohio River in that state's southeastern section.

Ministering brother Isaac Gehring was the leader of a small group of Swiss believers who came to America in 1848. After crossing the Atlantic, they boarded a train from New York City to Pittsburg.

They boarded a flat boat for a trip down the Ohio River and possibly intended to reach the Midwest via a ride

up the Mississippi River. But as they reached the Sardis, Ohio area they either hit a sandbar and were forced to stop, or they looked up at the hilly shoreline and were reminded of their beloved Switzerland, and decided to settle there.

At Sardis, Isaac Gehring, 29, and Joseph Bella, 36, became leaders of the congregation. The latter, a Hungarian native, was a single man who traveled widely in America to help new congregations become established. He was referred to as a "roving" Elder. He also traveled every other year to Hungary. He is buried in the South Side Cemetery near Fairbury, Illinois.

Bro. Bella had been groomed in the essentials of the faith under both Bro. Samuel Froehlich in Switzerland (when he visited there) and Bro. Louis Hencsey, the young, zealous minister who helped found the church in Hungary (called Nazarenes).

The faith, both in Switzerland and Hungary (and other European nations), experienced a first-generation persecution that instilled a deep zeal and godly determination to spread the faith without compromise; and to preach only from the Bible no matter what negative circumstances might result from the state authorities, or from unbelieving people.

Little by little, the church was forming here in America—a nation where various shades of Christian endeavor had existed for nearly two centuries.

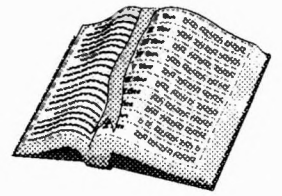
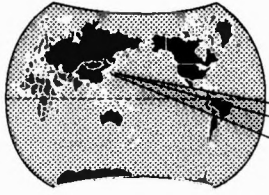
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Part IV - Spreading God's Word

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



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“Christ Was Jewish”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently I was talking with a friend of mine who was contemplating having some business dealings with a man in the States. He said to me, “He is Jewish,” and wondered what I would think of that. I immediately told my friend that that’s all right for him to do business with someone who is Jewish, that I have nothing against Jews. Today I met my friend again and told him that, in regard to being Jewish, Christ is Jewish, my Saviour is Jewish. He said it should be all right then. Actually, I should have used the past tense, since Christ was a Jew while here on earth but I don’t think He is a Jew now. In Japanese, it came out in the present tense.

This episode has really made me think. In some circles, Jews may have the reputation for being dishonest, but are they more dishonest than Gentiles? The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, 3:9, “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gen-

tiles, that they are all under sin.” Paul tells us in Romans 11:1 that he was “An Israelite...of the tribe of Benjamin.” The term “Jew” originally referred to someone from the tribe of Judah but it came to mean anyone from the nation of Israel, or anyone with those roots. In Acts 21:39, Paul states, “I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus.” Today, surely, all people with the Hebrew or Israel tradition and heritage are called Jews.

I have the impression that Jewish people are unusually successful, which, if true, might cause jealousy. A Jewish man I met in Tokyo some years ago told me they are taught to treasure a good education because no one can take from you what you have in your head. He indicated they expect persecution. However, I don’t think they foresaw Adolf Hitler’s “final solution to the Jewish problem” as a result of which reported six million Jews were put to death for the simple reason that they were born as Jews.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught us

not to have prejudice against certain groups of people. He stopped to talk with the woman at the well who said to Him, “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.” (John 4:9). Jesus also told the parable of the good Samaritan in Luke 10, about whom He spoke as follows: “But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.” (vs. 33)

Would it not be a good thing for us to conclude with Peter as recorded in Acts 10:34-35, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

Many years ago, a young Afro-American man in Peoria, Illinois, said to me very solemnly and with downcast eyes, “We’ll all be white in Heaven.”

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Rittman, Ohio - 1855

(Pictured in 1944)

In 1874 the first church was built at Rittman. The first building was a little simple white structure that was so prevalent in those days. That structure was used as a tool shed after a new edifice was built in 1918. It was in that year that a two story red brick building was built and in 1948 it was remodeled to add a 40x60 addition. In 1963 a large sanctuary was added to bring the seating capacity to about 1000.

It is not possible to turn back the hands of time, yet, how often do we wish we could walk the path as our forefathers walked it, even but for one day. It is because of this interest in the history of our faith that we strive to look back and receive glimpses of the past and the edifices where our forefathers worshipped God.

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