

The Silver Lining



*For every beast of the forest is Mine,
and the cattle upon a thousand hills*

May 1997

"GOD'S LOVE IS A FREE GIFT"

Sermon by Bro. Sidney Kaufmann of Cissna Park, IL
II Corinthians 4

Prayer

In this afternoon hour, dear Heavenly Father, we do bow before Thee in praise and thanksgiving for the opportunity and the privilege we have to be able to come around Thy Word in this day, and to be able to be gathered together in worship service to Thee, our Almighty God.

It is hard for us, dear Heavenly Father, to realize the price that has been paid, and yet we want to be able to come unto Thee in prayer and thanksgiving, knowing and realizing that Thou had so much love for us. Thou didst send Thy only begotten Son here upon this earth to walk in His most precious and perfect way and to teach mankind the way of love and compassion for one another...to teach mankind of true obedience to Thee, the Father...to be in submission unto Thee at all times and to do Thy will.

Then, to go there to the cross of Calvary, knowing that Thou had no sin within Thyself and knowing that Thou didst do the Father's perfect will. Yet, Thou wert willing to go there to the cross and shed Thy blood for the remission of all mankind's sin so each one of us may be able to come and realize that Thou didst die for our sin.

It was our individual sin that put Thee there upon the cross. We know that Thy love for mankind was made possible through that shedding of blood so that our sins could be washed away and cast into the Sea of Forgetfulness, and that we might be free of sin and evil that we have done in the past. Help us, dear Lord, to understand that.

Help us to draw closer unto

Thee and the love that is a true love for Thee, walking in the way that we have been taught by the Word. We can open Thy scripture at any point and time in our life or during the day and read it. How refreshing it is, how alive it is, and how the teaching is for us if we are truly walking in a way which is pleasing unto Thee and have a desire within our heart to do Thy will. We can be guided and directed.

We know that Christ was not buried in the grave to stay there, but was victorious over death and the grave. He arose and walked here upon this earth and taught mankind that when He would leave, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would come and dwell within the hearts of men.

We feel that Spirit, dear Heavenly Father, and how thankful we are for it. How thankful we are that Thou art mindful of us here on earth. Thou dost realize that we need Thee within us every hour. During our walk of life here upon this earth, we know that there is that evil and crafty foe, Satan, who wishes to draw us away from the way of life and truth.

We need the Holy Spirit within us to guide and direct us. That still, small voice can teach us and lead us aright, for we know that there are so many times that we fail Thee in word, deed, or thought. We need to be judged by Thy mercy, as we have heard in this morning hour, and not by our doings. May we have mercy on one another and be able to do Thy will here upon this earth in the way of love and kindness.

So, again, in this afternoon hour, dear Father, we thank Thee for the leading of the Spirit. We

pray that the Spirit may be present within each one of our hearts and here in our assembly. Then, too, dear Father, we wish to thank Thee for allowing Thy Son to sit at Thy right hand and intercede for us. We thank Thee, dear Jesus, for we know that Thou knowest all things. We know that Thou didst traverse this earth and knowest the trials and struggles that we as mankind go through.

But we also know that Thou didst put Thy faith in God, the Father. If we put our faith in God and trust in Him, as we sang in the song, we know that God is still with us. May it be on our hearts that we increase our desire within our hearts to walk after Thee in a pleasing, obedient and submissive way as Jesus Christ did here upon this earth.

How thankful we are for our church, dear Father. Again, in this morning hour, our youth could come to church and gather in Sunday School to be taught of Thy ways and Thy will here upon this earth. May their hearts be prepared that in due time it can bring

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 1997

Tithing and Giving I

The scripture instructs us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). The question of how much we are to give is often asked. Since tithing is referred to more frequently in the Old Testament than in the New Testament, does that mean that it is not as important now as it was in the Old Testament days? Two articles in "Light From the Word" will focus on this question.

The word tithe means one-tenth. Originally the tithe was to be given to support the Levites in the temple service and to support the Lord's work (Num. 18:20-21). Even the Levites who provided the temple service were commanded to give one tenth of this offering back to the Lord (Num. 18:26-27).

Since there were requirements laid out in the Old Testament law that exceeded the one-tenth that refers to tithing, to get a complete picture of the requirements of the old law, it is necessary to consider both tithing and giving. In addition to the tithe for temple service, the Children of Israel were commanded to give more. Although the Bible does not always say how much each of these offerings was to be, we can certainly understand that the total was significantly more than one-tenth. At the end of a three year period, a special tithe was to be given to support the stranger, the fatherless and the widow (Deut. 14:28-29). Another offering was to be given for festive purposes, and additional giving was also required: "...and ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your free will offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:" (Deut. 12:6-7).

Every seventh year the land was to be given a "sabbath of rest" (Lev. 25:4-5). No sowing of seed was to be done and anything which grew of itself was not to be reaped. After seven cycles of seven years there was to be an additional year, a year of jubilee, in which every man's possessions were to be returned, every man was to be returned to his family and the land was to be given an additional year of rest. (Lev. 25:10-12). Additional

giving was required for those who had fruit trees. The first three years, the owner was not to eat the fruit. In the fourth year the fruit was to be holy to the Lord. The owner was permitted to eat the fruit beginning with the fifth year (Lev. 19:23-25).

If we look at the commandments to tithe and give in seven year cycles, we find that far more than one-tenth was required. If we consider the average of the seven year totals (10% every year, 20% the third and sixth years and 100% by letting the land idle the seventh year) the old law required an average of about 25%, not counting the special sacrifices and offerings that were so important at that time.

Those were the requirements of the old law as recorded in the Old Testament. What does the New Testament say about tithing and giving?

The word tithe is only mentioned a few times in the New Testament. Most of those references are made as Jesus was addressing a very negative situation. As Christ was speaking to the multitude about the scribes and Pharisees, he was lamenting their insistence upon good doctrine but the poor example of their lives. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23).

Christ also pointed out the futility of tithing if it were done to be seen of men. In the parable of the publican and Pharisee who went to the temple to pray, he reminded us that the Pharisee who boasted that "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" did not leave the temple justified (Luke 18:12). The publican who could only utter seven words in a plea for mercy was more acceptable to God than all of the self-righteousness of the Pharisees. Tithing with pride was of no avail.

In one of the few positive references to tithing in the New Testament, Hebrews ch. 7, the Apostle Paul writes of the rela-

tionship between Abraham and Melchisedec, king of Salem, wherein Abraham felt that the greatness of this "king of peace" (Heb. 7:2) was such that he should receive a tenth of his spoils. Paul then reminds us in verse 5 of the Old Testament requirement that the Levites were to receive "tithes of the people according to the law".

Beyond these few references, little is said in the New Testament that is specifically about tithing. However, if we spend even a small amount of time in comparing tithing and giving in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, we see a major difference. In the Old Testament, tithing was an obligation; it was required to meet the expectations of the law. In the New Testament, it is an opportunity to serve God and is usually referred to as "giving" rather than "tithing". We should count it a privilege to be able to give. We are reminded "...to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Since we are simply stewards of the material blessings God has given to us, everything we have comes from the Lord and belongs to the Lord. Material possessions are temporal and will pass away. If we trust in uncertain riches our faith is misplaced. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).

The instructions in the New Testament on how we are to give are quite clear. We are to give to our Lord, to our church, to our family, to our brethren, and to our community. We are instructed to give according to what we have. We are to give with simplicity, freely, regularly, cheerfully, honestly, and sincerely. Also, we should give of our time and our talents as well as our material blessings.

These instructions which help us to take advantage of the opportunity to help others while serving God will be more fully developed in the next article in the "Light From the Word".



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ...

The Mission Committee wishes to continue to use this page as a vehicle in which to communicate our ongoing efforts to our brotherhood. In many cases, we work hand-in-hand with the World Relief Committee. We sincerely appreciate the support and input from our brethren as the work goes on.

Ixtlan, Mexico

Approval was given, both by the Mission Committee and the Elder Body to purchase a lot adjacent to the present one in Ixtlan. The cost was \$7,000, which came from our funds. The existing building is serving as living quarters for Bro. Marshall and Sister Jan Heinold, as well as for services. It is extremely crowded.

Attendance for Sunday School and worship services has increased to the point that it may be necessary to expand this building in the future. We continue to wait on the Lord for further direction.

Paks, Hungary church dedication

It was requested by the Hungarian elders that some of our brothers be present for the dedication of the new church in Paks. The date has been set as May 11. We gave them some financial support to construct this building, and it was much appreciated. Support was given that Bros. Chuck Hemmer, Ben Maibach, and Andy Hunyady be our representatives at this dedication. As of this writing, travel arrangements have been made in cooperation with our European brethren. We thank God for the relationships we have with brethren across the seas, and we continue to work with all of them.

New Mission Committee Member

Bro. Jesse Beer requested that he be permitted to retire from the Mission Committee. We reluctantly accepted this retirement, and expressed appreciation for his many years of faithful service. It was recommended that Bro. Mark Bahr be appointed to fill Bro. Jesse's unexpired term, and this was approved by the Elder Body.

San Diego church

The Mission Committee approved a contribution of \$5,000 to the San Diego, California, church to assist them with a major expenditure. As required by the city, they must complete a water run off control system on their property.

Minister schedules

We have an increasing number of schedules for ministers to assist small congregations. It was suggested that these schedules all be distributed prior to the end of November each year so that it can be included in the Activities Schedules which are prepared annually by most congregations. We wish to encourage brothers who are in charge of preparing these schedules to make a note of this for next year.

“AND HE SAITH
UNTO THEM,
FOLLOW ME,
AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
FISHERS OF MEN.”

M A T T H E W 4 : 1 9

Braille Bible Foundation

Approval was given for a contribution of \$10,000 to the Braille Bible Foundation. They translate the King James Version of the Bible to Braille. This is a very expensive process. They provide us with these Braille Bibles which we keep on hand at the Leo Bible Distribution Center. We give these to blind individuals on a no charge basis when requested.

Gideons International

The Mission Committee also gave approval to contribute \$20,000 to The Gideons International. This group has placed Bibles in hotel rooms and other public places for many years. They have agreed to use our funds to finance the distribution of the King James Version of the Bible exclusively.

The Mission Committee wishes to state once more that we support financing only for distribution of this version, which our brotherhood has endorsed since the beginning of our usage of the English language in our churches.

An appeal for input

The next meeting of the Mission Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 1997 in Chicago, Illinois. We meet not far from the Chicago O'Hare airport in a motel meeting room.

Should any of you, our beloved and supportive brethren, have input or suggestions concerning the work we are doing, we truly invite your comments.

Any suggestions you might have can be directed to:

Bro. Gene Marti
Apostolic Christian
Mission Committee
P.O. Box 23356
Overland Park, KS 66283
(913) 681-3796



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

Mexico – Our Neighbor in Need

Our World Relief organization of the Apostolic Christian Church has seen fit to establish a Mexico Board to oversee that particular arm of World Relief. It is composed of six brothers who hold teleconferences three times a year and also meet in person sometime during the brotherhood conference to assess the needs of this project. These meetings are opened with prayer, and with the reports of blessings received by team members, it seems that their prayers have been answered.

Building teams

In the past we have helped build community centers in two areas known as “colonias”, and many simple homes have been built. Quite a large number of building and medical-dental teams have worked there. Even if you are unable to go on a work team, anyone who donates to World Relief and prays for the work is a part of this project.

As our brethren go to Mexico on a work team, they are warmly received by the Mexican leaders of the group we work with, Chito and Lydia Aguilar. They direct us to the projects that need to be done. God’s hand is evident as we watch the response to Christian love and giving.

December 1996 through March 1997 has been a blessed time in Juarez. During this period, approximately 150 Apostolic Christian brothers, sisters, and friends have been involved in Mexico, making up five building teams and one medical-dental team. It is customary for one of our ministers to accompany each team.

The construction teams have built homes, enlarged the Granjas Community Center, put on several roofs,

added several bathrooms to existing homes, did some maintenance work, did some painting at both community centers, and built a storage building to house supplies.

God’s love is evident

One family that received a new home recently had this story to share. The wife was a faithful church goer, but the husband was a skeptic. After realizing that the American brethren traveled to Mexico and built his family a home because of Jesus’ love, he realized the needy condition of his soul and sought salvation. Another family in which the father believed in God, but the mother did not, had a similar story to share. The father had been praying for seven months that somehow he could provide a bathroom for their home, but his wife did not believe that prayer could provide them with one. When the brothers came to measure for the bathroom, she was amazed and agreed that she would accompany her family to church to learn more about prayer and God’s saving power.



As much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these... ye have done it unto me. MATTHEW 25:40

Medical-Dental teams

The 16th semi-annual medical-dental team was a success. In a former Silver Lining article we told of a Mexican government official named Sergio who is an advocate of our mission. This man has been very helpful in getting our supplies across the border and allows us to drive our medical van and freely practice medicine in Mexico. We are thankful for his interest and aid in spreading the gospel through helping those whose needs are so great.

This team was blessed with five American and three Mexican doctors. Also included were registered nurses, farmers, a dental hygienist, a medical student, and a supervisor. This team was very flexible and willing to help in other ways than their usual profession.

Additional activities

Something new was added this year. The team was able to give 60 polio vaccinations. They saw a record breaking 3,532 patients. They carried out their duties in all sorts of weather, sandstorms, wind, snow, sleet, and hail.

World Relief has been funding a hot lunch program in Juarez for 10 years. Three days a week, about 80 children are fed. This happens at the two community centers that were built by Apostolic Christians. Chito and Lydia testify that their churches are growing in numbers and sincerity. Along with God’s miraculous power, they attribute the success to ten years of hot meals for the children of the communities. They have Bible lessons and sing prior to eating.

Most teams have time to distribute Bibles, New Testaments, Bible Story books, clothing, and other gifts. These come from our generous workers and givers in the USA.

Contributed by Bro. Gerald Fiechter, Bluffton

- 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

<u>1997</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 14 YEARS</u>
April	2,927	12,911	364,053

* 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.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

It is easy for us to become comfortable with how things are and be careless about self examination. Sometimes it is because it is easier to stay with the status quo. Sometimes it is because we don't want to look at what we will find and take the responsibility for changing it.

We have been publishing a newsletter at the Home for most of the years we have been here. It has served us well, but as a result of some good questions, we realized it was time to self examine. As a

result of that, we have decided to make some changes. We believe they are changes which will help the newsletter be more effective.

We will be changing the format and style of the newsletter. We hope this will make it more readable for our audience. We will now be publishing it four times a year instead of six and we will no longer be charging a subscription. We hope you like these changes, but we don't want to be presumptuous. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." (Proverbs 27:17). We believe we should love our brother enough to support him

and to help him do his best. We would like you to share your comments with us so we can be sure that we are doing the best with our newsletter we can. If you do not currently receive the newsletter and would like to, please let us know.

Each one of us need to continue to examine ourselves and to make appropriate adjustments to our course. It is our goal at the Home to do the same. We have made many changes over the years and the changes which are best are those that are a result of good counsel together, of sharing thoughts and listening to each other. Our goal is to let iron sharpen iron and therefore serve better. Each one of us individually need to let iron sharpen iron and so serve the Lord better.

June birthdays for all facilities are: ACHH - Dale Plattner (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger (15), Rodney Blaum (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23), Lyle Steffen (24). OAKWOOD - Doris Hutchison (18). LINDEN - Chip Johann (22). 241 MINNESOTA - Sharilyn Rowell (19).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Janel Frank

One morning I went to the hospital to visit friends who had just been blessed with their first child. It was wonderful to be able to hold the only-hours-old infant. She was so tiny and frail, yet so full of life. On my way home, I heard the hymn "Because He Lives" on my car radio. I smiled as the second verse was sung:

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still, the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because He lives!

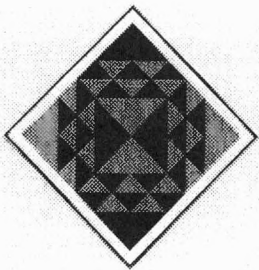
HUMAN SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1997.

Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159

OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT THE PEORIA HOME (SKYLINES)

Our present DON. of nine years wishes to retire and we have an opening. Requirements: RN background, managerial skills, love for the elderly. Please contact Bros. Roger Herman or Rick Plattner (309)691-8091 if interested.



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.

For those who are parents or even those who have children in their lives, it is very comforting to realize that while it seems that moral standards lie in ruins around us, we have a living Saviour! His promises are still alive; His grace is still given.

Just as sure as God's grace is still abounding upon this earth, spring is again upon us here in Northeast Indiana as shown by the signs of blooming flowers and increasingly greener grass. The staff at Gateway Woods had the blessing of enjoying this time at Pokagon State Park for a training retreat in early April. During this time, we were encouraged and challenged with training on Biblically-Based Parenting, presented by Bros. Jeff Schumacher, Todd Schrock and Jeff Thames. These brothers' insight reminded us that the Word of God is absolute truth and inexhaustible in application to our lives. As Bro. Jeff T. said, "The Bible is the only unrevised parenting manual ever written." Besides training, the staff had time to enjoy the beautiful display of God's creation at the park and fellowship with one another.

While the Gateway Woods staff was on retreat, the children were on Spring Break. For many, this time allows for extended home visits with their families. We were also thankful for Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock and Sis. Bridget Zollinger for "covering" in the houses.

Being at Gateway Woods in the past year has been the most valuable experience I have had since I became a Christian. The blessing of working with other brothers and sisters in the faith and the shared commitment in Jesus is the perfect fertile soil for growing and stretching in the Lord. Being an Assistant Houseparent here was something I was not planning on doing. I left college just before my

senior year in answer to God's call, but now as I prepare to leave sometime this summer to get married, I am already seeing the benefits in doing so...and I "see through a glass darkly" on earth! Only in Heaven will we know the fullness of His plans.

It has been advertised in the past that positions are available at Gateway Woods. Those opportunities for Alternate and Assistant Houseparents are still open to those willing hearts hearing the call of God. Though many feel inadequate at the idea of working with the children, I am continually blessed and reminded of how perfect God's grace is at making up for our human shortcomings. There has never been, nor will ever be, a perfect childcare worker at Gateway Woods. Our Lord can, how-

RIDE THE BUS

Central Illinois bus trip to the Gateway Children's Home Auction and Sale on August 16.

The bus will leave Peoria Apostolic Christian Church Friday, August 15 at approximately 12:30pm and make passenger pick-ups at Eureka, Goodfield, Bloomington and Champaign with overnight stay in Fort Wayne at a motel.

The bus will return Saturday, August 16, leaving the Children's Home at 4:00pm. The cost of the bus trip is \$40 per person.

Contact Noah Herrmann, 231 Astrom Avenue, Princeville, IL 61559, phone: (309)385-4872.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

1-800-747-9049

Calls are answered by an answering service and referred to the hotline. You will receive a return call shortly. All calls are strictly confidential.

Callers will receive a screening, suggestions for appropriate services and assistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

ever, use our faithfulness and willingness to touch hearts. Please see the ads in this issue for a description of these wonderful opportunities in God's service, and pray for our needs.

In the recent past, the Schrock house has had three girls leave: Kellie N., Leia P., and Melissa E. We are happy when the children are able to return to their families, and we are prayerful for the adjustments that come with it.

We are also prayerful that the Lord will send the appropriate children who are in need of our program in His perfect timing.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Molly Stickling**

Families, animals, and the color yellow made up our themes for the month of April. Many of the children associate the color yellow with the sun, and the sun has been shining brightly these past few weeks. This allows for pleasant days playing outside. One of the few days it rained, a child, eager to go outside asked, "Why does it have to rain?" Another child replied, "Because God wanted to send raindrops!" There was no argument about the rainy day after that. How we must be reminded of that childlike faith to trust in God for everything.

Along with families and animals, the children are learning about the letters X, Y, and Z. We were also able to take an exciting field trip to a local zoo. The children could bring vegetables to feed the elephants. Some children actually fed the elephants by hand, and those who were more timid threw their food at the elephants.

The end of March was spring break time, which brought many volunteers. We say thank you to Bros. Thad Heinold (Cissna Park, IL), Randy Ressenenden and Mat-

thew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Justin Stoller (Eureka, IL) Dave Sauder, Kevin Sauder, Scott Sauder and Michael Rassi (Tremont, IL) and to Sisters Holly Steiner (Princeville, IL), Heather Stuber (Tremont, IL) and Janel Blunier (Goodfield, IL). These volunteers were asked to fill long days by doing a variety of tasks. Their effort accomplished a lot, but their willingness to work for the Lord is what really showed. May God bless you.

There have also been brothers and sisters who have sent many welcomed supplies to the Preschool. Crayons, markers, paper, activity books, toys, and puzzles are just some of these supplies. The children love anything "new" to them, and the teachers appreciate all who think of us in deed or prayer.

As we look forward to graduation for our preschoolers on May 30, we realize our summer session is fast approaching. This is also a time when the teachers may have a vacation planned, so please let us know if you are interested in volunteering during this coming summer. We enjoy the new faces helping at the Preschool, as well as the Christian fellowship. You can call the Preschool at (205) 233-0591.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion."

Psalm 71:1

We believers know the Lord will deliver us from the floods and mid-April snow elsewhere and give the much needed rain in Arizona. Let us all pray for each other's needs.

Seeing the sunrise is as beautiful and peaceful as your day will be; it is quiet except for the birds

singing and there is a special closeness of being with God.

Many of our folks enjoyed this special time at Easter sunrise services. The songs praising God were inspiring and beautiful.

Our Sunday School Easter program was March 23. What joy to see and hear our precious children go to the Cross.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich attended the World Relief Committee Meeting in Silverton, OR on April 5 and 6. We are grateful our churches make the effort for God's love to ease other's burdens.

Bro. Glen Gudeman has finished his schooling and returned to LaCrosse, IN. May the Lord bless him.

Our members met at the church the night of April 13 to partake of the Lord's Supper. Deacon Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich to serve us Communion.

We enjoyed visiting ministering Bros. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS).

Sis. Katherine Laukhuf had surgery on her arm.

Our sympathy to many whose relatives passed away these past several weeks.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges**

We wish to thank the ministers, Bros. Greg Gramm and James Emch (both of Phoenix, AZ) who served us this last month by bringing us God's Word. Since we still do not have our own minister, we are so grateful and thankful that others are willing to travel and be with us. We pray they are blessed as much as we are by their service.

We share in the joy of Brian and June (Ringger) Crockett as he receives his Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics from

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on April 26. But we are also saddened, as it means they will be leaving our area as he seeks employment in his field. We have truly enjoyed having them worship and fellowship with us. We pray God will be with them, guide and direct them.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We shared Communion this month with each other and also with our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his wife, Sis. Nancy. The same evening we also heard the Memorandum as our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, assisted Elder Bro. Jon in reading the letter from the Elder Conference. As always, we appreciate Bro. Jon's efforts on our behalf.

We have planned our Vacation Bible School for June 3-7. If by any chance you plan to be in the area, please let us know.

Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) was with us for Sunday services recently. We appreciate Bro. John's service on the pulpit and hope that he passes our way again soon.

We were also visited by Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) for Wednesday evening services this month, and we thank him for his visit and invite him to come again.

We have had an unusual April so far as we still have to keep our light jackets (for us in Tucson probably our only jackets!) out for occasional use in the evenings. After a brief week of low 90 degree weather in March, we are back to 70's and 80's with very cool evenings. We enjoyed a few days of heavy rain in late March but our ever faithful sunshine returned and is probably here to stay.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

With the arrival of spring, we

have been blessed in many wonderful ways. Having, by God's grace, made preparation for Holy Communion, we were blessed to partake of this Holy Feast and were so thankful that Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) was willing to help serve the members. We were well reminded of the need and purpose to remember the Lord's death until He comes. It filled our hearts with thanksgiving to experience a renewal of peace wrought through Christ's shed blood for all mankind. We pray that more souls will diligently seek Him.

On Easter morning, a number gathered for song services on a ridge above Altadena in the San Gabriel mountains. We sang a number of Easter songs and were comforted by prayer spoken to express our thanks for God's fulfillment of His plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son. A breakfast was then served at church which was well attended.

Easter Sunday also brought forth new life with the arrival of Matthew Bailey (Steven and Ingrid's first child) whom we welcome joyfully. May the Lord bless these dear souls as a new phase in their lives has begun. On April 17, little Seth Adam was born to Bro. David and Sis. Janelle Klotzle. An excited Justin welcomed his new brother home. A precious infant always renews the awe we feel about God's handiwork for we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." May we be found worthy to receive these precious souls into our church family. And, may these young parents be richly blessed by God as they lovingly and willingly serve Him and care for their children.

Three of our elderly members are confronted with the weakening of this mortal body. Sis. Martha Slenker continues to live in her home in Pomona with assis-

tance from Caregiver Aida. We're thankful when Sis. Martha is well enough to attend church. Sis. Blanche Coldeen resides across the street from our church in the Scripps Home. While mostly confined to her chair, she always welcomes visitors and has a strong and faithful spirit waiting for the Lord to take her Home. Bro. Nathan Moser resides in a care facility in Pomona. His generous smile upon walking into his room is a reward to lift and lighten the heart. We continue to pray for these dear ones as well as others with infirmities.

As day follows day, we walk hand in hand with the Lord. This takes us along the pathways of life where experiences reveal God's goodness and faithfulness. By the next issue, we will have celebrated Mother's Day, Lord willing. A mother's heart is God's special gift to each of us. If we could all be as loving, kind, gracious and forgiving as a God-fearing mother, our lights would shine out to all whom we meet and our loads would be lighter. May God richly bless each and every mother!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Rose Huette

Showers of blessings were felt as we partook of Holy Communion, rejoicing as we pledged to renew our Christian walk with God. We were served by Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). We thank them for serving us and we trust that the Lord will richly reward them for their love.

Another wonderful Easter season was observed with Good Friday services. We were privileged to once again hear how Christ suffered for us and the beautiful story of His resurrection. Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ) with his family spent the weekend with us. We wish God's richest blessings on

them.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth."

Psalm 96:1,2,9

We are thankful that spring is here. As the flowers bloom, gardens grow, trees are covered with new leaves, and the many other signs of spring appear, it seems as if the earth is singing a new song unto the Lord. And may we, as the psalmist writes, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness in our daily lives.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers, Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) for their willingness to minister to our small congregation. May God bless them.

We welcome anyone who would like to visit. Please contact Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 or Bro. Tim Tomic (519) 634-9796 for more information and directions.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Chuck and Naomi Wiegand**

Christian greetings across the miles!

We want to extend our appreciation to Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for lending himself to us. We appreciate the willingness to travel many miles to help with our Communion service.

We are delighted to have Bro. Nate Lehman employed in our area. He has moved here from Bloomington, IL. We look forward

to having his wife, Yvonne, come out in May.

Our sympathy goes to Pam (Kevin) Braun in the death of her grandfather, Jim Mueller. He passed away on April 7 after a tough battle with lung disease. We ask for prayers of comfort for Pam and her family.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

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

I Cor. 11:26

It was a blessing to come together as a unified body in Christ to remember His death and suffering. May we never forget to thank Him for this great gift.

We thank Bro. Douglas Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) for ministering unto us. We also appreciated Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for their service and assistance to our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in Holy Communion.

We share special joy with Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue Kloter and son, John, as they welcome their precious adopted baby son and brother, TJ, from Korea. He was born November 25, 1996, and came home on April 9, 1997. May God be with them as they provide a Christian home for baby TJ. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter and Andy and Annette Ouellet.

When a Christian dies
Precious is the prize!

Hymns of Zion #248

Our dear Sis. Roseli Erismann passed out of this life on March 21. She leaves behind two sisters, Hulda Dobosz and Sis. Esther Gruenig (Bro. Paul), and a

brother, Walter H. Erismann. Preciously deceased was her brother, Ernest. May we all prepare our hearts for that day when our Lord calls us Home.

As Mother's Day approaches, we are reminded of the precious love of our mothers who have taught us the way of truth. May we also remember and cherish the memories of dear mothers who our Father has called Home.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt gratitude to all who remembered us in prayer and kind deeds in the passing of our dear wife, mother and grandmother. May God bless each one.

The family of Sis. Christine Virkler

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matt. 18:20

While it is nice to have a special building for worship, it is not necessary in order to receive a blessing. We have again had this impressed upon our hearts this past month. We were only able to meet at the hotel once, assembling in homes the other Sundays.

Our ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We thank these Brothers and their families for serving us. Other visitors were from Smithville, OH. We know there were other visitors in the area one of the Sundays we met in a home, but due to miscommunication, they were unable to assemble with us.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen have moved to the Baltimore area. We are glad to have Bro.

Barry back and look forward to getting to know Sis. Doreen better. With school coming to an end for many, they are wondering what the Lord has in store for them as they venture into the work place. Even though we do have two brothers working for the government, there is a wide variety of employment in the private sector in our area (particularly for software and engineering graduates). Last Sunday's employment section of the paper was 70 pages. Many of the openings are in the western suburbs where several of us live. For more information or assistance, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

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 ahead of time 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,
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

Lord, endue us with Thy blessing;
That, though babes we be in grace
Faith and love and zeal possessing
For Thy house and holy place,
We may give our dearest treasure,
All the good things of this life,
Honor, wealth, and dearest
pleasures,
In the great and holy strife.
Zion's Harp #175

We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us with two visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and family and Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and family were both here on Palm Sunday. We appreciated their visiting us as they shared God's Word with us. May He be their rich rewarder.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

Our high school graduates are Jason Cannan (Dick and Sis. Diane Klopfenstein), Floyd Nickel, Melissa Gress (Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally) and Matt Graf (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Charlotte). We wish them God's blessings as they have reached this milestone in their lives and pray that they will seek the Lord's direction in their lives. We have two graduating from 8th grade: Sarah Graf (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Charlotte) and Jenny Cannan (Dick and Sis. Diane Klopfenstein).

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

As we remember Mother's Day, may we first and foremost thank God for our mothers. Many of us are privileged to have believing mothers who taught us of God by reading us Bible stories and singing hymns. We are truly grateful for their example of faith, love and support to us.

Note of Thanks:

I just wish to thank all who remembered me with prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery.

Sis. Katherine Fulop

**FLORIDA,
NORTH FT. MYER'S
Anjie Baum
Kay Eisenmann**

Visiting ministers were Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bros. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Ben Maibach (Sarasota, FL). We want to thank these brothers and their wives and invite them to return.

A special thanks to our Elder brothers for serving us the Lord's Supper to our small congregation. It is a time for renewing our vows we made in the baptismal waters, to be more thankful for what Jesus did for us all, and to rededicate our lives more fully to God! We know by His Word of the promises He gave to all who will let Him in their lives, the Word of God never changes—they are sure. We can't say that about the promises of man. After all, how hard can it be to obey a loving Heavenly Father? By reading His Word, He is asking us and helping us day by day so we can live in eternity with Him.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach has done much to help our church be built and we all want to say a special thank you to him as he is to lay his Elder mantle down soon. May God bless him and his family in the days and years ahead.

We heard many wonderful messages to help us to live a closer walk with God and each other. Communication is a wonderful way to help each other in our marriage. It helps us to make love grow and by talking one with another, we combine our faith to defeat Satan and that should be our aim in life!

If we are truly our brother's keeper, as one of our visiting ministers said, there are four things we should think of before we say anything. First, "Is it true?". Second, "Is it necessary?". Third, "What is our motive in saying it?". Fourth, "Does it benefit anyone?". This is something we all need to work on, for words either help or hurt.

Let us all take comfort in the Lord's Prayer; 66 words say it all and the 66 books of the Bible say it all. It is the positive promise of God, so may we truly leave all at the feet of Jesus, our hurts, needs and wants, for He will surely answer them. Maybe not the way we want, but surely the way that is best for our soul salvation.

Note: There will be no Wednesday evening church until further notice.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Melissa Sabo - Rachel Koehl

To Mother

A hushed and awesome silence
Comes in my heart today
As I think of all the things you've
done:
The cheering words you've stopped
to say,
The sweetness of your presence,
The courage in your smile,
The thoughts I know you gave to me,
And your prayers that ever go with
me.
And I shall know that all through
life
You'll stand by me, be ever near,
That through the storm, the stress,
the strife
You'll be with me, my Mother Dear.
—Jean Warren

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty
is vain: but a woman that feareth
the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

Our friend, Justin Ooms, has
found peace with God and man,

and awaits baptism. We surely do
rejoice with him.

Bro. Rich Martin was hospital-
ized following a heart attack and
he is now recovering. Also, Sis.
Helen Lapara is still not able to
assemble with us. They both need
our constant prayers.

On Good Friday, Elder Bros. Al-
fred Bahler and Ben Maibach as-
sisted our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo in
serving Holy Communion.

Visiting ministers were Bros.
Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH),
Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH),
Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North,
IN), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and
Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chi-
cago, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott,
IN), and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).
We thank them for their time and
commitment to serve the Lord and
us.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We were blessed with two visit-
ing ministers this past month.
They were Bros. Tom Leman
(Denver, CO) and Arnold Gerst
(Taylor, MO). We thank these
brothers for bringing forth the
Word in truth and sincerity.

On April 6, the Sunday School
children presented their Easter
program. We appreciated being re-
minded of Christ's suffering
through hymns and Bible verses.

As always, we invite visitors to
stop in and worship with us. The
church is located south of the city.
From Atlanta, take I-85 south to
Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four
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

The Belvidere congregation had

an "Invite a Friend Weekend" in
April and it was a real blessing to
us all. Besides the many visitors
who had been invited for that
event, we had Bro. Roy Ehnle
(Bradford, IL), his wife, Sis.
Donna, and a group of young peo-
ple from Bradford and Princeville.
We are very grateful for each one
who came to worship and fellow-
ship with us. We also want to
thank all of the visitors during this
past month for their love and sup-
port.

Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin,
IL) came to Belvidere church on a
Sunday afternoon to give us the
exhortation for Communion. He
read I Corinthians 11:26, "For as
often as ye eat this bread, and
drink this cup, ye do shew the
Lord's death till He come" and he
encouraged us to examine our-
selves in the light of God's Word.
On Saturday evening, April 19,
Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL)
joined Bro. Nate in serving us the
Lord's Supper. It was a sobering
time as we thought of our unwor-
thiness and the price Jesus Christ,
the Lamb of God, paid for our re-
demption.

O Lamb of God, still keep me near
to Thy wounded side;
'Tis only there in safety and peace I
can abide.
With foes and snares around me!
And lusts and fears within!
The grace that sought and found
me, alone can keep me clean.
'Tis only in Thee hiding, I know my
life secure;
Only in Thee abiding, I steadfast
shall endure;
Thine arm the victory gaineth o're
every hurtful foe;
Thy love my heart sustaineth in all
its care and woe.
Soon shall mine eyes behold Thee,
with rapture face to face;
The half hath not been told me of
all Thy power and grace;
Thy beauty, Lord, and glory, the
wonders of Thy love,
Shall be the endless story of all Thy
saints above.

—*Jas. G. Deck*

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

I Peter 1:18-19

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Carol Sauder - Janice Horner**

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies...She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy...She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness.”

Proverbs 31:10,20,26,27

With Christ in our hearts, we ordinary women as well as men are enabled to do extraordinary things. Let us be challenged to exercise the law of kindness in showing compassion, stretching out and reaching forth hands to the poor and needy while keeping proper attention and focus on the concerns of the household.

On December 16, 1996, Manuel Cornejo and Robin Hodel pledged their vows of matrimony. Their parents are Adalberto and Esperanza Cornejo and Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Hodel. We wish them well as they establish their household.

Also in December, Polly, at the County Nursing Home wondered who this “Jesus” person was. As the youngest of 11 children, her family was too poor to buy her clothes to go to church. So my first New Year’s resolution was to give informal Sunday School lessons to

her on an informal, irregular basis. I Samuel 16:7, “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”

This elderly lady and two or three others periodically gather for a Bible story. She has comments of disbelief for almost every story. She reads the book and asks after each story to see if the others want her to continue reading. She wants to know who taught me how to pray. I reply, “My mom and dad and Sunday School teachers.” We teach her a simple prayer for food and one for before bed. It makes me realize how much I take for granted in child-rearing responsibilities because I had been taught so much in my youth.

Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL) proclaimed the Word to us on April 6 and by God’s grace taught us so powerfully. We are grateful that he and his wife, Sis. Myra, could be with us and teach us so lovingly by God’s grace.

Wednesday night, June 9, we were privileged to have Bro. Clark Stoller conduct a Bible Study on “Maintaining our Christian walk”. He provided a checklist of ideas to help us insure that our appreciation of our salvation was not tarnished and stale. His many examples gave us concrete examples of how we could more closely align ourselves with God’s will. We are thankful that both he and Sis. Cindy were here and provided us with this spiritual nourishment.

Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) taught the high school students from Taylor, Indianapolis, Princeville and Bloomington. He then was willing to do double-duty and provided inspiration to the entire afternoon congregation. We are pleased that he and his wife, Sis. Debbie, could give of them-

selves for our benefit.

On Palm Sunday we again received a blessing in hearing of the suffering, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour by our Sunday School students. We want to thank the teachers and students for presenting the story and the many grandparents who attended.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

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

Proverbs 31:10,28

I once saw a sheet of paper that had quite a few synonyms for a mother. Some of the ones that I remember were: chef, baker, dishwasher, cleaning lady, counselor, chauffeur, accountant, nurse, referee, seamstress, teacher of God, and gardener.

When we were children, we often took for granted the many things our mothers did for us. Now that we are older, we understand all the work that goes into being God-fearing parents. May God richly bless all the mothers that put the effort into training their children up in the way that they should go.

When we get up in the morning, we do not have to worry about being shot at, where we’re going to get our next meal, or persecution by our government. When we go into church, we do not have to worry about the government interfering with our worship or putting us in prison for our faith. On this Memorial Day, let us be thankful for those who died for the freedoms that we enjoy. Let us also be thankful for those who lived a good example and helped keep our church close to the Lord.

On March 23, Bro. Fred Dietz was engaged to Sis. Shaena Schambach (Elgin, IL). Parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and Bro. Don and Sis. LeAnn Schambach (Elgin, IL). May God bless their coming union in Him and this time before their wedding also.

We had many visiting ministers this past month, for which we are always thankful. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) was here to help out with Communion. We also enjoyed the company of Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) throughout the month. May God richly bless them for sharing the Word with us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Samuel and Pamela Furrer

When we gathered for our monthly hymn sing in March, it was also our time to say farewell to one of our families. It is part of the transient nature of our church family that these comings and goings take place more often than is common in most churches. At the singing, a brother stated that people think of Champaign as a small church. Really, we are not small, we're just expanding—we always consider those who move away to be a part of our Champaign congregation. Our latest "expansion" involves Bro. Justin and Sis. Marcia Koch and sons, Ben and Logan. As a student here in the early 1980's Justin became a part of God's family and an integral part of our church. His Champaign-Urbana roots went deeper as he finished his education, gained employment with the U of I, traded in his roommates to have Marcia as his wife, and the two of them brought forth two sons. Their years here have included turns of teaching Sunday School, vacation Bible school, trustee and

kitchen duties, and a real joyful commitment to serving God. We thank them for spending several years with us and wish them all the best as they move to the Washington, IL area to be closer to Justin's employment.

We are also expanding to the east as our former student, Bro. David Kieser, and wife, Sis. Jodi, have moved to Leo, IN. Dave completed his education here in December and he and Jodi have been continuing their jobs here until this spring when they could move on to the landscaping business Dave is joining in Leo. Although they were only with us a short time, we appreciated their presence in our church and wish them well as they embark on a new portion of life's journey.

Sis. Shaena Schambach of the Elgin, IL congregation recently moved here to do an internship at one of the local medical facilities. We welcome her to our church family as she spends a few months in our community.

Our comforting words and prayers go out to Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier during a time of sorrow as Ben's brother, Bro. Walter Blunier, of Roanoke, IL passed on to glory.

Mellisa Mangers (Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl) has taken the first step in her conversion to being a follower of Christ. Faced with many decisions as she finished her college education, Mellisa realized that her life needed greater focus on the One who really holds the key to her future. Our church and the angels in Heaven rejoice with Dennie, Cheryl, and their sons, Bro. Doug (St. Louis, MO) and Scott, as Mellisa's step fulfills for their family the verse from Joshua 24, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

The second weekend of April was the baptism weekend of our new Sis. Rachel Schrenk. Although Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy

moved from here to St. Louis (one of our "expansions" of a few years back), Rachel returned to our community for continuing education and began her repentance here. Many from our church and student group went to St. Louis for this very special weekend for Rachel and her family.

These past few months have been very exciting with our congregation having several converts. This recent Easter season reminds us, as our Sunday School students and their teachers brought forth to us at the program, of the sacrifice our Saviour made that we might have salvation. As young people are turning their lives to the Lord, it is a renewing experience to many of us who have been on the path for a number of years.

Visitors during this past month have included Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL). Elder Bro. Everett was here to assist our Elder Bro. David Wiegand with the reading of the Memorandum. On separate occasions, two other ministering brothers from that neighboring congregation made visits: Bro. Kevin Knapp spent a Sunday with us, and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann spoke at a Wednesday evening service. On Easter, Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) spent the day with us and spoke the Word. All of these brothers were appreciated and we pray for a blessing on them for their giving of their time and efforts.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

Several events in the past month have drawn me to realize the teaching power of personal experience. On Palm Sunday, March 23, the Sunday School classes sang several hymns for the congregation reminding us of the events of the Easter season. For me, this program was extra special because it was my oldest child's first Sun-

day School program. The songs her class sang were not new to me, but I was much more aware of the little actions and words she and her classmates were doing since I had personally experienced practicing with her.

After talking with an unconverted individual recently, I realized the teaching power of personal experience in the opposite way. Until a soul draws near to the cross and personally experiences grace, that soul's understanding of grace and salvation is greatly hindered.

Our congregation's understanding of God's Word was anything but hindered as three visiting ministers brought forth the truth. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) for the personal experience they put into surrendering to the Spirit. We also thank Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) for the two Wednesday evening trips he made to teach us the European history (March 12) and American history (April 9) of our church.

We have been prayerfully supporting our friend, Tim Metzger (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary), who underwent back surgery this month and will continue to pray as he recovers. Little Nelson Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) also had surgery. We look forward to seeing him toddling around again soon.

We offer our most sincere sympathy to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jackie Leman as well as their sons, Marcus, Stephen, and Andrew, at the loss of Sis. Jackie's father, Bro. Robert Gramm (Gridley, IL). May they be comforted in knowing that his suffering has now been replaced with heavenly rejoicing.

Sis. Louise Kettner, truly a pillar in the Chicago church, also joined that heavenly choir on April

11. My husband and I had the privilege of taking Sis. Louise to church on several occasions, and as we rode, she would share experiences about her life as she came to Chicago from Germany at age 19, and went on to become one of Chicago's first converts. Those are times I will fondly recall of Sis. Louise. Although we are thankful that her struggles here are over, we will miss her faithfulness and humble spirit.

As the cycles of life continue, the work of the church also continues. Two church offices have been filled. We appreciate Bro. Dale Steiner's willingness to serve a second term as World Relief Representative. Sis. Jill Rager will be the new Silver Lining Reporter. We express many thanks to Sis. Kathy Schlatter for sharing her gift of writing via the Silver Lining for the past two terms.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK **Joyce Bauer - Beth Steffen**

We are thankful for Godly men who willingly proclaim the good Word. We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) for the reading of the Memorandum. We were blessed through topical Bible studies recently by Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) on "Redeeming the Time" and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) on "Deception".

"And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it."

Mark 14:23

We appreciated so much Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) serving us Holy Communion.

Other ministers we were grateful for recently are: Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Kevin Knapp

(Bloomington, IL), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL). May God bless each of you brothers for your efforts and labors of love.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain; for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

We all look forward to that day when all these things will be passed away, but I think especially those who experience health problems. Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Mattie Bauer, Bros. Dale Walder and Aaron Bauer and Sis. Marie Kaufmann. Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann is now convalescing at Heartland Care Center in Paxton. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these loved ones whom we miss when they are unable to assemble with us.

"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:16

God has a special love for children. Gail Rudin and Vincent Lober welcome little Adrianna into their lives. May God give them the wisdom to raise her in His ways. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin of here.

Spring has come! Just think what it would be like if this spring the farmers decided not to sow crops. It would not be long before weeds would overtake all that is good. It is just like this in our spiritual lives. Let us plant seeds of goodness that we can bear a fruitful harvest.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Linda Knobloch** **Missy Banwart**

"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

Once again, we see God fulfilling His promises as winter gives way to summer and seedtime is upon us. May we strive each day to nurture our spiritual man just as we do those little seeds and plants we will put in the ground this spring.

We were thankful to have Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) with us for Easter Sunday. May God bless him for laboring on our behalf.

On April 6, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) were with us. We thank these brothers for their labors of love and pray God will bless them.

As Mother's Day approaches, may we remember to thank God for our mothers. What a blessing it is to have a Godly mother. For each of us who are mothers, may we ever remember what an impact we have on our children's lives. May God grant us grace each day to be good lights and Godly mothers.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

Only One Mother

Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.

—*Kate Douglas Wiggin*

We again want to stop and reflect on the true blessings we enjoy of faithful mothers who taught us, from little up, the ways of God.

We are looking forward to the

August wedding of Sis. Shaena Schambach (Bro. Don and Sis. Leann) and Bro. Fred Dietz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell) from Bradford, IL. May they be drawn close to the Lord and to each other as they seek to do His will.

Ministering Bro. Art Mueller and the Belvidere congregation joined us for Good Friday services. He took us back to not only the empty tomb but also the empty cross. Do we continue to nail our Saviour to the cross by not following as closely as we should in His footsteps?

We extend our thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters who either had surgery or spent time in the hospital: Bro. Morris Willaert (Sis. Nina), Bro. Bill Wewetzer (Sis. Marge), Bro. Bill Reber (Sis. Ann), Sis. Ruth Schurter (Bro. Harvey), and Sis. Kay Steffen (Bro. Earl). Let's remember Sis. Ann Reber who spends many lonely hours now that Bro. Bill resides in a nursing home.

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) spend the day with us. May God bless him and his family.

Sis. Louise Kettner, formerly of the Chicago congregation who resided in our nursing home, was called Home on April 11. What a blessing it must be to be in Heaven.

Church was filled to overflowing as Elgin hosted ACYF on April 13 and 20. It was wonderful to hear so many young voices sing praises to God.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Dori Blunier

What a wonderful, inspiring weekend we had as we partook of Holy Communion together. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) reminded us that we should partake of the cup and the bread until the Lord comes again. Our church received another blessing that week-

end as we voted Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy) into the ministry. Our Zion's Harp Hymn #207 described how we felt as we sang it together that evening. "Send, Lord, Thy holy teaching to us in humble preaching, Yet in the Spirit's pow'r, That we, a new creation, in love and true devotion may bear our burden every hour." We certainly extend our prayerful support to Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy as they do God's bidding.

We welcome Bro. Sam Nenadov to our congregation as he has recently moved here from Altadena.

We are thankful for every soul that repents and is baptized and rejoice with Brenda Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna) who was baptized on April 13. As we heard that day, salvation is an individual thing and God sees and cares for us as individuals. We have appreciated the ministry of our visitors, Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), and Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Don Wagenbach and Carl Wyss (both from Washington, IL).

Our prayers have been with Bro. Lester Martin (Sis. Ruth) who was recently hospitalized. We were also thankful that two of our young people, Jodi Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol) and Kandi Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky) were not more seriously injured as they were involved in a car accident recently.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Sam, Bro. Vernon, Bro. Lewis, Henry, and Sis. Genevieve Blunier at the sudden death of their brother, Bro. Walter Blunier, of Roanoke.

Sis. Emma Rocke passed away on April 15, and we know she is in a happier place. May God comfort her brother, Bro. Joe Rassi (Roanoke, IL), and her many nieces and nephews.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to everyone for the beautiful cards, and gifts of love I received for my 90th birthday.

Sis. Elizabeth Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

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

Proverbs 31:10,28

Mother's Day is an opportunity to "arise up and bless" our mothers for all they do for us. Let's appreciate our mothers, especially those who by their prayers and guidance and God-fearing examples have influenced us to serve the Lord.

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

Luke 24:5-6

The glorious message of the resurrection was brought to us on Easter Sunday by visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont/Gridley, KS) and Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). We thank these brothers for serving us, as well as Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) who also visited us this month. You are always welcome to return.

Haste and seek your soul's
 salvation;
 Heed the word of God today!
Zion's Harp #52

What joyful news also on Easter Sunday to hear that Justin Cottrell (Larry and Doris) is seeking the straight and narrow way! We wish Justin much grace as he begins his walk with the Lord.

"And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go."

Genesis 24:58

By faith, the engagement of our Bro. Chris Steidinger (Bro. Donald Steidinger and Sis. Alice Steidinger, Gridley) and Sis. Carol Streitmatter (Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter, Princeville) was announced to us. May God bind them closely together in heart and spirit as they plan their June wedding.

Many of us were present at Forrest on April 9 as our Bro. Lloyd Bachtold and Sis. Nancy Honegger (Forrest) were united in Holy Matrimony. How thankful we are that God has provided for them so wonderfully! May He richly bless them in their newly-established home.

Walter and Sadie Moser are enjoying their little brother, Arthur Eli, born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Julia Moser on March 20. Arthur's grandparents are William and Helen Fehr (Forrest) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington).

On April 3, Stephanie Rose came to join the family of Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr and Aaron. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest) and William and Helen Fehr (Forrest). Great-grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft (Forrest).

Bro. Kirby and Sis. Gwen Knapp welcomed Kyler Japheth on April 4. Kyler's sisters are Lanae, Natasha and Sharnell. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner and Sis. Laura Knapp (Forrest). May the Holy Spirit guide these parents as they seek to raise their little ones.

I wish to die in my dear Jesus;
 His grievous wounds make dying joy.

Zion's Harp #247

Sis. Nina Steffen fell asleep in Jesus on March 26. She was 93 and had been residing at the Peoria home. We extend deepest sympathy to her family, which includes her daughter, Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein (Bro. Cleve) of Peoria; son, Walt Steffen (Veronica); her sister, Sis. Eliza Getz, of Francesville, IN; six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Also, Everett Martin passed away on April 12. He was the husband of Sis. Dorothy (Traub) Martin, who was formerly from our congregation. May the Spirit of the Lord "comfort all that mourn". (Isaiah 61:2)

Little Ross Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) was again in the hospital this month. Please send up a special prayer for him and his family. Also hospitalized were Sis. Anna Holmes, Sis. Jeanette Bahler (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Clara Vogel and Bro. Melvin Hartman. Sis. Aldine Steffen (Bro. Ezra) met with an accident and broke her hip. May the healing hand of the Lord rest upon all.

Note of Thanks:

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

Bro. Vernon Hartman

Food For Thought

The other evening I found myself staggering alone under a load that was heavy enough to crush half a dozen strong men. Out of sheer exhaustion I put it down and had a good look at it. I found that it was all borrowed; part of it belonged to the following day; part of it belonged to the following week—and here was I borrowing it that it might crush me now! It is a very stupid, but a very ancient blunder.

—*F.W. Boreham*

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Marlene Walter
Mary Bachtold**

A precious baby girl was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker. Janel Kay is welcomed home by big brothers, Martin, Corbin, Loren and Daren. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

First-time parents, Brian and Abby Rinkenberger, are thankful for the arrival of little Gaije Jacob-Lee. His loving grandparents are Robert Livingston (Chatsworth, IL), Les and Barb Bauman (El Paso, IL), Jack and Carolyn Rinkenberger (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum.

Our congregation and many visitors were privileged to witness the wedding vows of two dear couples who were united as one in the Lord. April 6 was the wedding day of Bro. Jeff Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida) and Sis. Sarah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee). Wednesday evening, April 9, Sis. Nancy Honegger and Bro. Lloyd Bachtold (Fairbury, IL) became husband and wife. May God ever be present as the Unseen Guest in the home of these loved ones.

May God bless Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), John Stoller (Leo, IN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

Saturday evening, April 12, our congregation gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for their willingness to help our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in this solemn service. We were so vividly reminded of our Lord's agony in Gethsemane and yet His willingness to suffer and die for our sins.

Can we ever be thankful enough?

Hospital patients this month were Shanna Schaffer (Bro. John and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Donna Edelman. We are thankful that these loved ones are able to assemble with us again.

Earthly trials have ended for Sis. Louise Zimmerman, 100, who was laid to rest on April 2. She will be missed by her daughter, Sis. Doris Steffen and family, and son, Bro. Les (Sis. Edith) and family.

Others in our congregation are sorrowing over the loss of loved ones. We extend sympathy to Bro. Homer (Sis. Virginia) Blunier in the death of his brother, Bro. Walter Blunier (Roanoke, IL). We also sympathize with Sis. Deb (Bro. Ken) Roth in the passing of her grandmother, Mireille Byrd (Roanoke, IL). Sis. Leah Honegger, Aldine Nussbaum, and Elda Mae Rieger have also lost their brother, Fred Rieger, Jr. (Forrest, IL). May God's comforting Spirit be near these loved ones.

Notes of Thanks:

With deep gratitude we would like to express our thankfulness and appreciation to all for the many phone calls, prayers, visits, and loving support during our time of great sorrow at the passing of our dear husband, father, and grandfather. May the Lord richly bless you for your deeds of kindness.

Sis. Betty Ifft and children

The family of Sis. Louise Zimmerman would like to humbly thank each of you who expressed your love and sympathy in so many ways during the illness and death of our dear mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. May God bless each one.

Bro. Les and Sis. Edith Zimmerman and families

Sis. Doris Steffen and families

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

First of all, a great big "thank you" to Sis. Trish Gerber for her service to our congregation as Silver Lining reporter. We appreciate your dedication, Trish.

On March 12, Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted our Elder in reading the Memorandum to the Goodfield congregation. Communion services were held after regular services on Good Friday with Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) serving us. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Don Manz (Junction, OH). Heartfelt thanks to all these Brothers for their service to us through the Holy Spirit.

We rejoice with Sis. Julie Wiegand and Bro. Branden DesCarpentrie as they establish their household of faith. Their wedding on March 16 made first-time "in-laws" of both sets of parents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Wiegand and Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie!

The Sunday before that wedding, announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Kerstan DesCarpentrie to Bro. Kevin Plattner, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner. Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane have had a home filled with lots of excitement and joy lately! Our wishes for a long and happy married life follow both young couples.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman have been blessed with the birth of their second daughter. Serena Michele was born April 8, to the delight of "big sister" Alexis. Happy grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber.

After successful hip replacement surgery, Sis. Joyce Hohulin submits the following note of gratitude: "We would like to thank

everyone for the many cards, gifts, food, visits and prayers since my surgery and returning home. These many acts of kindness will never be forgotten. Philippians 1:3 - Wes and Joyce"

On April 12, the death angel came and carried our Sis. Nettie Knapp into eternity. Surviving are daughters, Erma Opperman and Fern Davis, both of Morton, IL, and a son, Marvin, of Goodfield. May God comfort their hearts. The next day, April 13, Sis. Velda Schlipf was also carried into blessed rest. Sis. Betty Bauman (Bro. Larry) of our congregation feels the "sting of death", but rejoices in her mother's victory. Our love and sympathy are extended to both families as they adjust to the loss of their mother.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz became the parents of their second daughter, Kayla Susanne, on April 9. She is their 7th child. Other siblings are Jacob, 11, Stephanie, 10, David, 8, Nathan, 7, Mark 5, and Benjamin, 3.

Grandparents are Harold and Bev Wells, Gridley; and Bro. Clyde and Sis. Wilma Kuntz, also of Gridley. May God be praised for giving this dear couple another child. And may He further guide them in the diligent training of these many children the Lord has entrusted unto them.

Also rejoicing in the gift of a new child are Bro. Brian and Sis. Krista Steffen. Sophia Brooke was born on March 6. She has a brother Dylan, 2 1/2. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen of our congregation, and Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth, Goodfield.

We rejoice with this couple and pray God will richly bless them as they, too, strive to "train up" their children in the Lord.

Bro. Richard "Buck" Henry and

Sis. Taunia Witzig were united in marriage on March 23. She is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig. His parents are Reginald and Edith Henry, Hudson. May God, who so wonderfully put these souls together, grant them much grace and happiness as they strive to set up a godly home in Gridley.

Sis. Ruth Ann Schlipf, 71, passed away on April 5 at the Eureka Home where she had lived in failing health for the past several years.

She is survived by Sis. Dorothy Witzig, and by a brother, John Schlipf, both of Gridley. A sister, Lois Schlipf, of the Eureka Home also survives.

During her many years as an active sister in faith, Sis. Ruth Ann brought a special personality to our fellowship, and seemed to especially esteem others over herself. "Ruth Ann" gave of herself to others. She cared for her widowed mother and two special-needs sisters while she herself lived with the effects of polio. But, by God's grace, she carried on in her duties and was of pleasant manner with great appreciation for the faith and heritage we enjoy. We truly appreciate the memory of Sis. Ruth Ann Schlipf.

As in any death, we were deeply saddened over the passing of Bro. Bob Gramm on April 11. His funeral was held on Sunday, April 13.

He is survived by his dear wife of 41 years, Sis. Nola. Two daughters, Sis. Barb Prevo, Gridley, and Sis. Jaclyn Leman, Batavia; a son, Bradley Gramm, Litz, PA.

His mother, Sis. Louise Gramm, who resides at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, also survives. He is survived by a sister, Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Gridley; and three brothers: Bro. Harold Gramm, Hancock, MN; and Bros. Herbert and Donald, Gridley.

Bro. Bob was reserved and mild-

mannered and one who was diligent in all aspects of life. He pursued all those important things that provide for a good life, and which bring honor to God—love for God, love for the church, love for his wife and family, and love for God's plan of salvation. God provided plentifully for him all his life and especially during the end as he traversed through the valley of death's shadow. Although in discomfort, and weak, he longed for the end to come so he could be "forever with the Lord."

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

We were so lovingly reminded throughout the Easter Season of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and His triumph over death. On March 23 our Easter Program was held with the Sunday School, adult choirs and Home for the Handicapped choir participating. Easter Sunday began early with a Sunrise Service and breakfast at the Fellowship Hall. Holy Communion was served April 12.

We were so lovingly reminded of our high and Heavenly calling by hearing the reading of the Memorandum. May we each strive to increase our faith by having a closer walk with our Lord.

We are again thankful that the Lord has called more workers into His vineyard. They are Bro. Bob Salter (Jeff and Debbie Coatney), Bro. Chris Kaufmann (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Justin Bertschi (Sis. Margie), Sis. Amy Stephens (Bro. Mark and Sis. Esther), and Bro. David Wuthrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl). Their baptisms were held on April 6.

On April 9, Sis. Margaret Huthmann's testimony and baptism were held. May they all continue to look to the Lord for wisdom and guidance.

Sis. Rachel Strunk was called

Home on April 6 at the age of 94. May the Lord comfort and bless her son, Robert; her daughter, Donna Zimmerman; her four brothers, Harold, John, Sam, and Edward Hirstein; her four sisters, Sis. Lola Strunk, Sis. Edna Fite, Ann Rupprecht and Samantha Meeker; her four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

The prayers of the congregation are with our newly elected Sunday School teachers. May they plant the seeds of the gospel and may the Lord give the increase. They are Bros. Dennis Mott (Superintendent), Terry Baum, Dave Plousard, Ted Witzig Jr. and Sis. Kary Ackerman.

We wish to thank the following Brothers for ministering the Holy Word to us this month. They are Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and ministering Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for the well wishes, cards, gifts of love, those who helped and our children for hosting our 50th wedding anniversary. Special thanks to those loved ones who did a "Memory" sheet for us. May God bless all who were so kind.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Betty Yergler

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Peter and Mabel Weber**

Our sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for their visit on Palm Sunday. He assisted Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer with serving Communion. It was a blessed day and brought out "un-

ion" in Communion.

Elder Bro. Phil made an interesting point on Isaiah 33:22, "For the Lord is our judge (judiciary), the Lord is our lawgiver (legislative), the Lord is our king (executive); he will save us" which is the structure of our government today. After a law became effective in Illinois on July 1, 1987, lifting all exemptions from jury duty, we might have to become involved sometime with the judiciary. Peoria, first known as Fort Clark, evolved from an Indian to a French (to 1779) to an American village and became a city on May 5, 1845 (4,070 inhabitants). A jury was convened in the first courthouse in March 1829. Jesus wants to become our advocate before the Father and only asks that we declare ourselves guilty and confess our sins. What a difference to the present court system.

We thank Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) for his visit and Good Friday meditation on Luke 23. Jesus was temporarily made sin and experienced mortality. As God could not identify with the condition of sin, He had to forsake Him during that period. Jesus and His followers became fishers of men; so did Satan and his adherents. Do we parallel Pharaoh's statement, "I know not the Lord" (Exodus 5:2) or align ourselves with Jesus? He could have come down from the cross, but did not, so we can have that new relationship with God, which should be our highest priority.

"He is not here; for he is risen" (Matthew 28:6) was the theme of our Easter sunrise service at the Fellowship Hall. Bro. Mike Rieker mentioned that Jesus lives now in our hearts, and later at church, Bro. Ken Hoerr meditated on Mark 16 and Acts 17. The fear of death is inherent in human nature. Hi-tech medicine can prolong lives, but eventually the end comes. Now we can look to Jesus,

who overcame death. Three people saw Him at God's right hand: Stephen, Saul and John. Are we prepared to change our address from earth to Heaven? Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) had the afternoon service and we thank him and his wife, Sis. Christy, for their visit.

The topic of Bro. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL) for family night on April 2 was "More than all the World". If we spent \$10,000 every day, it would take 274 years to exhaust one billion. But rather than focus on wealth, we should be rich in Jesus and thankful for family, brotherhood, church and even the full grocery cart we push at the store. Thanks, Bro. Glenn, for your visit and presentation.

On April 13, Bro. David Oberffel was installed in the ministry. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer meditated on I Timothy 3 and mentioned that the Holy Spirit provides the Word of God and the qualification is only through the grace of God. It is not the skill of the sower but the power of the seed and the state of the soil, or the hearts of the hearers. Bro. David began his ministry on April 16 by meditating on Eccles. 3, announcing Hymn 207 (1,2,3 and 8) and Titus 2. We sincerely uphold Bro. David in prayer for the grace and wisdom of God to the edification and salvation of the church.

Bro. Walt Plattner is making progress in recovering from his hip surgery and we hope he will be back at the Skylines in the near future.

Death breaks earthly ties but renews them in Heaven. Sis. Nina Steffen (93), mother of Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein and Walt Steffen of Cropsey, IL met her Lord on March 26 after an exemplary life of faith of 78 years. She had been a Skylines resident for the last five years. Earl Martin passed away on March 28. He was the brother of Sis. Gladys Binkele and Sis.

Martha Stoller of Gridley, IL. David Ross, the husband of Loretta Ross of the Skylines, passed away on April 10. May the Lord be near to their families at this time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Bro. Joel and Sis. Tania Hoer (Schock) for Kirstin, their third child.

Lana Booth has worked at our Home (Skylines) since 1981, the last nine as Director of Nursing, and now wishes to retire from that assignment. We are seeking a new director and request you contact Bros. Roger Herman or Rick Plattner (309) 691-8091 if you are interested in this position and have an RN background with managerial skills and a love for the elderly.

Marie and Jeffrey Hoerr, formerly of Peoria, now live at 9202 Philander Chase, Brimfield, IL 61517-9492. Their presents have been sent to the wrong Jeff Hoerr at Mapleton, IL.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Joanna Herrmann

A mother's love is something that no one can explain—
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

Let us all remember to show our love and gratitude to our mothers and grandmothers for their prayers and Godly example.

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

I Corinthians 11:26

We shared a blessed weekend together, March 22 and 23, commemorating the death and suffering of our Lord and Saviour. We held Communion services Saturday evening. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis.

Loretta (Alto, MI), for coming and helping with the service and sharing the weekend with us.

On Sunday, we listened to the Sunday School children tell us again of the blessed Easter story. Our prayer is that it will also touch the hearts of the children, as it touched ours.

The Lord promises that He will “...instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:” (Psalm 32:8). Once again, we can see the leading of the Lord in the engagement of two dear souls. On March 30, Sis. Carol Streitmatter and Bro. Chris Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) made their engagement known. Sis. Carol is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Diane Streitmatter, and Bro. Chris is the son of Bro. Donald Steidinger of Fairbury and Sis. Alice Steidinger of Gridley. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann have been blessed with a son. Garrett Roger was born March 31. He was welcomed home by older siblings, Tristan, Rebekah, and Larissa, as well as thankful grandparents, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann and Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette Graham.

Once again, we were reminded of the patience and mercy of our Heavenly Father. On April 16, we were privileged to witness the testimony and baptism of our dear new sister, Virginia (Harry) King. Sis. Virginia had turned 79 prior to her baptism, and we are thankful that she was able to answer God's tender call.

We wish to remember those who suffer infirmity of the flesh. In Psalm 41:3, we read “The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.” What a comfort to know that God is near. Among those we want to pray for are Russ (Sis. Roma) Rumbold, Bro. Doug Stoller, Sis. Joyce (Bro.

Norman) Streitmatter, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Ezra) Rumbold, and Bro. Harold Streitmatter.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank our ministers, friends, family, and relatives for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, food, and gifts while Ezra was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one of you for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

Bro. Ezra and Sis. Lucille Rumbold

I want to thank all my friends, relatives, nurses and neighbors for all the beautiful cards, flowers, telephone calls, gifts, and food received on my 80th birthday. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Lucille Rumbold

We sincerely want to thank everyone who so kindly remembered us during our loved one's sudden passing. The many kind expressions of love, the cards, gifts, and memorials, also the visits and prayers have all meant so very much, and were truly a part of God's comfort. May He richly bless you for caring and for sharing.

The Family of Sis. Natalie Feucht

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Jana Gastman - Lisa Leman

The time flies on and death draws nigh;

Unite us, Lord, with thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

Zion's Harp #188

Our congregation was saddened at the death of Bro. Walter Blunier on April 1. We extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Marian; and their children, Glenna Lober, Lexington; Judy Magnuson, Roanoke; Jan Martin, Fond du Lac, WI; Lori Ulrich, Cedar Rap-

ids, IA; Wally Blunier, Roanoke; Herb Blunier, Germantown Hills; and Gary Blunier, Little Rock, AR.

Sis. Velda Schlipf was called Home on April 13. Our love and prayers are extended to her children: Sis. Elizabeth Bauman (Goodfield, IL), Mary Jane Wettstein (Roanoke, IL) and James Schlipf.

Our friend, Earl Martin, passed away on March 28. He was a part of our congregation, and our prayers are with his family.

Bro. Elmer Wiedman went Home to be with the Lord on April 18. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and six children. May the Lord fill the void in their hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota Byrd and their family. Jim's mother, Mireille Byrd, passed away at our Home in Roanoke on April 7.

We welcomed four dear souls into our brotherhood this past month: Sis. Heidi Zimmerman (Rick and Sis. Raylene), Bro. Jonathon Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda), Bro. Elmer Weidman (Virginia), and Sis. Caroline Aeschleman (Ray). What a blessing to greet them as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We rejoice that the Lord is still calling souls unto Him! Marty Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol) and Brad Blunier (Wally) have begun their walk with the Lord. May they feel the prayers of the congregation.

John and Jane Fehr welcomed home Andrew John on March 27. Andrew has two big sisters, Laura and Rachel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ella Wittmer (Morton) and Bro. Rich and Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Roanoke).

Rick and Sis. Raylene Zimmerman are the happy new grandparents of Gabriel Timothy. Gabe's parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Robin Kaufmann (Peoria, IL).

Our congregation always appreciates the labors of love from the

ministers who visit us. Sharing the Word with us this month were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA). Also, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) spoke at our monthly Bible study on the history of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Mardel Bowald and Bro. Ira Farney as they are hospitalized after both having surgery.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

“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.”

Acts 2:38

We had a blessed weekend April 5-6 as John Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) became our dear brother-in-faith. May the Lord always be near and provide for him as he travels this narrow pathway.

We thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for visiting us this month. May God bless them for lending themselves in His service on our behalf.

We were reminded of Christ's suffering and death as we had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion on March 22. Our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder was assisted by Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors in this holy act and for sharing God's Word with us.

Little Corbin Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie) was our only hospital patient this month. We are thankful that he is home and doing well.

Our prayers of sympathy go to Larry and Sis. Sandra Lane. His mother, Dorothy Lane, passed away recently.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Reuben, Willard, Bro. Leslie, and Clifford Schweigert and to Sis. Ella Schweigert, Sis. Lydia Rassi and Sis. Elizabeth Sauder in the death of their brother, Hubert Schweigert (Morton, IL).

May God be near each one and grant His comforting touch.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Denise Romersberger Sue Ruppert

The sight of daffodils and tulips pushing up through the ground in the spring always give the spirits a boost. The first signs of green grass and budding trees bring the promise of warm weather. And then the snow came. On April 10, eight to twelve inches of heavy, wet snow fell on Central Illinois. What a surprise! Fortunately, it was warm enough that the snow soon melted. The daffodils looked pretty sad; bent over as they were under their heavy load. I really didn't think they would survive. But, within four days, those daffodils were upright and looking almost as fresh as they did before the snow came. And today, just over a week later, the tulips are bursting forth with color.

Are we as resilient as those daffodils? When the heavy burdens weigh us down, do we strive to straighten up and lift up our heads? Or do we keep ourselves buried in the mud, refusing to pick ourselves up? God uses nature to give us examples and lessons, if we only take the time to notice. Thanks be to God for daffodils!

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Andy Klaus (Tokyo, Japan). Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) came to assist with the serving of Communion. As al-

ways, Communion services bring to mind our Lord's last meal with His disciples. The quiet solemnness is always awe-inspiring. But, I had to think of those loved ones who weren't present; those who have never turned their lives over to the Lord, and those that are no longer in full fellowship with Him. It makes our heart sad to feel the separation. God grant us His grace and wisdom to draw them into the circle of His love.

Church housecleaning was held with many willing workers. It is a blessing to come together to work toward a common goal.

We welcome Delayne Stickling to our Washington congregation as he has come to the area due to employment circumstances.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Brenda Bertsch - Kim Maller

"Spring showers bring May flowers." In Bluffton this month we have been showered with many blessings. We have had three converts: Michael Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Chad Lantz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy) and Tony Reinhard (Bro. Ezra). We also have begone new life as our newly married couple, Bro. Ben Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. Jaime Schwartz (Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane) walked down the isle as a newly married couple on April 6; and new life will begin for our newly engaged couples, Sis. Janel Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy) to Bro. Jason Habegger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene), along with Sis. Brittany Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) to Bro. Marvin Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny). We wish you all God's blessings for the future.

Our congregation is thankful to have been blessed by the Spirit which moved through Bro. Nile Bucher and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (both from Bluffton North, IN) who lent their services

so that our life in Christ could benefit.

Many have been hospitalized or have felt the need for our prayers: Bro. Dan Habegger, Sis. Stacey Fiechter (Bro. Gary), Bro. Leon Gerber (Sis. Mary K.), Bro. Don Gerber (Sis. Justine), Bro. Vernon Geisel (Sis. Luella) and Millie Beer (Bro. Ben's mother).

As spring arrives and life is fully in bloom, it is part of God's perfect plan that we pass from this life to life everlasting. We had no deaths in our congregation this month. However, death did touch many families and friends dear to us. Our hearts go out to the surviving family members of Sam Krumen, and Sis. Kathy Clough (John).

Showers flooded the Kentucky area in which many offered their helping hand in any way they could, including our Sunday School children. We pray all in Kentucky area, especially the Sanders, are rebuilding and thank them for showing us when all is lost their faith remains. Our physical body helped them as they strengthened our spiritual life. God bless them.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Kay Steffen - Lori Steffen

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) share Communion with us on April 19. It is a special privilege that we Christians share when we can set up a milestone in our life and know that we are at peace when we partake of Holy Communion.

It has been such a blessing to hear that there are souls who are desiring to live for Jesus! Tony Reinhard (Bro. Ezra and the late Sis. Doris), Chad Aschliman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Debbie), and Seth Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan) have found the grace to repent and we rejoice with them and their families!

We have two engagements to announce! Bro. Jason Habegger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene) and Sis. Janel Frank (Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy); and Bro. Marvin Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) and Sis. Brittany Maller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda) have pledged their lives to one another. May God direct their paths.

April 13 was a very special day for Bro. Tim Jolloff and Sis. Robin Todd as they shared their wedding vows. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev and Mike and Karen Todd, and pray that God will bless them in their new life together.

Mark Wright and Kelly Kaehr, our two loved ones, have been in health care facilities and I'm sure they would appreciate our prayers. Aren't we thankful to know that God is just a prayer away!

On the weekend of April 25-26, our Bluffton churches plan to host a weekend for our singles, ages 25 and older. Special speakers are being planned and we know that this will be an uplifting and encouraging weekend for all involved.

We were exhorted to know what the Lord will require of us. In Micah 6:8 the answer was given: "...to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

We thank Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) coming to

share God's Word with us. We also thank our home minister, Bro. Brian Huber, for presenting a Bible topic on forgiveness.

We wish God's nearness on Bro. Morris Eshleman (Sis. Helen) recovering from gallbladder surgery. Isaac Denton (Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny) has recuperated well from tonsillectomy surgery. Sis. Catherine Neihouser had a brief hospitalization for tests. Bro. Harry Yaggie is thankful to return to his home.

Closing thought from a sermon: Sometimes when we should warn another, we take a short term risk for long term benefits.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Melissa Baumgartner

Lynn Dotterer

Greetings of love in Jesus, our risen Lord and Saviour. We had a special Good Friday service, as we first took a moment to reflect back on what Christ did for us at Calvary through scripture and then our children told us the story through verse and song. May we never forget the unfailing love Christ has for us to share with others.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Eccles. 3:1

With this faith, Bro. Stan Gutwein and Sis. Andrea Zeller became husband and wife on April 6. It was a joyous day for Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea and also the whole congregation, as this was the first wedding we've witnessed in our church in several years. May the Lord continue adding His most precious blessings and joys in their new life together. Their parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller and Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gramm (Peoria, IL).

Our prayers are also with John

and Rochelle Ward as they plan to move back home to Remington. We are thankful to have watched how God has worked in the lives of John and Rochelle, as they have recently given their hearts to the Lord and now have found peace with God and man.

Little Jacob Hart welcomes home baby brother, Caleb, who was born on April 18. Thankful parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeni Hart.

We wish to thank all the visiting ministers who shared the Word of Life with us: Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Titus 2:3-5

As Mother's Day approaches, praise be to God for every mother in the faith who has exemplified obedience to the Word of Life. Every member of the body of Christ benefits from sisters who are pillars in the church.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn Levy mourn the passing of Bro. Ralph's sister, Sis. Mayme Getz (Leo, IN). Our congregation supports these loved ones in prayer as Bro. Ralph has been hospitalized. Sis. Martha Peters is also recuperating from a recent illness and we lift her up in prayer.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL). Many precious and wonderful teachings were delivered from God through His ministering servants, and we thank our Lord for every word of truth.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

The Easter program was presented to the congregation on Palm Sunday. The children put forth a lot of effort, and it was a real blessing to all.

"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee."

Psalms 22:27

On Easter morning, we gathered at the Fellowship Center for a time of praise to our risen Lord, "...upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came..." (St. Luke 24:1). We then had breakfast together followed by our regular services at church. It was a blessed day.

"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the well-spring of wisdom as a flowing brook."

Proverbs 18:4

May the words of wisdom from our ministering brothers be a well-spring, as we not only hear but obey the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) shared with us on April 2, and on April 16, he brought Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) to minister to us. We appreciate his loving concern for us.

We were again inspired at our topical Bible study when Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) pre-

sented "Proverbs for First Grade". Even though it was geared for the younger folks, we all benefitted by returning to first grade with Bro. Ron.

On April 12, Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) was with us to help Bro. John Stoller share Holy Communion. We also heard Cara Baumgartner's testimony of peace and salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. We welcomed our new sister following her baptism on Sunday the 13th. What a blessed weekend we experienced. We thank Elder Bro. Wes and those who came with him, for coming to be with us. We also thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for sharing God's Word with us.

The engagement of Sis. Janel Frank (Gateway Woods) to Bro. Jason Habegger was announced on Palm Sunday. Their parents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank and Bro. Sam and Sis. Darlene Habegger. They are all from the Bluffton congregation where Sis. Janel will be returning. We wish and pray for the Lord's richest blessings on their lives.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner returned to her apartment at The Cedars, after a few days in the hospital with pneumonia. We are thankful for her healing.

Sis. Helen Zimmer recovered from two successful cataract surgeries, and Bro. Otto Bertsch had his second cataract surgery at age 93. Today, recovery from these surgeries is quite swift. We praise the Lord for His care and help.

We welcome Bro. David and Sis. Jodi Kieser to our church family.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each and every one for their prayers and cards while I was in the hospital. Your visits were also greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you all.

Bro. Marvin Fischer

INDIANA, MILFORD

Linda Beer - Renee Beer

We want to sincerely thank Bro. Jeff Thames for his time and effort in conducting a marriage seminar entitled "Greater Love." Bro. Jeff presented a Biblical model for marriage and promoted growth towards this model through application of Biblical principles.

We were strengthened and uplifted as we gathered together at 6:15 a.m. Easter morning for our Sunrise Service. It is always good to see the effort put forth by our Sunday School children to attend and take part. We then enjoy eating breakfast together. We were also encouraged as the children presented lessons in songs and poems at our Easter program.

We were privileged to have Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN), Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), ministering God's Word to us. We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our prayers are with Sis. Martha Haab (Bro. Don) and their family as Sis. Martha's brother, Levi Hostetler, passed away on April 13. May God continue to comfort and strengthen them.

We think of our loved ones in our congregation who have been hospitalized or continue to receive treatments: Simon Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie), Abbey Beer (Bro. Sam and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Herman Weisser and Sis. Mary Ann Haab (Bro. Art). May each one continue to feel the Lord's healing hand.

We rejoice with Sis. Marie Reuter as she celebrated her 100th birthday on April 19. We are thankful for her sound mind as she continues to stay at our local nursing home.

May God continue to bless and care for our dear Mothers. Thank you for your never-ending deeds of

kindness you show every day.

Our Father in Heaven whose love is divine,
Thanks for the love of a Mother like mine—
And in Thy great mercy look down from Above
And grant this dear Mother the Gift of Your Love—
And all through the year, whatever betide her,
Assure her each day that you are beside her—
And, Father in Heaven, show me the way
To lighten her tasks and brighten her day,
And bless her dear heart with the insight to see
That her love means more than the world to me.

—Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Patti Bahler

It is good for us to be reminded of all that our Lord has done for us. His suffering on the cross can be dimmed in our heart and mind as we narrow our focus on the cares of this life. On March 23, our Sunday School children prompted us to go back to Calvary when they presented their Easter program. They also took us beyond Calvary and sang of His resurrection which left us with the hope that He is our Saviour and Lord.

"...this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." We were reminded again on April 12 of the great price He paid for our salvation. As our church shared in Communion, we were reminded to focus on all He has done for us and to be thankful. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler.

We also want to thank Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for sharing the Word with us on March 26. He presented a Bible study on "keeping the Sabbath

sanctified" and left us with a challenge to examine our own lives and compare it with how God expects us to be using our time on His holy day.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Marci Neuenschwander
Sue Beebe

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

II Cor. 9:6

This time of year when much sowing of the seed is being done, it is a good time to consider the spiritual seeds we sow in the lives of others. Am I too busy to take the time to plant lovingly and patiently, or am I so rushed that I simply do a meager, quick scattering and hope it grows?

We appreciate our mothers who have with kindness sown the seed in our hearts, and patiently waited for it to take root, that God may give the increase.

"Kind hearts are the gardens.
 Kind thoughts are the roots.
 Kind words are the flowers.
 Take care of the gardens, and keep
 them from weeds,
 Fill, fill them with flowers,
 Kind words, and kind deeds."
 —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We were blessed on Palm Sunday by the Easter program given by our Sunday School children. The seeds are truly being planted as we could see by the eagerness and attentiveness by which they told us the resurrection story. May God bless the hearts of those who give of themselves to sow the seed.

We gathered together on Easter morning for a sunrise service and breakfast.

Wednesday evening, April 2, we were blessed by a visit from Bro. Lester Huber (Lexington, KY) and

his wife, Sis. Glendoris. We thank him for his faithfulness in sharing the Word with us.

We shared Communion together on Saturday evening, April 5. We thank our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and his wife, Sis. Shirley, for sharing the loaf and cup with us.

We share salvation through His
 grace.
 We drink one cup; we break one
 bread;
 One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

How thankful we should be!

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman wish to thank each and every one for the many cards and gifts that were sent to them on their 40th wedding anniversary. May God bless you for your kindness.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ken Susdorf - Cheryl Bucher

Just as the springtime has started bringing forth her beautiful colors, the freshness around us, and the sweet singing of the birds, may all of our lives be blessing God as these do. Let us take a new freshness like only God can cause and serve our Lord with all of our hearts and all of our souls. We thank the Lord for all the beauty and encouragement we get from the very evidence of His presence among us.

This past month we all enjoyed an evening church potluck followed by a very special Easter program. God must truly love us with all that He has done for us and to even let His own Son, Jesus Christ, die that horrible death on that old wooden cross for our very sake.

Bro. Lance Bucher (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Hope Steiner (Bro. Harold and Sis. Karen, Princeville, IL) have expressed

God's Holy vows one to another. May God richly bless and prevail in your lives as you now walk together as one. Our prayers are surely with you.

We take this time to wish all of our mothers a "Happy Mother's Day" as we honor you all in this month. We thank God that He saw fit to make woman. Mom, without your loving care, your direction, guidance, counseling, and prayer, etc., etc., life just wouldn't have been the same. God bless each one of you.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

We were blessed in this past month to have a special time of reflection on our Lord's death and resurrection. His gift to us was given in love and mercy, though wholly undeserved. We were thankful for the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) for lending their services during that time.

We met for an evening Bible topic given by Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We appreciated the time and effort he took to bring us the topic "Keeping the Sabbath day holy."

We rejoice with Mark and Shari Schwab on the birth of their new little daughter, Lauren Marie. She joins her brothers and sisters, Stefanie, Marissa, Marcus and Weston.

Sis. Edna Kyburz is now residing at Parkview Haven (Francesville, IN). We miss her gathering with us each week, but are thankful for the excellent care she receives there at the home.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for their love, thoughtfulness and the many cards I received on my birthday. God bless each and every

one of you.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Edith Massner

Monica Eisenmann

We appreciate the efforts of our Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for serving us Holy Communion, and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) for assisting in the reading of the Memorandum. We also appreciate the brethren at Oakville opening their church to us as we joined them for the Memorandum reading. May we always remember the price that was paid for us at Calvary and that it is not too much to ask to daily surrender our lives to Christ.

Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) was also with us this past month and brought forth God's Word. We pray that God will richly bless each of these ministering brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

What a busy time the month of May can be. Besides field and garden work, this month also includes the day we set aside to honor our mothers. May we truly be thankful for the loving mothers God has blessed us with. Students are busy with finals as another school year comes to a close. Graduates are looking forward to graduation. Here in Elgin we have one graduate this year, Wade Halverson (Roger and Charlene). We certainly want to wish Wade God's blessings and direction as he makes plans for his future. As the month ends, we find another day set aside to pay our respects to those who have finished their earthly pilgrimage. May we truly be thankful to those faithful brethren who kept the faith and left us with this precious heritage that we

enjoy today. May God help us to be the same light and example for future generations.

Sometimes looking ahead to multiple events can be rather overwhelming, and we have to remind ourselves that even though a certain amount of planning is necessary, we really are encouraged to be concerned for today's needs only and trust the future to God's perfect wisdom and plan.

We had one visiting minister this past month and surely want to thank Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) for his willingness to share God's Word with us.

A saw this little poem on a wall at work and thought it was worth sharing.

TODAY

Outside my window, a new day I see,
and only I can determine
what kind of day it will be.

It can be busy and sunny, laughing
and gay
or boring and cold, unhappy and
grey

My own state of mind is the
determining key,
for I am only the person I let
myself be.

I can be thoughtful and do all I can
to help,
or be selfish and think just of
myself.

I can enjoy what I do and make it
seem fun,
or gripe and complain and make it
hard for someone.

I can be patient with those who may
not understand,
or belittle and hurt them as much
as I can.

But I have faith in myself, and
believe what I say
And I personally intend to make the
best of each day.

—author unknown

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Delores Reinhard

After having a beautiful beginning of spring with temperatures in the 70's and some gardens peek-

ing through, we had a surprise April snowstorm, leaving us with 18 inches and more. It reminded me of our spiritual life when we are happy and think everything is going so well, when all at once we find ourselves buried under with concerns. As God told Moses, He had a job for him to do (Exodus 3). He is also telling us He has a job for us to do. Do we see all the negative things and say, "I can't do it, it's too much!"? God told Moses he can do it and He's also telling us we can do it if we are willing to try. He will provide help for us when we are bogged down with the cares of this life. Let us all trust more in God.

The Golden Harvest

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today.
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

Chorus:

Hasten gladly to the labor.
Consecrate to God your heart.
Say this day unto your Saviour,
"Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

Hymns of Zion #46

May God bless our ministering brethren who have traveled a distance to come and willingly labor on our behalf. We want to thank Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL).

We welcome anyone traveling through, or anyone wishing to come and visit us to do so.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We again want to extend our thanks to all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). We appreciate their willingness to feed our small flock the Heavenly manna we need to sustain our souls.

April 5 was the wedding day of

Lisa Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce) and Keith DuBrava (Jack and Luella, Hamburg, IA). We wish them God's blessings as they establish a home in North Liberty.

Our prayers continue for our brethren and friends experiencing hardship from heavy snow and flooding. May God give them the strength and resources needed to minimize damage and loss. May we all be as diligent in protecting our spiritual treasures from the ravages of Satan as they are now in protecting their earthly possessions from the physical elements.

IOWA, LESTER

Cindy Leuthold - Sue Warner

Our hearts are lifted at the signs of spring after a long winter. An even greater miracle is the miracle of a new life that God will give to souls who will diligently seek Him. We rejoice with Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl) and Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean) who have found the grace to repent. We pray that God will be near them and help them.

Once again we enjoyed the blessing of partaking in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) assisted our Elder brethren. May this serve to unite us and strengthen us.

On March 22, Amanda VanWyhe (Leroy and Shelley) and Jared Rozeboom were united in marriage. We wish them many blessings.

We pray that God will reward our brethren who share the Word of life with us. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized or who suffer bodily afflictions. Sis. Zelma Knoblock was a surgical patient. Sis. Paulina Knobloch had cataract surgery. Sis. Emma Knobloch

is home from the hospital, but still is unable to assemble with us. We pray that God will be near each one, and heal where it is His will.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Coralee Knoblock (Bro. Charles) on the death of her father, John Gerritsen. We also extend sympathy to Sis. Coralee's mother, Greta Gerritsen. Sis. Erma Gerber (Bro. William) also has our sympathy on the death of her brother, Bro. Vernon Esslinger.

We congratulate Bro. Edward and Sis. Amelia Roemen who have been married for 50 years. May God continue to bless them.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Melody Steiner

Debra Wagenbach

Don and Sis. Kris Wagenbach welcome little Devon John into their hearts and home. Devon was born on April 2 and was eagerly welcomed home by his siblings, Joel and Kenzy. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach Sr. and Tim and Candace Licko (Mediapolis) are also rejoicing to have another grandchild. May God ever guide our young parents and may they follow His ways that their children will grow up to know the truth of salvation.

"Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go..." (Zion's Harp #89). We are so privileged to be afforded the chance to go out to Calvary. The suffering of our Lord was brought very near to our hearts as we assembled on April 5 for Communion service. As we walk our daily lives, we need to often just "go out to Calvary" and then we will not get so caught up in the treasures and frills of this life. The cares of this life really pale and seem so trivial when we set our eyes upon Jesus. May we serve Him with all of our heart! We thank Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz with the serv-

ice. May God richly bless Bro. Joe and his family.

IOWA, PULASKI

Lisa Knecht

Tell mother I'll be there, in answer to her prayer.

This message, blessed Saviour, to her bear!

Tell mother I'll be there, heav'n's joys with her to share;

Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there.

Gospel Hymns #801

As Mother's Day approaches, we often spend time thinking on the appropriate gift for our dear mothers. What greater gift could a child give to their mother, than to prepare their own soul for eternity?

We sincerely wish to thank Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) for his visit and sharing God's "living truths" with us. A special thank you to Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) for assisting our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in serving us Holy Communion. We know if we as God's children are truly thankful for what Christ has done, our lives will reflect this thanksgiving.

Our prayers have been with the Wuthrich family at the passing of Deannie Wuthrich in January. She was the sister-in-law to Bros. Russell, Joel, Bill and daughter-in-law to Bro. Albert.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Lela Banwart - Eunice Fehr

We rejoiced to have Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and his dear family with us for our mid-week service and then for the weekend, along with Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). On Saturday evening, we listened to the testimony of our dear friend,

Julie Zaugg (Darrell), and on Sunday we welcomed her into the precious family circle of God. May God ever be by the side of our Elders as they undertake this important work. We appreciate the effort they and their families make, to travel the many miles to share the blessings of the weekend with us.

Our hospital patients are Bro. Kent Banwart (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Silas Metzger (Sis. Della). At this time they are still hospitalized and it is our prayer that God will watch over them, touch them with His healing power, and that they can soon be home again.

We extend our sympathy to Miriam Frieden on the death of her sister-in-law, Virginia (Herb) Parkison, of Liberal, MO. Also our sympathy to Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and family on the death of Sis. Adele's brother, Bro. Vernon Esslinger (Sis. Lillian) of Sabetha, KS. May these dear ones look to our Heavenly Father for comfort in their sorrow, and for strength and grace in the days ahead.

Congratulations to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Amy Mogler who have been blessed with the birth of Alicia Jean. She has a brother, Luke, to help welcome her to the family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler and Ronald and Sis. Sandy Feucht (Lester, IA). May God richly bless them all as they joyfully and lovingly care for their new little family member.

Bob and Kay Banwart are happy and excited to have two new grandchildren born the same day, April 3. A son, Matthew Galvin, was born to Larry and Beth Banwart (Bonita Springs, FL). Maternal grandparents are Calvin and Virginia Husman (Quimby, IA). Doug and Elizabeth (Banwart) Worth (Lees Summit, MO) are first-time parents of a baby girl, Alexandria Elizabeth. Maternal grandparents are Fred and Faye

Worth (Raytown, MO). May God be with these families as they care for these precious little ones.

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

What Is A Mother?

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

It takes a Mother's Patience
to bring a child up right,
And her Courage and her
Cheerfulness
to make a dark day bright...
It takes a Mother's Thoughtfulness
to mend the heart's deep "hurts",
And her Skill and her Endurance
to mend little socks and shirts.

It takes a Mother's Kindness
to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
and bow her head in prayer...
It takes a Mother's Wisdom
to recognize our needs
And give to us reassurance
by her loving words and deeds.

It takes a Mother's Endless Faith,
her Confidence and Trust
To guide us through the pitfalls
of selfishness and lust...
And this is why in all this world
there could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose
as completely as a Mother!
—Author Unknown

JAPAN, TOKYO **Chris Aberle**

Christian love and greetings from Tokyo. The month of April is a beautiful time in Japan. All the cherry and peach trees are blooming, and many bushes and flowers are bursting with color. What a powerful Creator we have!

There were two sisters and four friends from Japan who traveled to Jamaica in March to participate in

a work team at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Kingston. There were several facets to the program: construction of buildings, groups to prepare meals, Bible lessons every morning, singing, sorting of World Relief bags of clothing, mending, working with the deaf students. In the middle of the week they boarded two buses for Ocho Rios and enjoyed a picnic, the beautiful Caribbean Sea, and shopping.

The six individuals living here in Japan felt it indeed a privilege to join this special group in the Lord's vineyard. The following were some comments made by them: "I'd never done that kind of work before, but I soon learned, and it was fun." "The whole experience was a wonderful opportunity." "Even though the children were deaf, with some effort we could communicate, and they were interesting." "The team leaders did a good job."

A month before the trip, our group was given a list of names of those participating. They barely knew one or two on the list, but in the end, they had all become friends, as they worked side by side for a week. Their prayer is that God would bless the labors, and all planning of the team leaders, and the ministering brother and his wife. The World Relief organization deserves special thanks also that made this blessed experience possible.

We said our farewells to Andrew and Jana Klaus and their little family, as his company will have him in California for three months. He has a training session to learn from an American perspective. They are in our thoughts and prayers often and we look forward to their return.

This month Andy's parents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle, from Tremont, IL came to stay with us for two weeks. They attended Tokyo and Shioda

churches and also visited many places around Tokyo. Their visit was very much appreciated.

We had our Easter program on Easter Sunday. The children had each colored a picture to tell the crucifixion story. The boys and girls stood up and told what was happening in their picture. Even though I couldn't understand all the Japanese words, I understood the very special story they were telling. How thankful I was to have been taught from little up about Jesus, because there are many that haven't been so blessed. We as Christians need to be mindful of those around us who don't know or understand that precious story (Luke 8:15-16).

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Galatians 6:9,10

I was visiting with a neighbor recently and during the conversation she made reference to an act of kindness that was done to someone in our church family and made the comment, "Your church really does look out for its own; ours has gotten so big and just doesn't do that anymore." Thinking about that now gives me a "warm" feeling about our precious faith. Let us seize the opportunities that come our way: reaching out to the elderly and sick, taking a meal to a new mother, taking a fresh loaf of bread to a neighbor, giving words of encouragement to a new convert, telling a friend you are praying for them, etc. God has given us endless possibilities to "do good

unto all men!"

Our congregation bid an earthly farewell to Bro. Vernon Esslinger who passed away on March 29. Our thoughts and prayers have been with those surviving him: his wife, Sis. Lillian; his brother, Waymer, both of our congregation; and his three daughters, Judy Webb (Oklahoma City, OK), Deanna "Dee" Morland (Burden, KS), and Dolene "Beth" Esslinger (Norman, OK). We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm as her brother, Bro. Walter Blunier, passed away in Roanoke, IL.

Sis. Pearl Miller has spent some time in a Peoria hospital and we are thankful to report that her surgery went well and look forward to her worshipping with us again in the near future.

It's nice to see Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey in church again after spending the winter in Zapata, TX. Welcome back to Kansas!

We would like to extend a big thank-you to ministering Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and his family for being with us both Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as we focused on the crucifixion of Christ and then rejoiced in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. It was wonderful to see our sanctuary filled to overflowing on Friday as the Sabetha congregation joined us for our evening service.

We had a very special evening recently as we partook of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 13. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) was here to assist our Elder Bro. John. It is hard to put into words the wonderful feeling we all had as we sat peacefully hearing the meditation, breaking the unleavened bread, drinking from the cup, and finally greeting everyone in the spirit of Christ. It was inspiring and renewing to all!

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave

unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

St. Luke 22:19

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

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Tammy Sinn

On April 6, we had the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion together. We thank Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and his family for being with us for this solemn occasion.

Our appreciation is also extended to Bros. Bob Stoller and Charles Marti (Lamar, MO) for being willing to bring forth the Word to us during the past month. We trust God will reward them for being used in His service.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Darcy Kisling

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger ever near me,
And the sacred past unfold.
Precious Father, Loving Mother,
Fly across the lonely years,
And old home scenes of my
childhood,
In fond memory appears.
Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul,
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious sacred scenes unfold.

Gospel Hymns 408a

Mother's Day and Father's Day! I'm so thankful our wonderful United States sets aside a day to honor our parents. Those of us who have lost Christian parents and those of us who have living Christian parents are so very blessed to have been reared with God as the center of our home, and

to have been taught the fear, yet reverence, for our God; the love and respect for our Jesus, who died for us; and the appreciation for the Holy Spirit, who lives in us to guide us each day we live. May God richly bless all of you mothers and fathers for the precious memories you have given us.

What a joyous Lord's day we enjoyed on Palm Sunday when Elder Bro. John Lehman and his dear wife, Sis. Connie (Bern, KS), were in our midst to share the Word of God in the morning and to share the Communion service with us in the afternoon. This remembrance of the Lord's cruel trial, agonizing death on the cross, and glorious resurrection, is such a precious, humbling service, and we are truly blessed to be accounted worthy to partake of it.

We can see by the world around us that Satan is becoming more open with his evil devices. May we beware and fervently watch and pray that he won't be able to deceive us, and thereby lead us away from our precious Lord and the eternal Home that awaits at the end of a faithful journey through this life!

Thanks to everyone who helped with services at the Manor this month. It is a great blessing and greatly appreciated.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY Julie Bahr

"Parables" are explained as an idea "to place alongside"; to illustrate something; to reveal a truth; to educate hearers. Jesus Christ was the greatest parable or story teller who ever lived. He took common things of every day life and told stories about them in order to teach the people of the things He wanted them to learn. A recent visiting minister brought out the parable of the "treasure" hid in the field in Matthew 13. The field is defined as the world. The treasure

is defined as, we, as mankind. Jesus Christ gave of Himself and bought us as the "purchased treasure". We are so valuable and treasured by our Heavenly Father that the sacrificial giving of His only Son was paid to purchase us from the "field". How thankful we are, that our souls have a way of escape. Remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, we were privileged to receive Holy Communion together, served by Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi.

We received the blessings of visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) who were so kind to assist Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in expounding on the Conference Memorandum. We are reminded how desperately people around us need a Saviour. Our duty, as believers, is to share the Word, offering to bind wounded bleeding hearts. Also visiting us was ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). Bro. Roger and Sis. Lavonne accompanied their son, Rick, who came to share his slides and information with us on the country of Russia and their farming community. Our sincere thanks to Rick for his time and effort.

Our lives evolve from day to day; some in joy and some in sorrow. But God promises to provide grace to sustain us for each event we face. Bro. Steve (Sis. Dorothy) Schrader was hospitalized recently for a severe back problem. We missed having him assemble with us for several Sundays. Also hospitalized was Bro. Max Burnham's mother, who recently suffered a stroke. Our prayers are especially for his mother's health and spiritual welfare. Sammy Anliker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene) required a diagnostic procedure and treatment, when he acquired a foreign object in his throat. What a frightening experience that can be. We're thankful Sammy was

able to receive some relief.

Sis. Doris (Bro. Roy) Bahr has asked for our loving prayers as she is hospitalized again for reoccurred invasion of acute leukemia. Sis. Doris faces many days of chemotherapy and treatment once again. Please be mindful of her and Bro. Roy during this difficult time.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven for souls who have made known their decision to serve our Almighty God. Marvin (Jeana) Anliker has openly shared his desire to earnestly serve His Creator! Along with Marvin, his sister, Julia (Todd) Pyle, and his sister-in-law, Dawn (Wayne) Anliker, have also chosen to yield to God's tender call. Julia and Dawn have shared their desire to share their testimonies of faith on May 3 in Kansas City. We experience such joy and share in the reason for this rejoicing with Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker, the parents of these three dear souls.

We are so happy to share our worship services with our visitors. We welcome back Lloyd and Barbara Jacobs from Seattle WA who are here attending affairs of Lloyd's late mother, Sis. Hulda Jacobs. We appreciate their efforts to assemble with us!

KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger

Jim and Becky Haney (Nebraska City, NE) are the happy parents of a daughter, Olivia Liseten, born March 18. Maddy, age 3, is excited about a sister and will be a big help to Mom and Dad. Grandparents include Bro. Ben and Sis. Jan Wysong and great-grandmother, Sis. Evelyn Wysong.

It will be a special Mother's Day for a new mother, grandmothers and great-grandmother. Auburn Lynne was born April 8 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer (Detroit, MI). First-time grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis.

Bev Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer. Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr are pleased to have their first granddaughter.

Communion was served by Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO). It seems like it brings us closer to the suffering of our Saviour when we have Communion services during the weekend of Palm Sunday. Good Friday services were held at Bern this year. After Easter we switched from Wednesday evening services to alternate Sunday evening singings with Bern.

We welcome our snow birds home again. They probably thought they came back too early when we had snow after their return. The new spring plantings coming out of the ground were exposed to cold and snow. We know the tender plant is vulnerable to the weather. We plant the seed but God gives the increase. The converts likewise are exposed to a sinful world and need the grace of God to be overcomers of sin.

It is a blessing to the church to have another convert!

Carrie Aberle (Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia) is repenting. We certainly rejoice that she is answering the call of God in her youth. We wish her God's protection and grace. May we be proper examples of the faith so that there may be many more who answer the call.

While Jesus whispers to you,
Come, sinner, come!

While we are praying for you,
Come, sinner, come!

Now is the time to own Him,
Come, sinner, come!

Now is the time to know Him,
Come, sinner, come!

Are you too heavy laden?
Come, sinner, come!
Jesus will bear your burden,
Come, sinner, come!
Jesus will not deceive you,

Come, sinner, come!
Jesus can now redeem you,
Come, sinner, come!

Oh, hear His tender pleading,
Come, sinner, come!
Come and receive the blessing,
Come, sinner, come!
While Jesus whispers to you,
Come, sinner, come!
While we are praying for you,
Come, sinner, come!

Hymns of Zion #103

We welcome Bro. Joe Marti who is now living in an apartment in Sabetha and coming to our church.

Our new Sunday School teachers have been selected for the next term. They include Bros. David Hartter (Sis. Beth) and Gordon Huber (Sis. Sharlyn) and Sis. Jeanne Edelman (Bro. Loren). Substitutes will be Bros. Kevin Grimm (Sis. Nita) and DeVere Meyer (Sis. Michelle) and Sisters Joleen Edelman (Bro. Rodney) and Shari Eisenbise (Bro. David). Our thanks for the efforts they put forth to help teach them the way of truth.

Our prayers are with Sis. Doris Bahr (Bro. Roy). Where could we go in times of affliction if we didn't have the Lord to share our burdens with? We know as God is aware of every sparrow, He also knows our every care.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

This past month, Bro. Godfrey Miller and I have been homebound while he recuperates from yet another major surgery. While the miles separate us from our church family, we are lifted by their prayers and messages of encouragement. This is a time when the words from our hymnal takes on special meaning. "If I have longed for shelter in Thy fold, when Thou hast given me some fort to hold, dear Lord, forgive." Bro. Max Reimschisel brought us a carton of

sermon tapes from the Bluffton North church. We certainly thank the Bluffton church for making the tapes available.

Sis. Nellie Lambert suffered a fracture and was hospitalized until she was able to return to her home where she was lovingly cared for by her devoted family. One of our sisters in faith told me she went to see Nellie and, as usual, Nellie was doing what she does best, encouraging others. From the latest report, I was told that Nellie is now using a walker. Praise God for His healing.

Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) was a visiting minister in March. From the positive comments I received, I know the congregation was blessed by his visit.

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 29. They were privileged to have their children, their 29 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren present for the occasion. The reception was hosted by their children: Steve and Jeanie (Ricketts) Langhofer, Bob and Misty (Fokler) Langhofer, Jocelyn and Dick Peyton, all of Wichita; Marty and Lavilla (Zaugg) Langhofer of South Bend, IN; Erik and Cindy (Huber) Langhofer of Phoenix, AZ; Mary Beth and Bruce Stoller of Princeville, IL; and Melinda and Rocky Giltner of Bluffton, IN. Bro. Al and Sis. Judy have been faithful in their service to the Lord and He has blessed them with a loving family.

It is the tradition in Wichita to observe Easter with a church breakfast and many made the effort to partake in this special fellowship again this year. The Sunday School students, under the direction of Sis. Sally Funk, presented a brief program in song. We are blessed by the willing participation of the youth.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Doug and Rebecca Germann**

We are thankful for the many visitors who come to the Bluegrass State. This past month we enjoyed a visit from the Princeville church as Bro. Art Baurer shared the Word with us. Special thanks to he and Sis. Joy. Later, we were blessed to have Bro. Wayne Leman and his wife, Sis. Julie, with us from Roanoke, IL. A special thanks to these couples and others who have visited.

We would also like to welcome Sis. Kristy Kellenberger to our area from the Lester, IA congregation. She is a traveling occupational therapist and will work in the Jamestown area for a period of time.

Recently I was reading an article about the value of prevention. The old saying says that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This ties in with our precious faith in many ways. We cannot force obedience, but we can train and teach the truth to our young people so that they will see by our example the way of righteousness.

There is a story of a man who hired someone to mop up his wet dirty floors. The servant diligently mopped up the water, wrung out the rags and then furiously mopped some more. His efforts were admirable, but little progress was being made. The floors continued to be wet and needed constant mopping. It seemed that additional staff would be needed. One day a new man came to work. He took a good look at the situation, laid down his rag and mop and went over and **TURNED OFF THE FAUCET**. That did more toward having clean dry floors than all the mopping that had been done.

It is noble and Christ-like to help troubled people with Christian counseling and help those who have fallen into sin, so that they may find peace, but that

should not really be our first line of action. The first line of action should be to **TURN OFF THE FAUCET** that causes this problem. There is an old poem, "A fence or an ambulance" that brings out this truth. According to the poem, some people wanted to put up a fence at the edge of a cliff to keep people from falling over, but others thought it more honorable to have an ambulance down in the valley to pick up the injured.

Brethren, we can be thankful we have a faith that has fences for our benefit. If we remove these fences, we may very well need the service of an ambulance in the valley below.

MICHIGAN, ALTO **Michelle Oesch** **Melanie Kaeb**

The temperature is cold and life is hidden under a covering blanket. Then comes a change. The Lord reaches out and touches a heart. The snow melts and new life begins to bloom. As the temperature outside begins to warm and the spring flowers begin to peep out, there is much rejoicing here in Alto. Robert and Kim Koehl have made a new beginning in the Lord. We pray that the waters of life will continue to be stirred and bring even more souls to Him as this season of renewal progresses.

As we go about our daily walk of prayer, let us remember to bring before the Lord the ministering and Elder brethren who stand before us and bring forth the Word of God in its truth and entirety. They need our prayers and support to carry out the work for which they have been called. We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) with us on Sunday, April 6.

Prayers are also coveted for Ronald Zaagman as he continues treatment for his cancer.

We are thankful for the showers

of blessings that we have received in this spring season here at Alto.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY **Marlene Mosher** **Rhonda Knochel**

We were blessed to have with us to relay the Word our Lord had given one of His servants, Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and his family. We were very pleased with their visit and also the many other visitors this month. Visitors are always welcome to our Bay City congregation—we enjoy each and every one.

Two of our friends in the Lord have professed peace with their God and man and wish to be taken into the family of our Lord: Jonathan Jacobs (Sis. Deana and Girard) and Steve Wieland (Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Rodney). We wish these young men our Lord's blessings and grace to go onward and forward in their new choice in life.

With the sick, Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) had surgery but is doing well. We wish all those who are ailing physically and mentally our Lord's healing touch.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

John 11:25-26

MICHIGAN, DETROIT **Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer**

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and

eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Proverbs 31:20, 25-29

The word "mother" means a female parent in the dictionary, but it really means so much more. With each stage of our life, our appreciation for her changes. As we come into this world, she provided all our needs, as we could do nothing for ourselves. As we grow, we can do more on our own, but we still look to our mothers for encouragement and security. Then there's the teenage years where we give them some grief but they are always there for us. As we grow older and wiser and become parents ourselves, we have a new appreciation for them. Not only are they our mothers, but also our friends. May we appreciate them and show them how much they are loved.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Walt Bauer and his family as his sister-in-law, Evelyn Bauer (Royal), passed away. May God comfort them in their time of sorrow.

Two more souls have turned their back on the ways of the world.

Steve and Julie Dawson (Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin) have begun their repentance. May God be with them and guide them.

Steve Wieland has announced that he has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

It is so encouraging to see the Lord still working in the hearts of men, even though the wicked one is trying to pull us down with him.

First-time parents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer, welcomed a precious little girl, Auburn Lynne, into their family. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer.

Everyone is cordially invited to the Ninth Annual Choir Benefit for Woodhaven (the Church sponsored retirement community). This event is scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 1997, at 3:00 p.m. at the Church. Please plan on spending the day worshipping with us. The day includes a pork chop dinner at 3:00 p.m. and a choir program at 5:00 p.m. Please let the Woodhaven office know if you plan to attend (313) 261-9000.

Plans are progressing nicely for our Fifth Annual Summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) scheduled for July 19 through July 25, 1997. As in the past, classes will be held for age three up to and including twelfth grade. We continue to welcome out of town visitors to our VBS. Anyone interested in attending should let one of the following VBS committee members know by June 1, 1997: Sis Dawn Bahr, Sis. Pat Baran, Sis. Charlotte Barton, Sis. Sara Frauhiger, Bro. Randy Gasser, Bro. Dana Knochel or Bro. Mark Ramseyer.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Perry Virkler

Our Sunday School children presented a beautiful Easter program to our congregation. The death and resurrection of our Lord was told to us through verse and song. Their efforts help us to keep in mind the true reason to be joyous on Easter. May God bless all who participated.

Our prayers were with little Brady Banwart (Bro. Leo and Sis. Tami) as he was hospitalized this past month.

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

Psalms 127:3

Sis. Carol and I are happy to welcome a new granddaughter to our family. Kiersten Danielle was born April 13 to Bro. Nick and Sis.

Lori Stadel (Silverton, OR). Big brother, Trever, will enjoy his new playmate. May God bless them as they strive to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

"For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which can not be uttered."

Romans 8:26

Prayer is one of the most important spiritual exercises for a believer. Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of all things, spent whole nights in prayer while He lived on earth.

In those night-long encounters, Jesus communed with His Father. His prayers were not just petitions to get something. Too often we think of prayer as a way to get God to do things for us or for others, but the highest purpose of prayer is to deepen our relationship with Him.

Prayer does involve petition and intercession, but it also includes communion. In petition God does something FOR us, in intercession He does something THROUGH us, and in communion He does something IN us.

When we pray, how much of our time is spent communing with the Lord? Our prayers will become less self-centered and more God-centered as we draw closer to Him, seek His glory, and subordinate our petitions to His will. Communion is the line that connects our soul with the battery of God's power. When this line is down, our petitions are but idle chatter. God's power must flow into our lives as we bow before Him and recognize Him as Lord of all. Communion with God is a great privilege and the most important element of prayer.

—M. R. De Haan, M.D.

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

Proverbs 31:28

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

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

It takes a Mother's love to make a house a home,
A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam...
It takes a Mother's patience to bring a child up right,
And her courage and her cheerfulness to make a dark day bright...
It takes a Mother's thoughtfulness to mend the heart's deep "hurts".
And her skill and her endurance to mend little socks and shirts...
It takes a Mother's kindness to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer...
It takes a Mother's wisdom to recognize our needs
And to give reassurance by her loving words and deeds...
It takes a Mother's endless faith, her confidence and trust
To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust...
And that is why in all this world there could not be another
Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER!
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Linda Schmidgall

Bro. Eric Koehl and Sis. Kim Feuchtenberger (both of our congregation) have experienced the Lord's leading as He has revealed to them His will that they become husband and wife. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane. They are planning a

June 1 wedding. We wish them God's many blessings as they begin their life together.

What a beautiful sunny day we had for the wedding of Shari Schmidgall and Steve Werk on April 19. Bro. Tom Lemman (Denver, CO), uncle of the bride, performed the marriage ceremony at our Fellowship Center. Shari is the daughter of Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Steve's parents are Roger and Betty Werk. We wish Shari and Steve God's richest blessings for a long and happy married life.

We are thankful that the Lord has heard the many prayers for our hospitalized loved ones this month. Having surgery were Sis. Karen Koehl (Bro. Ken), Bro. Doug Koehl and Sis. Anna Nohl (Bro. Henry). Robyn Wulf (Bro. Jerel and Sis. Linda) spent a little time in the hospital following a fall. We are thankful for God's healing hand on them.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Kent Mogle (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Tom Lemman (Denver, CO). May God richly bless them for being willing to bring us God's Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Ruby Luthi, who passed away. May the Lord comfort her daughters, Karen and Ardis, and their families.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, visits and especially your prayers during my recovery, since my fall. May God bless you all.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Boys

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Becky Braulick - Jan Messner

Greetings!

I do believe spring is finally here and with it our Snow Birds have returned. Our congregation gets

pretty small during the winter months so its with appreciative hearts that we welcome them home. It's only because of the grace of our Lord that we can safely travel to and fro.

We were blessed this month with having Bros. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) and Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) here. We appreciate their willingness to share the Word of our behalf.

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to our Sunday School children and teachers for hosting our annual Easter morning breakfast. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,
When His covenant He did endow,
When His blood, in love and grace eternal,
For transgression and for sin did flow,
He established for His church a token,
That His covenant might ne'er be broken,
This His holy Sacrament and feast,
For His own, from sin and death released.
After they the paschal lamb had eaten,
He took bread, and breaking it, gave thanks;
Shared it with His own beloved disciples,
Who in love and trust had joined His ranks,
"Take and eat, my body I do offer,
As unto the death for you I suffer;
This a mem'ry of my death and pain,
Likewise your redemption shall remain."
When of this blest bread they had partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God above,
Having been unto this feast invited
And found worthy of His grace and love,
He the cup into His hands did gather,
Giving thanks unto His heav'nly Father,
Said to His disciples: "Drink this wine,

As a token of my blood divine."
 "This cup is the blood of my new
 cov'nant,
 Which for many sinners I have shed;
 Therein lies the promise and the
 power
 Of each one who unto sin is dead."
 So this blood, which flowed on
 Calv'ry's mountain,
 Unto full salvation is the fountain;
 And this cup reminds us of the
 blood,
 Which for sin was made a cleansing
 flood.
Zion's Harp #26, verses 1-4

We had the blessed privilege to partake in Communion exhortation and Holy Communion this past month. We would like to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) in assisting our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) in giving to us Holy Communion. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Lawrence for his efforts in sharing the Word with us on Sunday also.

Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) has assumed the duties of song leader. Our support goes out to him and to our other song leaders also. May God continue to bless them in their efforts.

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

Hymns of Zion #64

As Mother's Day approaches, let us not forget to stop and think about what all our mothers have done for us. May God bless every Godly mother.

Our hospital patient this month was Marc Messner (Elder Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn). May the Lord continue to put His healing hands upon him.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

Ministering Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Lydiann (Washington, IL) were with us Easter Sunday. We're thankful for his service and hope they will return again soon. It was nice to hear the Easter story expounded on again.

As spring blooms, we think about the planting that will soon be taking place across the Midwest. At the same time, it is important to remember that we as Christians should do our part to plant the seed of Christ.

Every spring the seed is sown,
 Into the fertile soil below.
 Waiting for God's blessings,
 To make it grow and grow.
 And as the seed becomes a flower,
 With the sunshine and the rain,
 It wants to be the best!
 So it's chosen from the rest.

As a child we learn in Sunday
 School,
 Of Jesus and His shed blood;
 The works He did while on this
 earth,
 To show men of His love.
 As that seed is planted in our hearts,
 At a young and tender age;
 We know what we must do,
 In order to be saved.

God plants in man the seed,
 Of His truth and righteousness,
 We are that fertile soil,
 In which the seed must grow.
 So allow your seed to flourish,
 In this world and all its pain.
 And may your seed become the best,
 To be gathered with God's elect.

For God calls men into His harvest,
 To sow and reap the grain,
 Of those who love and serve Him,
 And wait for Him again.

—*Matthew Aberle*

When the new Sunday School term begins, two new teachers will be planting the seed in the hearts of our children. They are Bro. Greg Snyder and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. We pray that God will grant them wisdom and patience as they

strive to carry out this very important responsibility.

We extend our sympathy to Carolyn Geran and her family in the death of her husband, Michael. May God comfort them during this time of sorrow.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Martha Kellenberger Carolyn Banwart

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

Matthew 26:26-28

It is always uplifting to partake of Holy Communion and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL) here to assist Elder Bro. Lawrence. May God bless our dear Elders for their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Leonard Braker wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards, and gifts while he was in the hospital and since he has returned home. We are thankful he is able to assemble with us again and trust he will continue to improve.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Peter Schrenk

"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

This past month was a busy and joyful one for our congregation.

Sis. Rachel Schrenk (Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy) gave her testimony on April 12 and was baptized April 13. We were encouraged that our small church was filled that day with brothers, sisters and friends. The weekend was a good reminder that the Great Commission that Jesus gave the disciples in Matthew 28:19 begins at home.

We thank Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), David Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for traveling to St. Louis this past month to serve us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Tina Sutter

We are anxiously awaiting spring and summer. The part of spring and summer that I can appreciate after a long winter is the color that will be displayed. God created so many different, beautiful colors that are such a blessing to behold.

We appreciated having a couple visiting ministers and their families worship with us this past month. They were Bros. Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

We also want to remember those that suffer from illness in our prayers. Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) was hospitalized this month. She is at home and doing better, however your prayers would be much appreciated. Jackie Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) had surgery on her finger. Prayers on behalf of Gavin Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy) would also be very much coveted. Gavin has been suffering from an extended illness.

We can share in the joy when two souls look forward to sharing their life together. Sis. Missy Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Matt Ackerman

(Indianapolis, IN), son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Marjorie Ackerman (Morton, IL), were engaged on March 30.

Recently the Sunday School teenage classes have visited Peoria and Bloomington, IL. The gatherings have been so uplifting for our young people. It is essential that we have organizers that are willing to put together such weekends to bring our teens together. Thank you so much!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Alice Virkler

What Is A Mother

It takes a Mother's LOVE to make a house a home,

A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam...

It takes a Mother's PATIENCE to bring a child up right,

And her COURAGE and her CHEERFULNESS to make a dark day bright...

It takes a Mother's THOUGHTFULNESS to mend the heart's deep "hurts",

And her SKILL and her ENDURANCE to mend little socks and shirts...

It takes a Mother's KINDNESS to forgive us when we err,

To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer...

It takes a Mother's WISDOM to recognize our needs

And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds...

It takes a Mother's ENDLESS FAITH, her CONFIDENCE and TRUST

To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust...

And that is why in all this world there could not be another

Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER!

—Helen Steiner Rice

A day has been set aside to honor our earthly Mothers. May we always remember the love and sacrifice that a Mother has for each of her children.

Our Sunday School children presented a short program of song and verse on Easter Sunday. They have learned of the Lord's great sacrifice for us in their very early and tender years and may these teachings remain with them throughout their lives. We thank our Sunday School Superintendent and teachers who so willingly give of their time and talent to teach our children.

Our thoughts and prayers are still for Gwen Lehman as she continues the recovery process. May God's love be with her each day and also with the many others who cannot assemble with us.

Thoughts of sympathy are extended to Sis. Corinne Virkler as her son-in-law, Clifford Demorest, has been taken from this life. May God grant comfort to each member of his family; his wife, Jane; his children and grandchildren.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser - Diane Jarrett

Greetings, dear ones, from Akron.

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24

We had the blessed opportunity to unite as brethren for Holy Communion. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) on that evening.

On March 31, Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle were blessed with a precious son, Aaron Charles. Christopher, Rachael, Michael and Sarah welcome their new baby brother. Grandparents are Elder

Bro. Gene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Vera Indermuhle (Smithville, OH).

We congratulate our high school graduates: Bro. Matt Graf (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Charlotte, Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Greg Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah), Sis. Joanna Schamback (Bro. John and Sis. Joyce) and Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan). Also, Tim Graf (Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy) graduates from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science degree in finance. May God bless and guide these graduates.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Bud Walker (Sis. Mary Ellen) as he is hospitalized.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We are thankful for the many visitors who have come to share the precious Word with us this month. On the weekend of April 19, Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH) read the Memorandum to our congregation. Other visiting ministers who visited with us this month were Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Many prayers have been offered on the behalf of Bro. Andy and Sis. Theresa Hunyady as Sis. Theresa experiences failing health and much pain. We are so thankful that she is able to worship with us and we pray that the Lord will watch over Sis. Theresa and grant her the strength and patience to endure the bodily afflictions. We also pray for Bro. Andy as he faithfully watches over his beloved wife and cares for her. We know not what the morrow will bring or what battles we will have to face, but that we must only believe that our precious Lord is there to

strengthen and help us when we but ask.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Sandra Manz

Two of our elderly sisters have spent time in the hospital. Sis. Frances Dotterer was admitted twice in the past month, and Sis. Anna Manz spent an extended time recovering from a stroke. Due to disabilities sustained, Sis. Anna was unable to return to her own home and now resides at Dallas Lamb Nursing Home. Also making this their home are several other Apostolic Christians, including Sis. Frances. May we all make the effort to brighten the lives of those who can no longer care for themselves independently.

Our hearts were united and our thoughts turned to Calvary on the evening that we shared the Lord's Supper. We were so grateful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) as our visiting shepherd. Accompanying him and sharing the pulpit on Sunday was Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). It is a blessed privilege to meet and fellowship with brethren from across the country.

As Mother's Day approaches, our minds often drift back to our years of growing up, and I believe, for the most part, we focus on the positive memories. One memory that comes to my mind is lying upstairs in bed after dark listening to the records that Mom was playing downstairs. She was listening to the old a cappella hymns of our faith, and as a preteen or very young teenager, that music brought a feeling of peace and stability to my heart. Let us take time to express our appreciation to our God-given mothers who have striven to bring spiritual guidance and stability to our lives.

It hardly seems possible that another group of young people are

awaiting the milestone of high school graduation in a few weeks. Our seniors are Sis. Rose Dietrich (Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy), Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen), Bro. Sam Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie), Doug Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila), and Kent Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily). We pray that they have each committed their future to the Lord.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Joyce Klopfenstein

We welcome back to Latty all of our couples that go to warmer climates in the winter. It is good to have them safely back home with us again.

We also welcome Kayla Nicole Zuber, born April 6, the first child of Brant and Katie Zuber. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie Laukhuf and Larry and Wendy Zuber.

We were fortunate to have many couples visit Latty for "Invite-A-Couple" weekend. Among the guests were Bro. William and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI). We thank our Lord and Bro. Bill for ministering to us. May God bless him for his efforts.

We appreciated also the Sunday School company from Francesville, LaCrosse and Milford, IN. It is always a blessings to have our children and young people gather with us.

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as Aaron and Jennifer Shepard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Deborah Wenninger) have received the peace that passes all understanding. We look forward to welcoming them into the family as our new brother and sister in the Lord.

We also weep with those who weep. We are thankful there were no injuries in the fire that destroyed the Modern Plastics Re-

covery business belonging to Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller, Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller, and Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller. We are thankful at times such as these for the love, support, prayers, and help from our church family. May God continue to be with and guide them in the clean up process.

With a special day coming to show our love for our mothers, we think of those who have lost their mother recently. In addition to being a loving mother to her family of six daughters, we are grateful for the many years of service Sis. Esther Stoller gave to us, as the wife of our retired Elder Bro. Loren Stoller.

Note of Thanks:

The Loren and Esther Stoller families want to thank everyone for the sympathy cards and gifts, following the death of Sis. Esther. Thank you also for the many expressions of comfort and courage, leading toward that Land of Endless Day.

Bro. Loren Stoller

Sis. Jean Stoller

Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter

Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Miller

Terry and Patty Offerle

John and Jill Zimmerman

Robert and Lynn Stuart

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

On March 23, there were many witnesses as Sis. Tami Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Chad Griffey (Paul and Bernie) were united in marriage. As they walk this path of life together, may they

ever draw closer to God and each other so that no man may ever put them asunder.

"And she conceived again, and bare a son..."

Genesis 29:35

Bruce and Denise Sauder, along with their children, Jordan and Lauren, welcomed a second son, Colin Mitchel, on March 29. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Caroline Sauder. May they ever feel God's guiding hand as they raise their children.

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

Mark 10:7

The engagement of Sis. Traci Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Tim Beer (Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue) was made known to the church on April 6. May they ever feel God's guidance as they begin their life together.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 4

Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever experienced great joy the night their son, Jared, made known that he wanted to repent. The joy in Heaven was even greater than what we can experience here on earth. May Jared ever feel our love and prayers as he makes the changes necessary to walk the narrow way.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

I Thess. 1:2

How often in spoken prayers do we hear pleas for our ministering brethren, especially the shepherds of the earthly flocks. We are

thankful that Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota, FL) could be with us this month. May God bless them richly for their efforts to be with us.

What is a Mother?

It takes a Mother's LOVE to make a house a home,

A place to be remembered no matter where we roam...

It takes a Mother's PATIENCE to bring a child up right,

And her COURAGE and her CHEERFULNESS to make a dark day bright...

It takes a Mother's THOUGHTFULNESS to mend the hearts deep "hurts",

And her SKILL and her ENDURANCE to mend little socks and shirts...

It takes a Mother's KINDNESS to forgive us when we err,

To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer...

It takes a Mother's WISDOM to recognize our needs

And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds...

It takes a Mother's ENDLESS FAITH, her CONFIDENCE and TRUST

To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust...

And that is why in all this world there could not be another

Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER!

- Helen Steiner Rice

OHIO, RITTMAN

Michelle Dotterer

Carla Stoller

We wish to thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) for visiting us on Easter and for willingly serving us.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherri Atanasov welcomed their first child, Kristy Lynn, on April 6. Along with her parents, her grandparents, Nikola and Sofija Atanasov and Bro. Zoltan and Sis. Bonnie Bako (Akron, OH), are thankful for Kristy's safe arrival.

Those who were hospitalized this past month are Bro. Dwaine

Indermuhle (Sis. Joan), Corban Beery (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen), Brian Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Ken Rupp, Sr. (Sis. Lillian).

May God grant comfort to Sis. Barb Mathys and Sis. Ruth Hilty as their sister, Josephine Greenbank, passed away.

We wish to extend sympathy to Dawn Miller (Mervin) on the death of her stepfather, David Hoffman.

On April 13, Bro. Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane, Smithville, OH) were united in the Lord. We certainly wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."

Mark 10:6-8

Sunday, March 16, was another joyful day for Sardis as we were told of the engagement of Sis. Julia Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) to Bro. Dean Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri, Rittman, OH). Our prayers are with this couple as they plan a June wedding, and more importantly, as they plan their marriage.

We were thankful to have with us many visitors Easter Sunday. Among them were ministering Bro. Doug Harmon and his family (Toledo, OH). We thank him for his efforts and ask the Lord's blessing on him for so willingly lending himself for us.

The weekend of April 12 and 13 was special for Sardis as we had

the opportunity to host the Eastern Regional Elder meeting. After the meeting, Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) helped our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle with the reading and exhortation of the Memorandum. These brothers stayed for the weekend and we thank them for their services. May God bless each for their labors of love.

"Precious memories, how they linger, how they ever flood my soul..." We sing this song on many different occasions and for each of us the words bring to mind thoughts of childhood, home and family. Whether we have reached the senior years of our lives or are small children, may we remember with love and gratitude the hard work and diligence of our mothers to raise us in the admonition of the Lord. May we recall the verses in Proverbs 31 that proclaim the beauty of a godly, virtuous woman. Each day can be Mother's Day.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28,30

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Julie Maibach - Edith Miller

Out onto Calv'ry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go.
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.
Zion's Harp #89

On March 22, we were led out to Calvary's Hill as we remembered the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus. Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Andy in serving us Holy Communion.

Ministers visiting our congregation this past month have been Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). We thank these brothers for expounding the Word of God unto us.

Sis. Florence Hanzie was hospitalized recently. We trust she will soon be feeling better.

We have much rejoicing in our congregation, as we are happy to report three new converts. Dave Colvin (Shelly), Patty Indermuhle (Bro. Scott) and Kim Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda) have all acknowledged their need for salvation. We pray the Lord will give them grace to build a firm foundation of faith. We also rejoice that Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) expresses peace in her heart and awaits baptism at this time.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour."

Eccles. 4:9

On April 13, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Tim Hartzler (Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane). We wish them God's blessings as they begin to walk life's pathway together.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing..."

Proverbs 18:22

The engagement of Bro. James Maibach (Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Susan Dotterer (Keith and Sis. Linda) was made known recently. May the Lord be with them as they prepare for this important event in their lives.

We were saddened by the death of Josephine Greenbank. Her fu-

neral was held at the Smithville church on April 7. Our sympathy is extended to her three children, Mick, Marjorie Hackenberg, and Marian Steiner, and also to her sisters and brother, Sis. Barbara Mathys (Rittman, OH), Sis. Ruth Hilty (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dave Zollinger. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chester, a little less than one year ago.

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy."

I Chronicles 29:9

God asks us to share the blessings He has given us with others, to show our love for Him through our works on behalf of our fellow men. The wonder of God's love is shown to us in that He blesses us far above the measure of what we have given.

Though it is always hard to see someone leave our congregation, we can be thankful for the happy memories that are left with us. We will miss Brian, Myra, and Garrett Ball as they are returning to the Rittman area. We wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their home there.

We were happy to see Bro. Paul Rywalski in church again. Health problems often prevent him from assembling with us, and we are glad he was able to be out again.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

The world has set aside a Sunday in May as Mother's Day, and we feel this is a holiday that God would certainly approve. Many of us have mothers and grandmoth-

ers who have gone to Heaven many years ago and are enjoying the peace and joy that only Heaven can provide. As I searched for a poem or verse to write for Mother's Day, the verses in Proverbs came to mind as Solomon so beautifully describes the qualities of a godly woman. Some of these verses were read at my own grandmother's funeral of whom I have such loving memories. I certainly feel so blessed to have grown up surrounded by a godly mother and grandmothers for such loving examples. I feel humbled when I think of my own life. I have much work to do.

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

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and

purple.

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

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

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Proverbs 31:10-31

We were blessed to have visiting ministers with us this past month. We thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for sharing the Word with us.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The Silverton congregation had the privilege of hosting the 1997 winter World Relief National Board Meeting. Held April 4-6, the event was coordinated by Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and was well attended. Around 34 committee members and their spouses attended, bringing the four "corners" of the United States together here for their conference.

Friday evening there was a meal at church followed by a slide presentation in the evening and then

a fellowship and refreshment time for the visitors to meet and go home with their host families. Saturday, after an early breakfast at church, the brothers settled into their meeting and the spouses were taken to Sisters, Oregon for a scenic drive, shopping and lunch. The wives returned to church for supper and then each visitor went home with their host families again. The fellowship that these events make possible is such a blessing. Old friendships are renewed and many new ones made.

Special thanks to the many visiting Elder and ministering brothers who were willing to serve us all on Sunday while they were here for the World Relief Meeting: Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). Also ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). May our Lord be their rich Rewarder.

Again this month we are thankful for newborn babies and new "babes" in Christ.

On March 31, Nolan Nelson was born into the family of Monte and Kellie Kuenzi and two-year-old Madisen. In addition to the thankful parents are the two sets of thankful grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee Kuenzi and Woody and Shari Hill, all of the Silverton area. And on April 13, little Kiersten Danielle joined the family of Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadel and two-year-old Trevor. The grandparents, Norman and Marianne Stadel of Silverton and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler, Minneapolis, MN are pleased as well.

Sunday, April 13, was a beautiful day of baptisms of two dear souls. Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz

(Bluffton, IN) and Art Metz and "a cloud of witnesses" welcomed our new brother in faith, Lawrence Gehring (Alice), and new sister in faith, Vicki Klopfenstein (Wilbur and Diane), into the brotherhood of the Lord. Even though one is in his 80's and the other in her 20's, these are "babes" in Christ and are precious in His sight and cause for the angels in Heaven to rejoice together with us all. We pray the nearness of our Lord in the hours, days and years ahead.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who shared many acts of kindness, flowers and most of all prayers and cards of love and comfort. These have been a great comfort to us at the time of our beloved daughter, sister and Aunt Shirley's passing.

Otto and Marian Sinn and families

**PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Franz Soni**

My heav'nly mansion, so bright and fair,
Home of my Saviour, Would I were there.
The glor'ous dwelling in yonder height,
How truly lovely, arrayed in light.

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

There in my homeland, in Eden fair,
Sweet flowers are blooming so precious, rare.
'Tis in this homeland my Saviour dwells,
Of all its glories no tongue can tell.

My heav'nly mansion beyond the sky,
Where they who enter shall never die;

There would I journey this very day,
And with my Jesus forever stay.

Hymns of Zion #77

Our dear sister in faith, Sis. Kathy Clough, was called to her Heavenly Home on March 18. Sis. Kathy was born November 12, 1942, in Decatur, IN. She was the daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Sinn Gerber who predeceased her. She was married to John Clough, who survives, on October 11, 1970, in Wells County, IN.

Surviving in addition to her husband, John, are a stepmother, Sis. Henrietta, of Decatur, IN; two sons, Bro. Gabriel and Bro. Kevin, both at home; four daughters, Sis. Rachel, Sis. Rebekah, Faith and Hope, all at home; six brothers, Bro. Donald and Bro. Earl Gerber, both of Decatur, IN, Bro. Dale Gerber, of Ossian, IN, Bro. Carroll Gerber, of Bluffton, IN, Bro. Lester and Bro. Paul Gerber, both of Craigville, IN; three sisters, Sis. Carolyn Roberts, of New Holland, PA, Sis. Pauline and Sis. Lois Gerber, both of Bluffton, IN. We extend our love and prayers to her family and may God comfort them.

We welcome back Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Feller and their children Natasha, Austin, Celise and Layne. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia have been relocated to this area and we are happy to have them worship with us again.

We thank Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for sharing God's Word with us this past month. May God richly reward him for his efforts.

We welcome all who are in the area to come worship with us. Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

and at 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.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Kathy Clough would like to convey their deepest gratitude for the many deeds of love and kindness shown to them during their loved one's illness and death. The many acts of kindness helped get us through a difficult time. We pray that God will bless you all.

John Clough and family

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

Mother's Day is a special day set aside to honor our mothers. Honoring our mothers on this day and every day is one of God's commandments from long ago:

"Honour thy father and mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee..."

Deut. 5:16

All of us should love and cherish our mothers very much. If we are in the adult stage of our life, our mothers have loved and cared for us, disciplined us, been a friend to us, helped us during rough times, and taught us about Jesus. For all of these and all of the other caring qualities they display, we thank and honor our mothers from the bottom of our hearts. May God richly reward them both now and much more in the time to come.

This past month, we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) share God's Word with us. Visitors also worshipped with us from Akron, Mansfield, and Smithville, OH; Alto, MI; and

Rockville, CT. Special thanks is extended to all of you for your efforts in being with us. May God grant us all grace and strength to continue to follow Him on our journey heavenward.

Lord willing, we plan to hold upcoming services on June 1 (Goodfield, IL); June 15 (Rittman, OH); July 6 (Tremont, IL); July 20 (Elgin, IL); August 10 (Wolcott, IN); and August 24 (Cissna Park, IL). We encourage you to come visit the Nashville area on these or other weekends. 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 (Knoxville, TN area) (423) 376-9153.

TEXAS, CENTRAL AREA
Lois Gray

Our appreciation to our visiting ministers: Bros. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH), Bro. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX).

Everett Martin (Sis. Dorothy) of Universal City, TX passed away April 12 following a short illness. A native of Gridley, IL he married Dorothy Traub of Fairbury, IL. Their children are: Charles (Jeanice) Martin and Timothy Martin (Austin, TX), Sis. Pamela (Dan) Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Susan (Ron) Magdaleno (Los Angeles, CA), and the late Sis. Ann Marie (Bro. Ken) Maibach (Smithville, OH). Everett was a retired Colonel with the Air Force where he served as a hospital administrator. We deeply miss his presence.

Our May schedule varies from the usual in that there will be no services on May 25. Services on May 18 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 welcome visitors and remind you to please call in advance in case of schedule changes.

TEXAS, DALLAS
Dee Rapp

Mothers Of The Past

As mothers, there are things we always want to remember and things we would like to forget. Jesus may have had the same thoughts but did not attempt to forget the mothers in His lineage. Matthew 1:1-17 gives a look at a genealogy of five women whose backgrounds appear questionable.

Tamar disguised herself and in deceit committed incest with her father-in-law. Rahab was a prostitute and a Gentile. Ruth, A Moabite, and therefore a Gentile, was a descendant of the incestuous relationship of Lot and his daughters. It was also declared in Deuteronomy that no Moabite would ever be welcome to worship in the temple of God. The wife of Uriah (Bathsheba is not even mentioned by name in this passage), who was possibly a Hittite and therefore a Gentile, committed adultery with King David. Mary, as a teenager, was betrothed to Joseph and found to be pregnant by the Holy Ghost before their marriage.

This was not a pristine genealogy of mothers who belonged in Christ's lineage, but God did not attempt to hide these women with

a past. However, He showed us that His kingdom would be made up of mothers from both the Jewish as well as the Gentile nations.

Each of us Christian mothers can be thankful that God blotted out our past, did not record them for all to read and helps us daily in our walk with Him to be the nurturing, loving mothers He wants us to be.

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 or Bro. Bill Zeltwanger at (409) 249-5102.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner

Many of our winter residents and visitors have returned to their homes in the northern states. We miss them and hope they remember us.

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

In the book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul", it relates the story about a 6-year-old boy who was in the hospital with leukemia. When looking outside at the gray skies, a woman remarked what a depressing day it was. But the boy answered cheerfully, "Every day is a beautiful day." What a contrast in attitudes! A positive attitude can help erase the gray days, should they appear, in our life. God is ever receptive to our prayers and pleas, if it is His will.

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth...

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Isaiah 64:6

We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I John 1:8-10

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Luke 13:3; 15:7

Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Matthew 10:32-33

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.

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-11

If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Romans 14:11

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I John 4:15

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Revelation 3:5

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

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forth fruits of repentance and they might be able to become converted by Thee. May they seek the way to walk here on earth so they can entertain that hope to be with Thee in Heaven some day.

How thankful we are that we could be taught in the assembly this morning hour of the wonderful story of the wonderful truth of Jesus Christ. The birth of Christ in the manger, the walk that He walked, the will that He did of the Father, and the pain of the price for all our sins, making sure it was possible (and it is possible for mankind yet today) to work out their salvation here upon this earth.

We thank Thee, dear Heavenly Father, for those who lead, guide and direct us. We pray a special measure of Thy wisdom on our brethren who are shepherds of the flock. We just ask that Thou would guide them, direct them, and help them to do Thy will here upon this earth. Help them to be a guide and a light in this day for those who are sheep in the flock, and may we be able to look to them and might be able to see how Thy wisdom has moved them in their direction.

We know and realize, dear Heavenly Father, that each one of us needs Thee. Each one of us needs Thy Spirit within us. How thankful we are that Jesus did say when He arose that the Comforter would come and the Spirit can dwell within us as mankind.

We pray for those who have made a beginning, dear Heavenly Father, in Thy way. Those who are in repentance, those who are building that firm foundation, may it be in Jesus Christ, the Rock. We pray for those who have come and those who have given of their testimony. We pray for the brothers and sisters of the flock, for every one, dear Father.

Thou knowest the needs of all. Thou knowest the trials, the temptations, the struggles that each brother and sister goes through. We are thankful unto Thee that

Thou knowest and we can call out to Thee. Whatever point and time, whatever situation might be in our life, we can call to Thee and Thou wilt answer our prayer, and answer our call.

Maybe we cannot understand at the time, but may we just believe and have faith and trust in Thee because many times we fail to remember how it was before God did walk with us and before we did walk with Jesus. How alone we were, how separated from Thee we were. Help us to remember that Thou art a God of love, that Thou art the One who is willing to guide and direct us, and Thou wilt do so at all times.

We pray for those outside of the fold, dear Father, touch their hearts. For those who have not yet come and tasted and seen of Thy love, we just pray that Thou would move and touch their hearts that they may become convicted and might be able to repent out of a love that they have for Thee, the Father, for being so gracious unto us as mankind and for offering Thy Son for a payment for their sin.

We just pray, dear Heavenly Father, for those who have once assembled with us and now chosen not to and have gone astray. We ask that Thou would bring them back that they may see the error of their way. Be merciful unto them that they could be forgiven and be able to gather again with the saints.

We just pray, dear Heavenly Father, for so many things. Our mind comes here and goes there with so many thoughts, dear Father. Yet Thou knowest each and every one who assembles around Thy Word, each one who is trying to walk a way of life which is pleasing unto Thee.

Answer the prayers where they ascend unto Thee, where the need is greatest or where the need is necessary for each one of us to be

encouraged to go on and do Thy will here on this earth.

Now open Thy Word that we might be able to meditate further, Father, that we might draw closer unto Thee and that we might learn more of Thee and Thy ways is our prayer in and through Jesus' high and heavenly name. Amen.

Sermon

What have we been encouraged to do? "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;" (II Cor. 4:1). That was the theme this morning—the mercy that God had on you and me, and that we should have for one another. Then we opened and are reminded.

We have received mercy from God, to do what? To walk in His ways, to be forgiven of the sin that we personally have committed against God and Jesus Christ. We put Christ there on the cross, and He was willing to go there for our sins.

It is sometimes easy to look around about us and say, "Well, no wonder Christ went on the cross for this thief or that thief or this murderer or that murderer." But, dear ones, sin of any kind is sin. As the Scripture tells us, all unrighteousness is sin.

If there is a time when we walked in unrighteousness, it has been a sin unto God, but we can be forgiven of that, no matter how big or how small it may be.

Then, the second verse says, "But we have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty..." Dishonesty? Christ went to the cross for that. "Not walking in craftiness..." Craftiness? Have you ever heard the expression, "You're pretty crafty."? Have you ever been in an experience where someone has figured out a way to "beat the system" and walk in the spirit of craftiness?

"Nor handling the word of God deceitfully..." We would not want

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to do that—handle the Word of God deceitfully. We have been forgiven of that in the past if we have come to the foot of the cross. By God's grace, we will not fall back into that trap; we will not fall back into the snare of Satan.

"But by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." (II Cor. 4:2-3). If we hide the gospel, dear ones, it is hiding it from those that are outside. We do not want to do that because we want all mankind to know what God has done for us...the peace that has been given within our heart...the forgiveness that we have received, and the mercy that God has shown us.

Have you ever been in a situation, and I'm sure you have, where you have a friend at work or someone you know who is struggling with a problem in their life? They do not know God and they do not know Jesus Christ. How you wish you could just explain to them where they could understand and find a peace! Maybe they do not understand why something is happening or why they have to go through this or that.

Can we do it by God's grace? How many times have we said to ourselves, "I want to."? Maybe we can pray, "God, just help me to utter a few words so that someone else can praise God, so that someone else might be able to understand."

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." (II Cor. 4:5). Are we servants for Jesus' sake? Not for ourselves, but servants of Jesus Christ.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

(II Cor. 4:6). We do not want to take the honor or the praise, do we? We want to give it to God.

"But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." (II Cor. 4:2). If that is the way we are walking, it is not because we can do it, but because God has taken us from sin and darkness and given us the opportunity and shown us the mercy through Jesus Christ, who was born into this world in such a simple manner, as we heard this morning.

He was not one coming in a palace or in fine clothing or gold or silver. Not that at all, but in a lowly, meek, and humble way. That is the walk of a Christian. That is the example that was given to you and me. If we have been blessed enough to be able to live in a palace, we can give the praise to God. But what good will the palace do if we have not come to the foot of the cross realizing that Christ has paid the price?

So, we have been charged; but how thankful we are, dear ones, because we have a hope. We have a hope of salvation. God has changed us. God has changed our hearts from a desire of living for the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life to a meek and humble walk for Him. He has converted us. He has changed us. We could not do it of ourselves.

I think I said it before (and I am sorry if I use it over and over), but how often I have tried on New Year's to change my ways. For a time, it would work, but then fall back. Without God's grace, we can't do it, dear ones. But with God's grace, we can be overcomers of the sin and of ourselves—of the self within us—the "we", the "I", and the "me".

When it comes up, "I want my

way, I want to do it this way, or I want to do it my way," we can be overcomers of that. We can walk as Christ did—"Not my will, but Thy will."

Then, dear ones, the remainder of this chapter reads, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 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. 4:7-10).

He is speaking to us—to you and me. All of these things happen to us, but we are not distressed, and we are not in despair. We are persecuted, but we are not forsaken. We sang in the song, "God is still with me." We are cast down, but we are not destroyed, because we are always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus Christ. That Spirit, the Holy Spirit, dwells within us and we reach to that. We depend on that and need that to guide us and direct us.

"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." (II Cor. 4:11-14).

That is the promise. God raised up Jesus Christ and He will raise up us, IF we have renounced sin, IF we have allowed God to convert our hearts, IF we have come in true repentance, seeking forgiveness and mercy from God for put-

ting Christ on the cross and living a way of life which was sin.

Christ lived for the Lord. He walked for the Lord, for God, His Father. He walked in submission and humility, doing as the Father asked of Him. He was raised up. You and I can be raised up, too, dear ones, with Jesus Christ. Can you imagine how it is going to be?

“So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for

a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (II Cor. 4:12-18). Where is our heart? Do we seek after those things which are eternal? That is what He has encouraged us to do. Though our outward man perish (and we know it does, and we know it happens because that is the way it is), we are renewed in the inner man day by day.

Our light affliction is but for a moment. Dear ones, when we are pressed down, let us remember that it is just for a moment. When we look at God’s plan from life to eternity, the time that we spend here on this earth being a servant of His is so short...so short! If we can live our lives in that short span by the grace of God, as a servant

which desires to do God’s will, we can reap the reward of Heaven, of eternal life, and of being with the Father and Jesus Christ.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;” (II Cor. 4:17). When we think of our life, dear ones, do we deserve it? Do we deserve even the opportunity and the chance to be forgiven? No. That is God’s love. He gives it to us and it is free! It is a free gift!

Then we have a challenge, dear ones, to walk in the way that He has prescribed through His good Word, so that we can be found fit. In the latter part of the Scripture we read this morning, it takes faith and works. One without the other is dead—it takes faith and works.

Let us have faith in Jesus Christ and let us work for the Lord so that men might be able to see that we are walking for Him.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

II Cor. 5:1

The owner of the tenement which I have occupied for many years has given notice that he will furnish but little or nothing more for repairs. I am advised to be ready to move.

At first this was not a very welcome notice. The surroundings here are in many respects very pleasant, and were it not for the evidence of decay, I should consider the house good enough. But even a light wind causes it to tremble and totter, and all the braces are not sufficient to make it secure. So I am getting ready to move.

It is strange how quickly one’s interest is transferred to the prospective home. I have been consulting maps of the new country and reading descriptions of its inhabitants. One who visited it has returned, and from him I learn that it is beautiful beyond description; language breaks down in attempting to tell of what he heard while there. He says that, in order to make an investment there, he has suffered the loss of all things that he owned here, and even rejoices in what others would call making a sacrifice. Another, whose love to me has been proven by the greatest possible test, is now there. He has sent me several clusters of the most delicious fruits. After tasting them, all food here seems insipid.

Two or three times I have been down by the border of the river that forms the boundary, and have wished myself among the company of those who were singing praises to the King on the other side. Many of my friends have moved there. Before leaving they spoke of my coming later. I have seen the smile upon their faces as they passed out of sight. Often I am asked to make some new investments here, but my answer in every case is, “I am getting ready to move.”

—Selected from Streams In The Desert: Book 1

Faith of our Fathers

Persecution From A New Direction

During the baptism of John, followed by the baptism of the Apostles and other true believers, the first century Church was mostly brought under persecution by the Pagans and Roman government. A singular threat from the unbeliever. However late in the first century and into the second century, persecution came from a new direction. Baptism took on a symbolic meaning and those that strayed from the true belief, for whatever reason, placed more attention on the act of being baptized and less on conversion. Therefore many souls were baptized for little reason except that the world church said it was necessary to be a part of the church of that time. It became convenient to baptize little children and the world church lost the meaning of repentance and conversion by faith.

During this time as through all ages, God placed a conviction on the hearts of those that He had chosen. What God used as His criteria for selection we will never know on this earth. Possibly He recognized in certain brethren a true desire to remain faithful. Whatever the conviction, there were those who felt a strong need to be re-baptized into the true Church so that they might be able to receive the grace of the Holy Ghost. In the true Church it has always been that a soul convicted of sin would repent, confess their sin, make reparation and restitution, become converted by the grace of God, be blessed through the baptism of faith, and receive through the laying on of hands, the grace of the Holy Ghost.

The truth and those who would

support the truth have always been a thorn in the side of the unbeliever and now we see that it was also a stab in the side of those who had strayed from the true faith, the world church. Throughout the history of time, those who have resisted the temptation to stray from the true faith, have been a conviction to the liberal church, which has always drifted from the truth and then desired change. With that conviction came a desire to persecute those who represented remaining true and sometimes that persecution was carried to the extent of killing those who dared to confess the truth in Christ. This was the new direction of persecution.

Onesimus

Onesimus, a servant of Philemon, who by descent was a Colossian, had run away from his master, finally came to the presence of Paul, where he, by the grace of God, found the truth and was converted by God. We can read in the Bible that he returned to Philemon with a letter from Paul stating the close feeling Paul had for him and asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus. It appears that he was a beloved friend to Paul, notwithstanding he had left his external service in the house of Philemon. He also, after he was sincerely converted, was not permitted to finish his course without persecution, sufferings, and a violent death; but had to tread after the example of his Saviour, the winepress of suffering. According to the testimony of ancient historians, he was carried away bound from Ephesus to Rome, and there stoned to death in the year of 111 AD. Paul, the beloved writer of so much of the history and instruction for the true believer, was beheaded in 69 AD, which meant

that Onesimus spent 42 years in the service of the Lord after the death of his dear friend Paul who helped change the direction of his life.

Ignatius

In the ae year that Onesimus was stoned, 111 AD, Ignatius, a disciple of John, was devoured by wild beasts. His testimony bears our attention. He was surnamed Theophorus, that is, *The Bearer of God*, apparently because he often bore the name of God and his Saviour in his mouth, and led a Godly life. His testimony was: "The life of man is continual death, unless it be that Christ liveth in us." Likewise: "The crucified Christ is my only and entire love." And: "He that allows himself to be called after any other than Christ, is not of God." And again: **As the world hates the true believer, so much does God love them.**"

During his service to Christ, he came in great disagreement with the Emperor Trajan and openly reproved him in the Temple. The Emperor became enraged and apprehended Ignatius, however the Emperor feared an uproar and caused Ignatius to be sent to Rome where he was told he would be torn to pieces by the wild beasts. As he traveled to Rome, it appears that the thought of being torn to pieces by teeth of wild beasts was constantly on his mind; yet not as a matter of dread, but of earnest desire.

"Journeying from Syria to Rome, by water and by land, by day and by night, I fight with wild beasts, bound between ten leopards, who, the more I stroke, and show myself friendly to them, the more cruel and malignant they become. However, through the cruelties and torments which they daily inflict upon me, I am more



Ignatius Devoured by Wild Beasts

and more exercised and instructed; nevertheless, I am not justified thereby. O that I were already with the beasts, which are ready to devour me! I hope that, ere long, I shall find them such as I wish them to be, that is, cruel enough to destroy me speedily. But if they will not fall upon and tear me, I shall kindly allure them, so that they will not spare me, as they have already spared several Christians, but will quickly tear me in pieces, and devour me. Forgive me for speaking thus, I know what I need. Now only I begin to be a disciple of Christ. I regard neither things visible nor invisible, at which the world is amazed. It is sufficient for me if I but become a partaker of Christ. Let the devil and evil men afflict me with all manner of pain and torment, with fire, with cross, with fighting against wild beasts, with scattering of the members and bones of my body; all this I esteem very little, if I but enjoy Christ. Only pray for me, that inward and outward strength be given me, not only to speak or write this, but also to perform and endure it, so that I may not only be called a Christian, but also be found one in truth."

Having arrived at Rome, he was delivered by the soldiers to the governor, together with the letters of the Emperor, which contained his sentence of death. He was kept in prison several days, until a certain feast-day of the Romans, when the Governor, according to

the order of the Emperor, had him brought forth into the amphitheatre. First of all they sought by many torments, to induce him to blaspheme the name of Christ, and offer sacrifice to the gods. But when Ignatius did not weaken in his faith, but was only, the longer, the more strengthened in refusing to offer heathen sacrifices, he was forthwith condemned by the Roman Senate, immediately to be cast before the lions.

Only pray for me, that inward and outward strength be given me, not only to speak or write this, but also to perform and endure it, so that I may not only be called a Christian, but also be found one in truth.

As Ignatius was led away from the presence of the Senate, to the innermost enclosure, or pit of the lions, he frequently repeated the name of Jesus in the conversation which he, while on the way, carried on with the believers, as well as in his secret prayer to God. Being asked why he did so, he replied thus: "My dear Jesus, my Saviour, is so deeply written in my heart, that I feel confident, that if my heart were to be cut open and chopped to pieces, the name of Jesus would be found written on every piece." With this the pious man indicated that not only his mouth, but the innermost parts of his heart were filled with the love of Jesus: for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. Thus, also Paul, being filled with the love of Jesus Christ, has used, in his letters, as much as two hundred times (as has been counted) the words, "Our Lord Jesus Christ." The name "Jesus" he employs as much as five hundred times.

When the whole multitude of the people were assembled, to witness the death of Ignatius (for the

report had spread throughout the whole city, that a bishop had been brought from Syria, who, according to the sentence of the Emperor, was to fight against the wild beast), Ignatius was brought forth and placed in the middle of the amphitheatre. Thereupon Ignatius, with a bold heart, thus addressed the people which stood around: "O ye Romans, all you who have come to witness with your own eyes this combat; know ye, that this punishment has not been laid upon me on account of any misdeed or crime; for such I have in no wise committed, but that I may come to God, for whom I long, and whom to enjoy is my insatiable desire. For, I am the grain of God. I am ground by the teeth of the beast, that I may be found a pure bread of Christ, who is to me the bread of life." These words spake Ignatius, when he stood in the middle of the amphitheatre, and when he heard the lions roar; which the brethren of the church who also stood among the people heard and testified to.

As soon as he had spoken these words, two dreadful, hungry lions were let out to him from their pits, who instantly tore and devoured him, leaving almost nothing, or, at least, very little, even of his bones. Thus, fell asleep, happy in the Lord, this faithful martyr of Jesus Christ, A.D. 111, in the 12th year of Emperor Trajan.

Do we have the name of Jesus wrote on every piece of our heart? Do we strive to maintain the true faith, never relenting to the pressures of change? Would we be able to desire the death of martyrdom if we were called upon to do so? Has our faith become a matter of just attending Church? Would we ever sacrifice the love of a brother to fulfill our own purpose? Will the Lord find faith when He returns?



Diligence and Devotion

Part V - Keeping the Faith

It was a significant focal point of the new Froehlich grouping of churches—both in Europe and in America—to indeed “keep the faith”.

Having made the decision—after searching among several different denominations—to establish a church based solely on what God’s Word taught, it became a foremost principle to develop a brotherhood and authority structure which rested on the Word. The goal was to let the brethren be purely influenced by the Holy Spirit.

An important aspect of Bro. Samuel Froehlich’s and his young co-workers’ motivation was to avoid religious untruth(s). Recognizing from history and from experience that the past was replete with falsehoods and misinterpretations (i.e., eternal security, infant baptism, an erroneous Christian “liberty” and faith “alone” to name a few), our early forefathers felt they had found an unadulterated faith. They were resolved, with God’s help and grace, to maintain it—and build on it as the Lord directed.

As in Europe, the church here in America operated exclusive of other denominations. This was/is to avoid watered-down doctrines, and to protect itself from unwholesome religious influences. With the theological precepts of modernism, rationalism, and the “higher criticism” method of interpreting the Bible flowering in America from 1870 on, our forefathers were wise indeed to resist substandard precepts. We today, more than a century later, have benefitted from this outlook.

As the church took root in the east-

ern portions of the United States, it soon moved westward. Agricultural and economic opportunities drew our people to the midwest and plains states. The general trend of immigration helped our growth.

The huge Bluffton, IN congregation(s) grew from an inauspicious beginning. Word of the “Froehlich” church coming to America began to spread. Near Bluffton, Indiana, two young Mennonite boys—Ulrich Kipfer and Matthias Straham—heard that believers of this faith were settled in Sardis, Ohio. Dissatisfied with their Mennonite faith, they set out on foot for Sardis to make inquiry.



After a long walk, it took only a few hours for Elders Isaac Gehring and Joseph Bella to convince them about the need for repentance and conversion. Both young men then sought the Lord in a humble surrender to God.

These two men then walked back to Bluffton and announced this new faith to their friends and neighbors. Consequently, several began their repentance. When Elders Gehring and Bella from Sardis later visited the Bluffton area, they found 18 souls ready for baptism. They were baptized in a pond near the current site of the Bluffton congregation (in the country).

This incident illustrates that the positive response to the gospel by a few can later affect multitudes. Today, nearly 1,300 members of our faith exist in the Bluffton, Indiana

area.

Elder Benedict Weyeneth, who finally settled in Roanoke, Illinois, traveled widely on behalf of the faith. During one spring when he was traveling vigorously, he received a letter from his wife that said, “Benedict, it is high time you got home. It’s time to plant the crops.” He always felt he could do better at preaching than at farming.

A fervent zeal was present in the early days. Once, Elder Benedict Weyeneth and Bro. Nicholas Baumgartner (later a minister at Bluffton) walked all the way from Elgin, Iowa, to Roanoke, Illinois, in the dead of winter. On arriving in Roanoke, their boots were frozen to their feet. It required a knife to cut them off (safely). Bro. John Baumgartner, author of *The First Hundred Years*, a history of the Bluffton, Indiana church, said, “This they did in the service of the Lord.”

Our brethren were very busy from 1850-1900 quietly establishing churches. They stayed far from the government’s notice. The church actually had no official name until the time of World War I.

Although modernist-rationalist theologies were seeping into American seminaries and other centers of influence such as publishing and universities, our brethren (wisely) were unaffected. The Word itself spoke to the hearts of our brothers and sisters. Their only purpose was to humbly follow what it said—and to strive, with God’s help, to remain true and faithful.

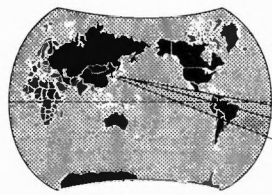
By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Facing Many Challenges

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Doctrine Isn’t Everything”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The other day I was spading in our vegetable garden when the thought came to mind, “What good is doctrine if you’re not dead to self?” Not being sure if this thought was from the Holy Spirit or from Satan, I began thinking about scripture which might pertain to this subject.

I recalled I Corinthians 13:2, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge;...and have not charity, I am nothing.” This verse implies that understanding is no good without charity or love. We must now consider whether or not doctrine and understanding are the same.

From II John, verse 9, we know that doctrine is very important. “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” I understand that Christ is the Son of God, that He died for us and arose again, that we are to repent, believe and obey. It’s in

what constitutes obedience that differences develop. In any case, I conclude that the correct understanding of all mysteries would indicate that we have the correct doctrine of Christ.

The next thing to consider is whether or not being dead to self is the same as having charity or love. Christ was dead to self which enabled Him to pray, “Not my will but thine be done.” (Luke 22:42). He also had the love of God in His heart for us for He said, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you.” (John 15:9). Perhaps we can say that if we have the love of God in our hearts as we should have, we will be dead to self, implying that the one is equal to the other.

In mathematics, if “a” equals four and “b” equals four, “a” equals “b”, no doubt about it. Now if doctrine is equal to understanding, and if being dead to self is equal to having love, then I Cor. 13:2, previously quoted, teaches us that doctrine without being dead to self is nothing. Forgive me if I’m

wrong.

We are all taught that we must be dead to self before we are baptized because it is a burial of the old person. The problem that I have encountered is maintaining that death of self. I pray to the Lord every day to give me the grace to always take the path that will bring Him the most glory regardless of personal will or desire in the matter. This is a reminder that I need to be dead to self, albeit I can’t say I always succeed.

Paul writes in Romans 6:8, “Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.” For me, the most important teaching in the Bible for living the life of a true believer is that we are to be dead to self. It’s taught in many places. No matter how correct and how detailed our doctrine is, if we are not dead to self, something is lacking.

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Mansfield, OH - 1850

picture (Diamond Street Church) 1939

The first Church at Mansfield was formed by a few people known as the "Believers in Christ". It is possible that Benedict Weyeneth helped initiate the small group, which grew in number to necessitate building a Church building. Before this the small group gathered in the houses of the believers. The first Church building was built in 1863, however it became too small and a new Church was built on Diamond Street in 1886. The Church on Diamond Street served the Church until 1965 when a new edifice was built which is serving the congregation today.

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