

A black and white photograph of a vast, open landscape. The foreground is dominated by tall, dark grasses. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills with scattered trees and a large, dark, rounded tree on the right. The background shows a range of low mountains under a bright, overcast sky. The title 'The Emptying' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font across the top of the image.

The Emptying

The thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

March 1998

“SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht, Eureka, IL

Job 7 and Romans 10

The apostle's first verse here says, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." (Romans 10:1). We well know that is God's desire, too, that all men will be saved. Paul was speaking somewhat to the children of Israel--to the Jewish people. He calls them Israel.

The last verse points that out when he says, "But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people. (Romans 10:21). None of us would ever want to fit into that category. We believe that those of us who are converted that God has called us to be His, are much like the children of Israel who were God's chosen people.

We know that when the Lord came, He lived here upon this earth and shed His blood and died on the cross and arose. The people that were God's chosen people rejected Him. They didn't believe that this all took place and that He was the Christ. That is who Paul is speaking about. They did not receive Him even though they were God's chosen people. I think that tells us something, as we remember and now recall, that we are God's chosen people. We are really privileged.

A lot of us were brought up in this way of life--from little on up--that is all we ever knew. I know for myself, I was away for a couple years in the service and never saw anybody from this faith, but I knew in my heart where I would go back to, to find salvation.

There was never any confusion or doubt and God was good and merciful to me that He allowed me to come back and to become one of

His. It wasn't that I was not exposed to other doctrines, because I was. I respected them, but I knew where I would find my salvation. So it is precious to us.

I think as Paul, in his writing, is referring to the Israelite people, and we think of how God delivered them from Egypt and from the bondage of slavery. For forty years they went through the wilderness until He brought them to the promised land. He did so much for them; yet, they murmured and complained and they wanted to go back where they came from. I really think that is an important lesson for us, beloved ones, that we be content with what God has given us and be thankful. The Word teaches us that we should be thankful to God and give Him thanksgiving and be grateful for what He has done.

What has He done? I guess that is the thing we have to think about: What has He done? For the friends that are with us today, what has He done so you can find something that the world doesn't offer? We know what He has done!

He has made it possible that our sins can be forgiven and be cast into the sea of forgetfulness. He has made it possible that we can live free from sin and no longer have that condemnation of sin. We can have that hope for life everlasting. That is what He has done. We might summarize it that way.

But we just need to stop sometime and think about that, I believe. To think of what He has done for you and for me individually, because that is where it starts, doesn't it? It starts on an individual basis.

When converts come in repen-

tance, they are concerned about one thing. They are concerned about their soul. Where is their soul going to spend eternity? That is their concern. So it starts individually with each and every person...each and every soul. There is a call by God to a higher calling, much higher than what they have experienced prior to that time.

Each one of us has to have that deep appreciation, like the children of Israel didn't really have. There were some that did, I believe. We think of Moses, Joshua and Caleb and we can probably name more.

But when we think about it, Joshua and Caleb--those two--were the only ones that were of an adult age when they left Egypt that were able to enter into the promised land out of six hundred thousand besides the women and children. That is a real small percentage of people that were faithful to God and obedient.

It gives us something to think about. It should not be something, beloved ones, that we throw up our hands in despair and wonder what we are going to do, but it should be

Sermon continued on page 46

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 1998

My Brother's Keeper

"Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). This question was Cain's defense when God asked him about his brother Abel. It is a question that has been asked for generations; it is a question that we often hear even today. Sometimes the question is asked by sincere children of God who are trying to do God's will and want to know what they can do to help their fellow men, but sometimes it is asked by those who are trying to avoid responsibility.

What does it mean to be our brother's keeper? Although the term is only specifically used one time in the scripture, the concept is referred to many times.

A "brother" as used in the scripture, is described as "...whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven..." (Matt. 12:50). If we are a child of God, then our brother would be all others who are truly the children of God. This certainly is a closer relationship than a neighbor as described in the account of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35). Our neighbor can be anyone upon whom we can show mercy. Our brother, however, is anyone who does the will of God.

A keeper is one who is a guard or caretaker of someone. A keeper is one who has enough concern for someone that they will watch out for the welfare of that individual. A brother's keeper, then is one who has enough concern for a child of God to watch out for his or her welfare.

As children of God, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to watch out for the welfare of our brother. This requires us to be willing to do anything for our brother that would be necessary to help him to remain a child of God. Sometimes it means we will need to go and offer assistance or encouragement in time of need. At other times, it may mean that we will need to go and offer a word of caution or admonition if it appears that our brother is in spiritual danger.

At times such as this, it is very important that we approach the situation in the spirit of humility and with the sole intent of being helpful. We must be very careful

that we do not confuse the role of being our brother's keeper with that of simply finding fault. There is no room in the household of faith for activities of this nature.

How can we be sure we are being our brother's keeper rather than finding fault? The scripture provides us with much instruction in this matter.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 7, verses 3-5 give us a very clear explanation of one step in this process. Before we remove a mote that is in our brother's eye, we must make sure that we remove from our own eye all obstructions that would interfere with helping to remove the mote from our brother's eye. Later in the same gospel we can read:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." (Matthew 18:15-17).

These two passages established a procedure for us to follow that will help us fulfill our responsibilities as our brother's keeper. It assures us that we will see the problem clearly, that we will go in humility and that we will go in a manner that maintains confidentiality. At no time does the scripture ever give us permission to allow these situations to be the topic of gossip. The only reason we should ever speak of the situation is if it is done in a manner that will help solve the problem, not spread it.

The scripture utterly condemns gossip and makes it clear that if we gossip, we are part of the problem. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is a no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." (Proverbs 26:20).

Spreading unkind or untrue statements are very damaging and usually cause a great deal of pain. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go

down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Proverbs 18:8). A child of God should surely not want to either keep strife going with a brother nor to cause wounds.

Just as we would not want to be guilty of gossip about our brother, we should not engage in flattery or insincere compliments. We need to offer encouragement to one another and we must be sure it is sincere. "He that rebuketh a man, afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue" (Proverbs 28:23).

If we go about our daily tasks and include gossip and flattery, we place ourselves in a very serious position—one of being a busybody. This behavior is also condemned by the scriptures, listed in the same sentence with other very serious sins. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (1 Peter 4:15).

We give evidence that we are our brother's keeper by the love that we show toward one another. Space does not permit inclusion of all scripture references that demonstrate this but the point becomes very clear even with just a few references. When the Son of man sits on His throne to judge the people, those who are commended for doing right will be told "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

The Apostle Paul instructed us that "...ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). The entire 13th chapter in 1 Cor. focuses on our opportunity and responsibility to show love one toward another and to be our brother's keeper.

As we go about our daily tasks in an impersonal world, we have an opportunity to demonstrate concern and compassion for those around us. We can put our faith into action as we very quietly and humbly fulfill the scriptural responsibility to be our brother's keeper.



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

Cemetery in Tremonton, Utah

The Present in Light of the Past

In the early part of this century, specifically from 1901-1910, there was a church composed of a small group of believers in Tremonton, Utah, a small town lying north of Salt Lake City, just east of the intersection of Interstate Highways 84 and 15. It was established and settled by families from the Midwest.

A backward glance

Looking backward through history, both of our church and our country, we find that brave and hardy souls worked their way westward in pursuit of a better way of life. Some of them were successful in achieving their goals, and some were not. Some of our brethren traveled west and settled in Utah.

Family names included Winzeler, Getz, Baer, Imthurn, and Meister. As they tried to establish a life in the area, they also assembled together as a church. They buried their dead in a plot along a country road outside of the town. The last survivor of this church was Sophie Weisler, who was buried in 1978. The last person buried here appears to be Sophie (Woerner) Richins, in 1992. A record of this is found in *Marching To Zion*, pages 305-307.

Caring for the burial sites

Some time ago, the Elder Body of our Church agreed to accept a deed to the cemetery property, and to assume

responsibility for its upkeep. A descendant of the families living in the area named Fred Eggli was willing to provide for the ongoing maintenance. This consisted mainly of mowing and trimming around the graves. He did this for a modest fee. His son, Richard Eggli, has taken his place in recent years.

Establishment of a fund

Some time ago, our brotherhood set aside a special fund for the purpose of keeping up this cemetery. The earnings from this fund just about equal the maintenance expenses. Three trustees



... for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in
the graves shall hear his voice. JOHN 5:28

were appointed to administer the fund and maintain the oversight of the property.

Trustees visit the area

In August, 1997, two of the trustees visited and inspected the cemetery site. They found that the mowing and trimming has been attended to, but with the passing of years, some more serious maintenance work is needed. Of particular note is the deteriorated condition of the old fence. It is made of wooden posts and wire netting. In addition, the earthen bank along the roadway needs attention. Some of the gravestones are askew, and some plot

borders need to be retrofitted. It was the observation and recommendation of the trustees that a work project be organized to provide this rehabilitation. This was reviewed and approved by both the World Relief and Mission Committees as a joint effort.

Coordinator appointed

Bro. Mike Leman of our Denver congregation has kindly agreed to coordinate this work project. A number of our brethren have ancestors buried in this isolated place. Some of the family names include: Funk, Gassner, Eggli, Schrenk, Feucht, Weisser, Kupfer, Vierling, Meister, Imthurn, Boering, Brenkmann, Sommer, Wagenbach, Schmutz, Dainiger, Storrer, Getz, Cartner, Kauber, Sorg, Kleinknecht, Trunkenbrod, Woerner, Baer, and Sinn. Some of our readers may want to take this opportunity to be near some ancestors, and to respectfully participate in this work project.

Lovely natural area

Traveling to and through Utah presents many beautiful sites of nature. The Salt Creek flowing alongside the cemetery ultimately empties into the Great Salt Lake. The land is fertile and the people are friendly. There is local interest in the preservation of this country cemetery, the last vestige of our Apostolic Christian Church in Tremonton, Utah. "*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*" 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55

Tentative date and contact

As of the writing of this article, it appears that we will try to organize a work team for this purpose sometime between the middle and end of the month of May, 1998.

To volunteer or to seek more information, please call:
Mike Leman – 303/751-9361 or
Arnold Gerst – 217/223-8424.



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

Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMI)

A point of clarification

In the February and March, 1997 issues of *The Silver Lining*, the background and history of our church's involvement with RGMMI were reported in some detail. This relationship continues to be strengthened, especially as we make occasional visits to inspect the work in India and as Director/Administrator, Dr. Parkhe visits our churches in the USA.

As mentioned in the articles, our church has full authority and control through spiritual counseling, administrative assistance, and financial support of RGMMI. In fact, this is the only mission activity or organization in India that has the approval of our Elder Body, Mission, and World Relief Committees.

In response to a number of questions that have been received, and hoping to clarify some misunderstandings regarding another organization in India called "Christian Love in Action" (founded by Lazarus Padale), there is no connection nor affiliation between the two. It is hoped that this distinction will be understood. Your questions are always appreciated.

Nurses' visit to India

[Submitted by Sisters Kathy Bradle and Cherise Knobloch]

On August 29, 1997 with the support of the Elder Body, we began our two week visit to India. This trip was to explore the possible future involvement of American medical staff to assist the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of India.

After joining with Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe at Altadena, California, we flew 23 hours to Bombay, India. Nothing could have prepared us for the sights and the smell of India, yet

we knew that God had brought us to this place, and we were excited to see what God had in store for the trip.

Treating the whole person

As we traveled to the rural areas, we could see how RGMMI is meeting the needs of the "whole" person both physical and spiritual. We were privileged to visit many of the congregations, boarding hostels, and medical clinics.



We observed the RGMMI medical staff provide healthcare without the "basic" technology that, as nurses here in America, we take for granted. We were privileged to see a nurse deliver a healthy infant boy in a tiny "birthing" room, separated from other patients by just a curtain.

It was easy to see how much the people of the rural areas need this medical care; many very sick patients walk for miles to see the doctor and receive medical treatment. It was so touching for us to see how by meeting these needs an opportunity opens up to bring the Gospel into those villages.

Participation in a seminar
We were privileged to participate in a seminar with the three doctors, nurses, and lab technician that make up the medical staff of RGMMI. In this seminar, we shared some of our modern "basics" of health care and they shared with us some of their most common medical problems (malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis...). We learned so much from these seminars, and from all of our experiences in India.

Living with the people

We saw, did, ate, and smelled many new things in India, but of all these things the spiritual darkness of the country was by far the biggest "shock" to us. Yet the light of God's work through RGMMI shines out so brightly. At every congregation we visited we were greeted by warm smiles and sincere love and gratefulness for the Apostolic Christian Churches of America.

The personal impressions

We are humbled and convicted to fervently pray for these believers as they strive to serve God in the midst of this very idolatrous nation.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation to you and for your prayers and support. We truly felt the Lord's protection and faithfulness throughout this trip!

Future involvement

At the present time, the possibility of developing a volunteer program for RGMMI is under consideration by the US Board of Directors.

Inquiries can be addressed to:

John Klotzle
1769 Midwick Drive
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 794-2262 Phone
(626) 794-0814 Fax

- 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**

1998	MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL — 15 YEARS
February	5,762	10,186	422,384

* 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)

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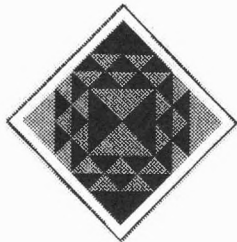
A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

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.

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**WE INVITE YOU
ALL TO JOIN US!**

The 22nd Annual
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Saturday, August 15, 1998

Feel free to contact the Gateway
Woods office @ 219/627-2159

**EUREKA APOSTOLIC
CHRISTIAN HOME**

Spring Auction and
Bake Sale

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

Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a residential child-care facility, is seeking a female counselor for an opening this spring. A Bachelors degree in Social Work or Counseling is required. A Masters degree in Social Work or Counseling is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management and consultation with the treatment team.

For more information/application please contact:

Jeff Schumacher, MS
Senior Counselor
Gateway Woods
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
(219)565-3499

**A New Book Is
Now Available****THE NAZARENES**

An account of the Froehlich
movement in Hungary in the
19th century

by
Károly Eotvos

*Re-written from the original
English manuscript by Perry A.
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To order:

Write to the *Apostolic Christian Publications*, 805 W. Cruger Road, Eureka, IL 61530; or to *Perry A. Klopfenstein*, Box 250, Gridley, IL 61744.

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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.

**WORK PROJECT DATES
MEXICO CONSTRUCTION
WORKTEAMS**

March 7-14

Contact Bro. Bruce Aschliman
(Bluffton)
(219)824-5160

March 14-21

Contact Bro. Wayne Lehman
(South Bend)
(219)773-4373

March 21-28

Contact Bro. Tom Schifferer (Elgin)
(847)695-7510

March 21-28

Contact Bro. Tom Schifferer (Elgin)
(847)695-7510

April 1-8

Medical Dental Team (Juarez)
Contact Bro. Dave Wegman
(Bloomington)
(309)452-8079

November 4-12

Medical Dental Team (Creel)
Contact Bro. Dave Wegman
(Bloomington)
(309)452-8079

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

"...trust...in the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." (I Timothy 6:17). It happens

HUNGARIAN CHURCH HISTORY

A new book is available through Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois, that depicts the development of the Froehlich-like church in Hungary.

This book is an account of how young Hungarian apprentices came under the preaching influence of Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich in Switzerland. They repented for their sins, became converted, and returned to Hungary and began teaching and preaching.

The book is entitled *The Nazarenes* (the name of the church with beliefs like ours in Hungary). It is an inspiring account of deeply devoted brethren who, amid much persecution, persevered in their beliefs and a new church was born. This church emphasized repentance, conversion, and godly order.

In the late 1800's, Karoly Eotvos, a native Hungarian, wrote the original manuscript. It was translated into English in 1965-66 by Joseph Csaba, a Hungarian professor who had spent a year or so in America teaching at Lincoln, NE.

The English translation, however, was difficult to read and existed for many years in only typewritten form. It had been translated into "broken-English", and proved to be hard to comprehend for today's reader.

Because the book's substance was so inspiring (and it was evident that

today's Apostolic Christian readers could benefit by reading it), it was re-written into an easier-to-read English. Bro. Perry A. Klopfenstein, Gridley, IL re-wrote the entire 240 page manuscript with the goal of making it easier to read. He sought to do so without altering the book's message.

Details are given about Bro. Froehlich's life and ministry. Accounts are listed of how young men walked from Hungary to Switzerland and met with him.

It is a story of devotion, faithfulness and reverence for God. By relying totally on the Holy Spirit, and obeying the Bible's messages, humble brethren in Hungary were able to establish churches in the face of firm opposition from the state and the state church. It tells of how people were converted and thence used of God to promote the faith.

The fact that today we are having more correspondence and a greater connection with those of like mind and faith in Hungary makes this book compelling reading.

The Nazarenes can be purchased for \$8.55. It is fully approved and can be obtained at the Apostolic Christian Publications, 805 W. Cruger Rd., Eureka, IL 61530 (phone 309-467-3611); or by writing to Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, Box 250, Gridley, IL 61744 (309-747-2803).

every year about this time; the various forms of precipitation, the grayish landscape, the too few blue skies, the cold. We do have to get out and scoop, and drive in precarious conditions to go to work, taxi children, and buy groceries. Others, who cannot get out, may have to wait for visitors to come to relieve some of the long quiet times. This is a time for rest

and renewal. Creation seems to be at somewhat of a lull. Perhaps there are some lessons here. God made the seasons with their unique characteristics. We learn to deal with His Creation just as we learn to deal with the seasons of our own lives. He will help us. He has promised His help. Let's recognize this truth and act on it. Winter may limit us in some ways but

HAITI/JAMAICA WORK SCHEDULE - 1998

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, direct your inquiry to Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. Second Ave., Morton, IL, 61550. Phone 1-309-266-6263, Fax 1-309-266-8575.

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 06-14	TBA	Phil Isabel	Grd. School	10	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 06-24	Kingston	Terry & Bev Miller	Deaf School	30	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 02-10	Kingston	Roanoke SS	Deaf School	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 08-14	Deaf Village	Gridley SS	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 15-23	Deaf Village	Harold Witzig	Work Place	40	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 5-13	Kingston	Taylor & Princeville SS	Deaf School	30	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	July 11-18	Knockpatrick	Chicago & Detroit SS	Deaf School	40	100%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

(*) = Held for College Student Participation

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX
Earl Sauder	309-387-6357	309-387-6357
Harold Witzig	309-266-6263	309-266-8575
Greg Hermann	309-243-5610	309-693-4344
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	
Glen Hackenjios	818-442-4957	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851
Bob Beebe	219-291-2158	219-299-8173
Tim Butikofer	319-426-5486	319-426-5586
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	
Terry Miller	309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302	

we can rise above the limitations. Creation is quiet, conserving energy, efficient in its ways, wisely using its time, making the best of the situation. We can be quiet and do those quiet things we don't normally have time for when pleasant weather invites our being outdoors. We can enjoy being in our comfortable homes spending time in His Word, with our loved ones, with friends, with a good book. It's a good time to write a letter, send a special card, make that telephone call. It doesn't do much good to complain—so make the best of the conditions. Easily said,

but true.

Here at the Home we take advantage of the opportunities to go out into the community during the winter months. Naturally, we go somewhere to be indoors. We did build a snowman in the backyard. That was great fun. Currently he does not amount to much, but perhaps we will be able to build another before Spring is here. Would Spring be the glorious time that it is were it not for winter? We enjoy the large family here at the Home. There are so many and varied friends here and a variety of things

to do. We have big enough areas to let off a little steam and cozy areas to get together for some chats and reading. We write letters and send cards. We have a specific group who gets together to share needs and express concerns about their friends or family who might need to be encouraged with receiving some mail. We also make telephone calls with our speaker phone. This device makes phoning available to all. We try not to complain about the weather, but to watch it and talk about it, trying to guess what it might do next. We might also talk about those up-

coming picnics.

We recognize our Creator and His perfect plan and timing. "...there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Eccles. 3:1)

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

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

Brenda Fiechter

Purpose. Hope. Goals. Future. What do we see as we look forward? Do we not have more strength when we are focused on a goal? Do we not lose desire when we take our eyes off that goal and start thinking of what we are missing, or how we have been hurt? God challenges us to seek Him early in the morning. As we seek God, our focus switches from our own desires to our purpose for God's service. Maybe God's purpose is to grow fruits of the land. Maybe God's purpose is for us to help others find purpose in life. Maybe God's purpose is to pray for others going through hard trials. Maybe God's purpose is for us to react in kindness to situations which deserve harshness. Maybe God's purpose is to raise children for God's larger plan.

Whatever our task at hand, we are to respond with desire to fulfill God's plan. We may not understand what the plan is, but we are to be faithful in His service. May we hear God speak to us early in the morning. May we keep God's desire, our purpose.

We continue to be encouraged by you, our brethren, who donate items for our use, and in preparation for our annual auction. Case goods are received, as well as beef, pork and chicken. We have been supplied with many Amway items including cleansers, pots and pans, vacuums, etc. Monetary gifts also continue to be mailed to us. All these items help to cut our cost in offering services to troubled children and families.

We look forward to informing you of our services through our Annual Representative Meeting at Leo on March 7. This year we are also holding a second meeting in Goodfield, IL on March 14 to help eliminate extra traveling miles. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please contact your local representative for information.

In the past month, Heather K. moved from the Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf's house into a nearby foster home. Also, Jennifer F. was placed into our Foster Care program. Joining the Graf household recently is Michael C. Please pray for these households as they adjust to their new relationships.

As we are in the middle of the school year, it is good to announce Alex F., Stephany A. and Bill A. as our honor roll students. These students were treated to an honor roll breakfast. Our on-grounds school also continues to adjust to new students, while others have returned to the public school system. As we wrote in last month's article, Sis. Melissa Freiden is our new teacher. She is currently instructing three students on campus who need more structure and individual attention than the public school can provide.

We reaped the benefits of our annual pancake breakfast with a staff get-away to Potawatomi Inn, at Pokagon State Park. Alternat-

ing days away, we enjoyed free-time together with current staff members and families. For those of you we served at the Grabill Fair Pancake Breakfast, thank you for your support.

Currently, we are seeking a female counselor, as Sis. Denise Klopfenstein is asking to cut her hours. Please see the separate article if you know of someone that might be interested. Spread the word and pray with us as we seek God's provision.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Molly Stickling**

Each time,
before I face each class,
I hesitate for awhile,
And ask the Father,
"Help me, Lord,
to understand each child."

"Help me to see in everyone
a precious soul, most dear,
And may I lead that child
Through paths of wonder, not fear."

"Dear Father, as they look to me
For Christian guidance true,
I look to thee and humbly ask
That Thou wilt teach me too. Amen."
—Nelli Pease Gorbett

As a group of the children were doing their calendar and weather time, one child raised his hand. The teacher asked him what his question was. It was not on the weather or the calendar. The child quietly asked, "Who put Jesus on the cross?" There was a small silence, before the other children volunteered their answers of, "The soldiers did, and they made Jesus bleed!" It was humbling for the teacher to be reminded by a child that it was our sins that put Jesus on the cross. We are so thankful for those quiet reminders of where our focus should be when

facing each new day.

As we read our Bible stories every morning, sometimes a word like "tabernacle" comes up. When reading, we always try to stop and explain what those "hard" words mean. A teacher saw a child building with blocks and asked him what he was building. The three-year old replied, "A tabernacle," and very matter-of-factly added with a smile, "You know, where Mary and Joseph are."

In February, we focused on letters R, S, T, U, and the color red. We also spent time learning about the five senses and emotions. The children spent a lot of time talking about love, and enjoyed a Valentine's Day party by sharing valentines with each other. It was a reminder of God's love for us, and the love we should always have for each other. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (I John 4:11)

We would like to say thank-you to Bros. John and Johnny Hoerr of Peoria, IL; Bro. Jim Barth of Washington, IL and their families for the work they did on our playground. May God bless you for the time and effort you put forth. We appreciate it!

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

We have had many visitors this month and this time of year is always enjoyable for us. The excitement of pulling into the parking lot on Sunday morning or Wednesday night and seeing campers or cars with unfamiliar license plates, is well understood by those who come from small churches or who have been in somewhat isolated areas. Our visitors came from Bloomington, Forrest, Peoria, and Washington, IL; Bluffton and Francesville, IN; and from

Missouri. Thank you, thank you each one who included us in your plans.

We would ask for prayer for little Kendra Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter) who has been struggling with her health this last month. She has not been hospitalized, but has made several trips to the doctor's office. We pray they would feel the support and love from their church family.

On February 16, we enjoyed a Ladies Meeting at the Fellowship Hall and we also had a shower for the Fellowship Hall. The meeting was well attended with 16 of our ladies coming. These meetings have been a real blessing so far and we hope to continue them to draw us closer to our sisters, friends and especially our Lord. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16.

With the coming of the Easter season, we are eagerly anticipating holding a Communion Service on April 5. We look forward to this event with both excitement and seriousness as we consider the instructions for this in the Word. May each one take time to prepare himself for this holy event.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

Romans 5:1

We are thankful that Angie Klopfenstein and Jessica Tooley have peace with the Lord and are awaiting the time to tell their testimony and be baptized. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Jerry and Sis. June Tooley.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone;

I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

We are happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Heidi Kokanovich and Bro. Todd Klopfenstein. We pray for God's direction as they make plans for their upcoming wedding. Their parents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein.

What a joy to have many winter visitors in our midst. God gave us much needed rain, and your fellowship and love provided the warmth of sunshine.

Our Monday and Friday World Relief workshops have been blessed with many extra hands to get more necessities to those in need.

Our thanks to our visiting ministers: Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS).

Please pray for Mary Beth Sutton and her family, as she has been in and out of the hospital recently.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Kieser on the death of her uncle, Bro. Al Zeltwanger, of Tucson and Latty.

On February 1, we gathered to receive help to preserve our church when Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) helped Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich read the Memorandum letter to us.

Love of God and love for God is the mortar that sticks us together.

Loyalty to our church teachings will preserve the faith of our fathers and the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Are you thankful for our Faith?

The Elder Brothers' Winter

Conference is February 18-20. They need prayers.

Reminder: Silver Lining offering of \$11.00 is due in March.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

A business meeting was held last month and Bros. Harvey Smith, Bob Lemons, and Jim Furrer were elected trustees. Bro. Wayne Koehl and Sis. Rowena Furrer have become our Sunday School teachers.

The balance owed on the two acres of land purchased for our future church building has now been paid in full. At the end of November, we still owed about half the balance, but in less than three months, God has provided through generous donations. We are so thankful that the plans for building our church can now move forward. We thank our great God for His blessings and pray He will richly bless all that have given so generously.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena Kaeppler in the death of her father, Bro. Ernest Snyder (Peoria, IL).

Sis. Elena Kornja is assembling with us again after having a pacer inserted. We thank the Lord for her recovery.

We wish to again thank the ministers who served us the last month. They included: Bros. Garth Steffen (Portland, OR), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa Knapp welcomed another son on January 21. Andrew Jonathan Knapp was

also greeted by brothers, Ryan, Matthew and Joshua, and grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer and Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp. Being small in number, the Tucson church is thankful for even the "smallest addition"!

We have had many visiting ministers in recent weeks. Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Earl Gerber (Forrest, IL), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) all served us on the pulpit this past month. We ask God's richest blessings on these brethren for remembering Tucson in their travels but mostly for their work in the ministry.

We received the news of Bro. Al Zeltwanger's death a few days ago. Bro. Al had not been well recently and had not been regularly assembling with us for quite awhile. Our love and prayers go to Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman and their children, Carrie, Catie, Carl, C.J., and Christie during this time of loss and adjustment. We rejoice that Bro. Al will have no more "bad days" but only heavenly ones.

Our Bible Class teachers and students just returned from another wonderful weekend of fellowship with the Phoenix and California Bible classes. The report was familiar—everyone had a great time and many precious memories were made over the weekend. Many special thanks to the Phoenix brethren for hosting the weekend. It takes many hands to accommodate so many visitors and we appreciate the efforts put forth on behalf of the Tucson Bible Class.

We are having unusually rainy weather this past month. January is normally a time when we get some rain, however, we are con-

tinuing that pattern into the middle of February. Our annual Pancake Supper was a rainy, wet experience for the pancake "flippers". They built themselves a tent to cook under! As I write this, it is cold and wet outside and our ever present sun is nowhere in sight. For those of us who live here, it is a welcome change from the constant sunny days. Unfortunately, our winter visitors don't feel the same way!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Joshua Martinez

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

Hymns of Zion #207

Greetings of love across the many miles! As we welcome springtime, may our hearts be renewed and filled with added hope in our spiritual lives. God's ways, His perfect timing and divine direction are often a mystery to us. Yet we feel comfort in knowing His way is best and right. May our hearts bloom under the warmth of His love. May we always be reminded of our blessings and reasons to praise God during this happy season.

We were blessed this month to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) with us. May the Lord richly bless him and all brothers who lend themselves in preaching our Father's precious Word.

Our Sunday School High School class traveled to Tucson, AZ this month. We are thankful our Father's heavenly protection was with them. We also feel grateful for the Christian love and hospitality they enjoyed.

We were blessed with visiting

brethren from across the land. Thank you for coming—what a delight to have you! We extend a warm invitation to all who will be in sunny Southern California to come visit our Altadena family.

Have a happy month!

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

Romans 15:13

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Rose Huetter

What glorious state to be a lamb of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.
In all the earth there is no higher standing
Than this—to follow in the Saviour's ways.
What all the world could never give,
A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd will receive.
Zion's Harp #16

We were saddened as farewells were said to Barry Winkler (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Mary Jane, Rittman, OH) who had to leave for the Persian Gulf with the Navy. He has been stationed here in San Diego and attended our church. We had a farewell dinner for him at church followed by a singing. He will be missed by all of us. We pray that God's protecting hand will guide him everywhere he goes, and bring him back safely.

It's a blessing to have Sis. Beth Beery (Rittman, OH) in our midst as she is employed in the area for a few months.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). Many wonderful

teachings were imparted to us. We thank our ministers for their continual labor of love.

ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter

“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.”

Psalms 118:6,8

As we see the time of Jesus' second coming approaching, it is easy to be fearful of what we as true believers will have to endure in the end times. How will we be persecuted by the world? How will we be able to live if we cannot buy or sell without the mark of the beast? Will we have to flee from our country, homes and families? The thoughts go on and on but it is good to be reminded that if the Lord is on our side, there is no need to fear what man can do to us. Bro. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) gave a Bible Study to us on this topic of the end times. We appreciate his willingness and encouragement.

We are thankful for our visitors and visiting ministers this past month. We thank Bros. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) for their love and support in ministering to us.

Bro. Tim Tomic left for Haiti in January to help for several weeks. We miss him in our small congregation and pray for his safe return.

We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Wayne Saddler (519) 662-6834 or Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 for more information and directions.

Reminder: Silver Lining subscription donations are being col-

lected in the month of March for the Kitchener congregation.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lynne Martin

At this time of year, we become so anxious to see the first signs of spring. Sometimes it bursts through with such new life only to have winter return with a vengeance and we seem to take a step backwards. Colorado does this frequently and it is not unusual to see snow as late as May. God must feel like this when we as His children experience new spiritual growth and vitality only to step backwards. May we constantly strive towards the goal!

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). Our small congregation never takes for granted our visiting ministers. May God bless Bro. Dwight for his efforts.

Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Bro. Nate) was elected to the Kitchen committee this month. Sis. Marcel Huber (Bro. Eric) completed her term and we would like to thank her for her talent and her efforts.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

“And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.”

II Corinthians 1:7

Many of us gathered to view the World Relief European slides. It was a reminder that many of our brethren have suffered in Christ. Let us remember that our Heavenly Father provides a way for the faith to continue and comforts and consoles each one upon the pilgrim pathway.

We were blessed with visiting brethren, Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) as they ministered unto us. May God richly bless the message given that it would penetrate our hearts and bring forth fruit.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today!" (Zion's Harp #52). Repent Ye!

We rejoice with Katie Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl) and Karen Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou) as they turn their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Two dear families were blessed with bundles of joy. On January 1, Samuel Douglas was born to Stephen and Shelly Knowlton and joins his sister, Stephanie. Grandparents are Bruce Knowlton and Elizabeth Snow and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz (Philadelphia, PA). On January 24, Bro. Burt Jr. and Sis. Cherinne Wheeler welcomed baby Christian Albert, along with sister, Courtney, and brother, Daniel. Grandparents are Burt Sr. and Margo Wheeler and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Walter Hoffman who died on February 2. Bro. Paul Gruenig passed away on February 13 and leaves his dear wife, Sis. Esther. May God "pour in the soothing oil" and be with each member of these two families.

We pray that God will heal our loved ones according to His will: Sis. Mildred Donze, Jessica Skipper (Don and Cindy), Bro. Dale Zahner (Sis. Harriet) and Sis. Nancy Zahner (Bro. Scott). We hope for a speedy recovery of each one.

Silver Lining Update: There was a mix-up concerning cost of Silver Lining. Checks should be

made payable to Apostolic Christian Church for \$11.00. Thank you! Sis. Cherie Galat

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We are so thankful ministers give of themselves to come to minister to us. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). May the Lord richly reward them for their efforts.

Other visitors were from Mansfield, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Rockville, CT; and Chicago, IL. We are thankful for all that visit us. This winter our weather has been unusually mild and in years past, Spring started the beginning of March. We welcome you to visit us.

Our congregation has grown some since last year at this time. There are many jobs available in many fields in this area; if you feel the Lord leading you East, please come.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Services are at 10:30 and 12:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Ken Martin (703) 724-4470.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

We can be encouraged, strengthened, and edified when we are with those who love the Lord. Our love for the Lord is shown through our obedience to His Word and the church. We were reminded in a sermon that we are to love in deed and in truth. We have a responsibility for our brothers and sisters; we are our brother's keeper. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 8:13, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

Many brethren are still coming to visit us in the warmer weather which we appreciate and enjoy. We don't know who we may meet when we get to church on a Sunday or Wednesday. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL).

We were thankful to see Bro. Ken (Sis. Joyce) Troxel with us the other week as he hasn't been with us for a few weeks. May we continue to remember them in our prayers.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

This time of year our congregation is increased tenfold. During our noon fellowship, we even have to serve lunch to some of our brothers outdoors...not that they seem to mind the sunshine. It is such a blessing to have so many visitors, particularly our visiting

ministers: Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN).

We recently had our annual February "Night of Talents" fellowship in Ft. Myers. Various brothers and sisters from various churches volunteered to share with us their musical talents or shared a poem or story. At times we laughed together, shed a tear together, but most importantly we praised the Lord together. It was a very special evening. Our thanks to Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for joining us in glorifying our God.

I was particularly touched by the brother who offered himself for the closing prayer. He shared that in his many years of marriage, every night he and his wife have knelt together, held each other, and prayed together. There have been difficult times when they've had to carry each other through their prayers. Believers are not promised an easy life, but we are promised that God will deliver us from our afflictions if we cry out to Him in prayer. Psalm 34:17-19 says, "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." For believers who are married, what a blessing to be able to not only bring our troubles to the Lord, but to praise Him—together.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Rachel Sabo - Melissa Sabo

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

Philippians 4:7

This month we were blessed with many visiting ministers. We want to thank Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) for preaching the Word so faithfully.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr. They were involved in a car accident shortly after arriving in Florida. Also, Bro. Gene Bruellman was in for surgery. We pray that the Lord will bless their recoveries.

On February 13, we had a card shower for Bro. Erner Koehlert who was celebrating his 95th birthday.

On February 8, we were encouraged in our faith as we received godly wisdom and advice from our Elder Bros. Doug Sabo and Joe Stoller as they read the Memorandum.

On January 23-24, a formal dinner was hosted as a fund-raiser for a group of us that will be attending the March 6-14 Jamaica missions trip. We had a great turnout and we want to thank everyone for their support.

We want to extend our sympathy to Justin Ooms in the passing away of his stepfather; to George Siladie in the passing away of his

brother; to Sis. Audrey Hitz in the passing away of her mother; and to Sis. Priscilla Anliker in the passing away of her husband, Bro. Eli Anliker. Bro. Eli and Sis. Priscilla wintered in Sarasota for many years.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

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

Matthew 18:20

As our congregation is quite small in number, we certainly appreciate all those who visit us. We thank Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Jeff Streitmatter III (Sarasota, FL) for traveling many miles to come and minister to us this past month.

On February 1, we were privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum by Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We felt both humbled and encouraged as we listened to the exhortations to remain faithful and close to the Lord.

Another milestone was reached in our remodeling this past month as the carpet and pews were put in. We certainly thank the brethren from Rockville, CT who refinished and upholstered the pews and those who came from Rittman, OH to lay the carpet. May God bless all of you.

The Atlanta church is located south of the city. Take I-85 south to Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church 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**Carlene Jepson**

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). We are thankful for the Word they shared with us.

Our best wishes go to Ryan Mueller and Tammy Howard as they plan a June wedding. Parents of the couple are Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller and Tim and Mary Howard (Clinton, WI). May they seek God's guidance in all their plans.

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

While it was the cloudiest January in Bloomington-Normal since records have been kept, three beautiful rays of "sonshine" were sent to bless our church family during this reporting period. That's certainly a "Silver Lining".

Reid Douglas Gramm was born on January 28 to Brad and Sis. LuAnn Gramm. Alec and Ashlyn welcomed their new brother home. Rejoicing with them are Reid's grandparents, Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Lucille Richardson (Phoenix, AZ).

Also on the very same day, Nicolas Adair Knapp arrived to bless the family of Bro. John and Sis. Andrea Knapp. Happy grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN).

Then just a few days later on February 6, Andrew Dennis Loy was born to our converts, Matt and Barb Loy. Imagine the excitement as Amanda, Samantha, Marlana, Christopher, Michael and Ben-

jamin share in the joy of their new brother.

Praise the Lord for many answered prayers as Rachel Anderson, thought to have cancer, was diagnosed with an infection.

Continued prayers are needed for God's will in healing Helen Bauer's son, Glen, who lives in Iowa and is recovering in a hospital in Omaha, NE.

We are thankful that Sis. Tillie Nussbaum is recovering from successful knee-replacement surgery.

Our sympathy to Virginia Lockwood on the passing of her mother, Sis. Ruth Frank (Tremont, IL). We pray the Comforter will replace the sadness with the joy of precious memories.

February 8 and 15 were ACYF singings in Bloomington. What a joyous melody to the Lord. It was a great blessing to see Suzy Kieser sufficiently recovered from her car accident to attend on the 15th.

Our congregation recently gave direction to the building needs committee to pursue the sale of our church building and consider sites for a new location. This direction was arrived at through much prayer and seeking after God's will. We are reminded of the hymn that begins, "Each step I take, the Saviour goes before me, and with His loving hand He leads the way." May it ever be so.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love..."

On February 15, we were able to witness the joyful union of two hearts in marriage. Bro. Nate Young and Sis. Stephanie Challacombe took their vows in Princeville before God and many

witnesses. Bro. Nate's mother is Sis. Kate Young (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless their marriage in the days to come and give them the grace to help each other attain their heavenly reward. We welcome Sis. Stephanie to Bradford.

"The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above..."

We always appreciate our visiting ministers willing to give of themselves when they come. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was here this month to help with our reading of the Memorandum. Ministering Bros. Mike Bauman (Mansfield, OH) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) also visited us this month. We thank these brothers for sharing the Word of God with us and invite them to come back soon.

"Before our Father's throne, we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares..."

We are thankful that Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bro. Jerry) is recovering at home after a short stay in the hospital following her surgery. We are also thankful that Bro. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna) is able to again assemble with us following his surgery. May the Lord continue to heal them and grant them a complete recovery.

"We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear..."

Our prayers our with Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch at this time. Their baby grandson, Clark Steiner, has passed away. Clark's parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner (Tremont, IL). May

God's Holy Spirit comfort them and all those that mourn the loss of this precious child.

"When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again."

(Quotes taken from Hymns of Zion #156)

We will miss those in our congregation who have followed God's will to move away. Sis. Doris Gungrich has moved to Eureka and Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia Endress have moved to a location near Tremont. May God bless them in their new homes.

Brethren, may we strive for more unity in our faith. Surely, in so doing, we will have a greater opportunity to serve our Lord and reach our reward.

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

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our heart and we are never, ever the same.

—*author unknown*

Sometimes it is hard to even try to understand the timing of God, and the weekend that ended January and began February seemed to be one of those times. We were anticipating a very joyful baptism weekend when the news came that ministering Bro. Wayne Banwart's sweet, loving and lively mother had gone to sleep to awake in Heaven. Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA) had visited our church countless times over the years and was a blessing to those around her. She has surely left her

prints on the hearts of her family and many others. They are better because of her, and they will never, ever forget her influence. Following her passing, Psalm 116 was read in church and one verse in particular sounded very fitting to the time: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." We pray that God will comfort the Banwart families and friends left behind by the passing of this dear soul. There was a certain poignancy to the weekend that as one older saint was called Home, a young person was making the most important commitment of his life in the waters of baptism.

As we know, it is necessary for souls to experience that amazing saving grace from God and become converted believers if they wish to have that hope of Heaven. That story was told with a truly joyful heart as Scott Mangers (Bro. Denie and Sis. Cheryl) gave his testimony of the power of Jesus to save souls. We were reminded that despite our best planning, it is God's timetable that is most important and we must always be ready. We welcome our new brother in faith into our fold. There is a special blessing for the church when we see a young man who has been a part of our church since a small boy arise from the waters of baptism. We pray for God's continuing favor as Scott sets forth on this important role of being a leader by Christian example in the race of life.

Ministers visiting us during the past month were Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). We were also pleased that Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal, IL) was able to be with us to assist our Elder Bro. David with the bap-

tism of Scott Mangers.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager**

On Saturday, February 7, we had the privilege of coming together as a church to support and enjoy the third annual Sunday School Benefit Dinner. We were served a delicious spaghetti dinner and then enjoyed a program of songs and presentations. The proceeds of this evening will go toward the costs involved with sending the Bible Class students to Jamaica for a World Relief work project this summer. We pray that the real benefits of this dinner will have far-reaching effects in Jamaica as well as in the hearts of our young people.

We also want to come alongside in support of Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman as they grieve the death of Bro. Paul's brother, Gerald Leman, of Eureka, IL.

We have many roles to fill as brothers and sisters in the church. As a part of our recent Annual Meeting, a number of positions were filled, and we give our support to each one with a special duty—as well as our thanks to those who have completed their service. From the needs of our young people in the "prime of life", to those who are in the final stages, there are so many ways to share God's love and kindness. May each of us be encouraged to do just that.

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Darlene Walder - Beth Steffen**

We are grateful to the following brothers who came and ministered to us this past month. They are Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Robert Beebe

(South Bend, IN). Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) came to share with us an inspiring topical Bible study on cross bearing reminding us that by one man's sin came death and by one man's death comes life. Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) also did a thought-provoking topical Bible study on the subject of humility. Among many things, Bro. Dan mentioned that humility is a jewel which few people are willing to wear. We thank all these brothers for their willingness to serve us and pray God's blessings on them and their families.

Our prayers have been with several in our church family who have had surgery or been hospitalized. They are Bros. Ken Weerts, Gib Stock, Joel Hofbauer, and Sisters Tillie Rudin and Naomi Knapp. Also, Sis. Virginia Ehman returned from Florida early because of back pain. What a comfort we can find in God's Word to know God cares about us whatever we may face. Psalm 106:44 "...he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:"

We rejoice to have two new sisters in Christ. They are Sis. Renae Kaufmann (Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Emily Young (Melvin and Marilyn). We pray God will keep these new lambs safe in His tender care.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 3:9

Because of God's goodness and grace, Melvin and Marilyn Young have been lead to repentance. It is so uplifting to see souls seek their salvation. We thank God for an-

swering our prayers.

After much prayerful consideration, Mark and Sis. Dinah Wilkening returned from Russia with a very special gift--three-year-old Maria. Welcoming her to the U.S. and into their hearts are Brandon, Jared, Marissa, Micah, and Grandma Sis. Loretta Baumgartner. We pray God's blessings on this family.

Our hearts were deeply saddened January 19 when so suddenly as the result of a go-kart accident, John Edelman, 10 years old, left us for his Heavenly Home. John leaves to mourn his parents, Urb and Sis. Judy Edelman, three sisters and two brother-in-laws, Susan and Matthew Ifft, Sally and Jerrold Haas, and Julie, along with one brother, Jason. We all feel like we have lost a very special friend. But John is not really lost because we know where he is—safe in the arms of Jesus. May this thought be a comfort to John's family and may we continue to keep them in our prayers during this difficult time. This beautiful poem was shared at John's funeral reminding us that our children are just loaned to us. The last paragraph is how God would like us to respond should He call them Home sooner than we are ready for them to leave.

To All Parents

"I'll lend you for a little while, a child of Mine," He said.
 "For you to love, the while he lives and mourn when he is dead.
 It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three
 But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for Me?
 He'll bring his charms to gladden you, and tho his stay be brief
 You will have lovely memories, as solace for your grief."

"I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return,
 But there are lessons taught down

there, I want this child to learn.
 I looked the wide world over in My search for teacher true,
 And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes, I have selected you.
 Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labor vain,
 Nor hate Me when I come to call, to take him back again?"

"I fancied that I heard them say,
 'Dear Lord, Thy will be done
 For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run,
 We'll shelter him with tenderness, We'll love him while we may
 And for the happiness we've known, forever grateful stay.
 But will the angels call for him much sooner than we've planned
 We'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand."

Our prayers are with Sis. Caroline Gudeman and Bro. Joel Hofbauer in the death of their brother, Ben Hofbauer, 80, of Texas who died on January 26.

Ada Poppe, 93, formerly of Cissna Park passed away February 7.

Elmer Yergler, 85, of Peoria, departed from this life on February 9. Elmer was born and married in Cissna Park. Our sympathy is extended to each of these families as they see their loved ones leave them. What a comfort we can find in God's Word, Psalm 55:22 "...Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain thee."

We have experienced much this past month in our congregation, but in every situation, God has been faithful. May we learn to trust the Lord more and more.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
 Missy Banwart - Sandy Steiner**

What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,
 To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.
 In all the earth there is no higher

standing,
 Than this—to follow in the
 Saviour's ways.
 What all the world could never give,
 A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd
 will receive.
Zion's Harp #16

How thankful we are to welcome Tonya Scott (Sis. Janelle) as a new sister in faith. With us for this joyous occasion were Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). We pray God will bless each one for laboring on our behalf.

Nicolas Adair came to bless the home of Bro. Jon and Sis. Andrea Knapp on January 28. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Steiner are thankful for a baby boy born February 12. His name is Samuel John. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont, IL). May God bless each couple with Godly wisdom to raise these precious little ones in His ways.

Carly Hartman (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree) spent some time in the hospital and is now recovering at home. We pray she will soon be better.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts and visits when I had knee surgery. It was very much appreciated. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

In Christian love,

Sis. Martha Rinckenberger

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Peggy Heiniger** **Norma Schambach**

January 21 was our annual business meeting, a time for reflecting on our many physical as well as spiritual blessings, and being reminded of the needs of others. We appreciate the time and efforts spent on our behalf of trustee Bro. Tim Kellenberger and treasurer Bro. Keith Leman. They were replaced by Bro. Ken Kellenberger and Bro. Stan Schambach, respectively.

We bid farewell to a dear sister and aunt, Sis. Mabel Anliker, who went to her eternal Home on January 30. Our sympathy goes to her sister, Sis. Dorothy (Albert) Schambach, who also lost a brother, Bro. Eli Anliker, of Francesville, in the same week. Though our family circles diminish in size on this earth, the family circle in Heaven grows larger. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) shared many precious memories and helped us realize how blessed we are with our heritage of God-fearing families.

Grant and Jan Schrock are enjoying their little Jolene Mae who was born December 18. Bro. Mel Schrock welcomes his little granddaughter, named after the late Sis. Ada Mae and Jan's mother.

Our sympathy to Esther Koch whose sister, Sis. Viola Traub, died in Sabetha, KS.

Elgin hosted the Gateway Woods board meeting, as Bro. Sam Bachtold has completed his term as board member. We appreciate his efforts on their behalf.

Many hours of work and fellowship were enjoyed by young and old alike at our first Quilt Marathon. During the five days, we

knotted 100 comforters for various needs here and abroad. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and their committee did a great job coordinating this World Relief effort.

Sis. Kay (Bro. Earl) Steffen retired from her job as Social Services Director at our nursing home. She held this position since our home opened, and enjoyed helping the many families and residents make this difficult transition easier. Her cheerful yet compassionate personality touched many. Sis. Debbie Sauder has assumed this position.

We appreciate the many teachings brought forth through the inspired Word of God by our visiting ministers: Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). May God bless them and their families for spending the weekend with us.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA **Janet Zimmerman**

How happy when relieved we'll be
 From toils and cares of mind,
 And in that holy land so free
 Eternal rest we'll find.

Hymns of Zion #224

We were saddened by the death of our dear Bro. Sam Leman. He died on January 27. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Sis. Aldine, and to his children and grandchildren. His children are Maurice and Douglas of Germantown Hills, Kathleen Lyman, Wyckoff, NJ, and Sis. Jan Rocke (Bro. Robyn) of Eureka. We will miss Bro. Sam and his faithful example shown to us. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Rick Wuethrich (Sis. Brenda) at the passing of his father, John Wuethrich. He died on January 20.

We pray that God will comfort them in their time of sorrow.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Ted Witzig and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). May God bless each one for bringing us God's Word.

Sunday, February 1, was the happy wedding day for Bro. Nathan Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) and Sis. Tammy Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) of Fort Scott, KS. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Tammy. On February 8, we witnessed the marriage vows of our Sis. Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Brian Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) of Morton, IL. We wish both of these dear couples God's blessings and His nearness as they begin their lives together.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Naomi Peters, Bro. Tim Carr (Sis. Donna), and Sis. Denise Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy). We are thankful for God's healing hand and that each one has been able to return home. We continue to pray for them and that God will provide for their needs.

We want to thank Sis. Dori Blunier for being our Silver Lining correspondent the past six years. May God richly bless her for all of her labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and gifts I have received in the hospital and at the Eureka Nursing Home. May God richly bless each one.

Sis. Ida Belsley

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

"So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them."

Acts 15:30-32

We rejoiced to gather with the brethren at Forrest for the reading of the Memorandum on January 17. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) joined with our Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker to exhort and encourage us. How thankful and supportive we should be of this yearly letter and exhortation, even as was the multitude in Antioch. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Hebrews 12:6)

Speak the gospel of salvation,
Boldly in the wilderness!

Zion's Harp #112

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and his family visit us on their way to the mid-winter Elder Conference. Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) also served us this month. May God bless these brothers for being willing to serve in our behalf.

Two ways, o man, are there for thee;
There are two destinations...

Zion's Harp #106

Chad Welborn (Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis) has made a choice to take the narrow way. Our prayers

are with him as he has made a beginning in repentance. May God grant him grace.

We extend sympathy to Jane Bahler (Marvin) in the death of her mother, Florence Helmers. She was 100 years old. Also to Mary Edelman (Robert) in the death of her aunt, Aldine Nussbaum.

The afflictions of our time
Are not worthy of the glory
Promised in that realm sublime...

Zion's Harp #243

Bro. Marion Meiss (Sis. Barbara) and Bro. Trent Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) suffered accidents in the past month and Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Donna) and Sis. Ione Broquard (Bro. Donald) underwent surgery.

Thought for the Day: When we want to know God's will, there are three things which always concur: the inward impulse, the Word of God, and the trend of circumstances! God in the heart, impelling you forward; God in the Book, corroborating whatever He says in the heart; and God in circumstances, which are always indicative of His will. Never start until these three things agree.

—Springs in the Valley

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases,
Where God in truth abides,
When two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

Putting trust in the Lord to bind their hearts together in a three-fold cord, fifty years have transpired since two couples

exchanged wedding vows. On February 15, 1948, Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona Steffen were married in the morning at the North Side Church and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl joined hand and heart in the afternoon at the South Side Church. Both weddings were performed by our late Elder Bro. Henry Kilgus. We rejoice with them and trust the Lord will continue to guide them.

God has blessed two families in our congregation with the arrival of a new baby. Tara Louise is the new addition to the home of Bro. Keith, Sis. Nadine, Ashley, Arlen, Kyla and Kristen Edelman. Her grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OH) and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman. Bro. Brent, Sis. Sheila and Joseph Ifft are happy to have Darren David join their family circle. Darren's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Sis. Ruth Roth, Sis. Edith Zimmerman, Reuben Metz, and Bro. Leroy Koehl spent time in the hospital this past month. May the Lord grant His healing power to these and others who have recently undergone out-patient surgery and suffered illnesses.

Private funeral services were held for Lester Wiegand on February 9. May the prayers of the congregation be felt by his aunts and uncles, Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona Steffen, with whom he had lived for 10 years, Bro. Paul and Sis. Edna Wiegand, Sis. Pauline Wiegand, Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Ruth Wiegand, and Sis. Virginia Hilti.

We also extend our sympathy to Dan and Brenda Banwart in the death of his mother, Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA). During this time of sorrow, may these loved ones retain their trust in Je-

sus.

Notes of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks to our dear family and many friends for all the prayers, cards, gifts and other expressions of love shown to us for our 60th anniversary. God bless all of you.

Our sincere appreciation, Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold

I want to kindly thank my children, grandchildren, relatives, friends and also my church family for all the cards, letters and monetary gifts sent to me through the Christmas season and the year 1997. May you all be rewarded in abundance.

In Christian love, Sis. Marie Hohulin

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, cards and gifts Gene received while he was in Springfield for heart surgery and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Gene and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who extended their love to me with cards, prayers, flowers, and many other gifts of love during my recent hospital stay and since returning home. May God bless each one.

Sis. Ruth Roth

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

I Corinthians 13:12

The recent foggy weather has

brought this verse to life in our minds. In the foggy weather we can't see very far ahead, causing dangerous driving conditions and slowing us down, and we become frustrated! We live fast-paced lives, and we don't like to be slowed down. When the fog lifts, how greatly we appreciate the clear view and the sunshine! Is there a correlation to our spiritual life here? Do we become frustrated when we cannot see God's will very far ahead, causing a dangerous condition and slowing us down to wait on Him? When we are lifted from the fog of this earth, how greatly we will appreciate the clear view and the blessed Sonshine!

Although the weather has been especially dreary lately, we have lots of "sunny" news within our church family.

On January 22, Kylie Jane Ott blessed the home of Bro. John and Sis. Amy with her safe arrival. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Gale and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn Ott.

Kelsie Anne was joyfully welcomed into the family of Bro. Kevin, Sis. Kerstan, and Madison Plattner on February 15. Happy grandparents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner.

Our Sis. Missy Bauman and Bro. Greg Post of Tremont had their engagement announced on February 1. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post (Tremont, IL).

On February 15, announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Jill Zimmerman and Bro. Luke Rocke. Dean and Sis. Inge Zimmerman and Bro. Mark and Sis. Connie Rocke are beaming with the news of this upcoming marriage.

Our congratulations and pra-

yers are extended to all these new parents and engaged couples. May God continue to give you a clear view of His will.

At our February 1 Family Hymn Sing, the Inoue sisters from Bloomington shared their musical talent with us. We very much appreciated the beautiful melodies they sang—it helped us forget the gloomy weather and focus on the Sunshine of His love.

Eric Hinrichsen graduated from Marine basic training in San Diego on February 4. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda were able to attend their son's graduation and accompany him home. Like the foggy weather, we cannot see clearly what is ahead for Eric when he returns to duty, especially with the current unrest, but we pray God's nearness and protection for him. Our prayers are with his dear family to commit his safe keeping to our Heavenly Father.

Another bit of sunny news is that our Sis. Kris Bauman was able to come to church last Sunday, February 15! For two months, she has been battling the effects of meningitis, and although she may have a long recovery still ahead, we rejoice that she was able to assemble with us.

There are some in our church family wrapped in the fog of illness, injury from accident or waiting for test results. We pray that the fog will soon lift for you.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

On Wednesday evening, February 11, our congregation heard the annual Conference letter. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) was here to assist Elder Bro. Earl Ringger.

As this letter is read in more than 85 congregations nationwide,

it is surely a binding agent for the membership. It helps us all walk in a more likeminded way, and give a more consistent witness to the world.

In hearing this annual exhortation, one has to marvel at the enormous amount of mental energies—and spiritual insights—that comprise these labors. Both the Elder discussions and the composition of the letter require God-given efforts that subsequently accrue to our benefit.

The teaching, exhorting and warning of the brethren are given out of love. Our spiritual leaders serve us—and give us good advice—out of love. If we can see the "Memorandum" in such a light, it proves to be a wonderful blessing.

In our spiritual walk, we all see through a glass darkly. Not one of us has a totally clear comprehension of godly things. For this reason, we should all be thankful, and rejoice, that the contents of the annual letter are intended to illuminate our spiritual understanding. It is designed to make us stronger so we can more effectively ward off the wiles of the devil, and to better overcome until the end. May God bless the efforts of each church leader. May they be rewarded, both now and in all eternity.

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) made a topical presentation to our congregation on Wednesday evening, February 4. He spoke on the topic he presented at the Gridley Conference last August regarding what we as a church have retained from the early, first century church.

He reminded us that we take the Bible literally, and with God's help, attempt to apply its messages in a practical, consistent way. The Word is our authority, and we have no right to dismiss any of its con-

tents.

Bro. Charles explained that the nominal Christian view centers on "faith alone" and how one actually lives is rendered as relatively unimportant. In our doctrine, however, we believe (based on the Word's exhortations) in "faith and follow" and/or "faith and life". In this, we are to obey God's Word and live righteous lives. We are engaged in a two-way covenant with God to be true and faithful until life's end.

He pointed out, too, that our right standing with God is predicated on our obedience and faithfulness. This is in contrast with the error of the unconditional eternal security belief which is so prevalent in the publishing world.

Willis Aupperle was hospitalized this month with pneumonia while vacationing in Florida. Jerry Sievers was also in the hospital for surgery. We wish them both a strong recovery; and we surely enjoy their presence in church.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Beth Ehresman became the parents of their third child on February 14. She was named Jennifer Amy. She has a brother, Brian, 4, and a sister, Rebekah, 23 months. Grandparents are Gladys Ehresman, Gridley, and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat Landes, Morton. We rejoice with this family in their new addition, and pray God will be with them in the years ahead as they train them up in the Lord's ways.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney

Cheryl Wuthrich

Sis. Priscilla Pflederer was called Home on January 21 at the age of 94 years. May God comfort and bless her four sisters: Alice Hirstein, Sis. Alma Wittmer, Eloise (Babe) Carius, Sis. Nathalia

Pflederer, and her other relatives and friends.

Our dear loved one, Emma Rapp, died on January 26 at Restmor Nursing home at the age of 97 years. May the Lord comfort and bless her daughter, Dorothy Hasty; her three grandchildren; her four great-grandchildren and her other relatives.

Our dear Bro. Jim Wuthrich went to his Heavenly reward on February 5 at home surrounded by his loved ones. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Eunice; his son, Bro. Mark; his four daughters, Sis. Carol Schmidgall, Sis. Pam Heinold, Sis. Donna Massner and Sis. Mary Bertschi; his brother, Lowell Wuthrich; his 17 grandchildren and his many other relatives and friends.

February 8 found many witnessing the wedding vows of Bro. Brian Tanner (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette) and Sis. Dawn Schumacher (Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene) from Eureka. May God bless them as a new home for Christ is established. We warmly welcome Sis. Dawn to our church family.

On Sunday, February 15, we enjoyed a Pork Chop Supper sponsored by our young group. The donations will go to needy organizations. We enjoyed fellowship followed by a hymn sing. May God bless all the young people that worked to make such an enjoyable evening.

We share in the joy of the engagement of our Sis. Cherise Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Brian Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) from Wolcott, IN. We pray for their continued guidance from the Lord as they go forward together.

We wish to thank and make known our appreciation of the visiting ministers that were in Morton this month. They were Elder

Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

We are thankful Bro. David Obergfel is back in the ministry after his surgery. On February 1, he meditated on Psalm 34 and I Thess. 5. The God of the universe has time for all six billion of us and His ears are open to our cries (verse 15) and He wants to hear us. Whether we live or die, God is in control; blessed is the man that trusts in Him. None shall be desolate as we have our peace and safety in the Lord, but we must keep our focus on the cross and rejoice evermore throughout our time on earth until His return. If He is part of us, it doesn't matter what happens to us. God cannot lie and really has to care for us.

"The tongue...a time to speak and a time to keep silent" was the topic of Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for our family night service on February 4. Two ears and only one tongue! It's overuse can cause problems. We should be eager to hear and slow to speak. Publius (Acts 28:8) said he often regretted his speech but never his silence. "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise (Proverbs 10:19). Another problem is rumors and gossip. It is easier to float a rumor than sink one. When we fan its flames, we can get burnt ourselves as they lack definite sources, create harm and are difficult to retract. Evil comes from the mouth: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29). We must give an account of every idle word. No restraint of the tongue will eventually lead to tragedy. A sharp

tongue is the only tool which grows sharper with constant use. How do we control our tongue? Think first before we speak and ask whether our words are kind or cutting, necessary or needless. Preview our words, talk less and ask God for help to control our speech and get wisdom to speak. Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." We must ask for wisdom, submit to Jesus and trust Him, believing He will help us overcome, because..."He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Rev. 21:7). We thank Bro. Ted and his wife, Sis. Cindy, for visiting us and bringing us these important teachings.

Congratulations to Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa Thomas, whose third child, Andrew David, was born on January 22; and to Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Rieker for their first child, Aaron Michael, on February 3. Can you guess who our latest great-grandparents are? Luke Michael was born February 11 to Wayne II and Susan Unsicker, their second child, and we extend our congratulations to them.

For this reporting period, the following were, or still are, our hospital patients as of February 20: Elmer Binkele, Bros. Bob Haepli, Matt Obergfel, Ed Meister, Sisters Hattie and Mabel Hoerr, Martha Wagenbach, Phyllis Bennett and Dee Metzger. May they feel the concerns and prayers of many loved ones and soon be restored to health again.

Within one week, three Skylines residents were laid to rest. The first part of a familiar axiom says we must die when we are old. Are we prepared for the second part: young people can die? We mourn the death of Bro. Ernie Schneider

(94), on February 5 at the Skylines. He occasionally greeted us with "Kennst mich noch?" What a comfort to realize God always knows His own and does not forsake us in old age. May the Lord reward Sis. Anna for the loving care of her husband and fill the void in her heart and the family circle. Sis. Aldine Waibel (86) passed on to that better Home on February 10 at Proctor. She will be greatly missed by her family (she has 51 descendants), and at the Skylines, where she had resided ten years. May their hearts be comforted and the precious memories preserved. February 12 ended the long (96) and active life of Bro. Luke Heller, which brought him from Bad Reichenhall, Germany to Peoria (the last three years at the Skylines). We express our sincere condolences to his family and many friends, especially to his sons, Dick and Bob, who had been a good support to their father.

Bro. Ed Blunier (76) of Roanoke, IL, brother of Sis. Gladys Haefli, passed away on January 30 and we extend our sincere sympathy to her and her family. Bro. Connie Messerli (82) of Winthrop, MN (brother of Bro. Dan Messerli) was in a fatal car accident at Zapata, TX on January 24. His wife, Sis. Delores, was admitted to Mercy Hospital at Laredo, TX and needs our prayers for the loss of her husband and her recovery. We express our deep sympathy to the Messerli family.

God gave Israel a Theocracy, to be administered through the Levites, and when they failed, He provided 12 judges. Then they demanded a king (like their heathen neighbors had): Saul, David and Solomon, whereupon the kingdom fell apart into Judah and Israel approximately 925 B.C. "I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took

him away in my wrath." (Hosea. 13:11). Later the Messiah was not accepted by the Jews as their King and became a King to the Gentiles through events we are looking forward to observing again in a few weeks.

Note of Thanks:

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

The Ernie Schneider Family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Romans 5:1-5

A precious little son, Jason Benjamin, was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker on January 20. His brothers and sister, Nathan, Matthew, Stephen, Emily, David and Phillip welcome him home. Thankful grandmothers are Sis. Clara Braker (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Edna Martin.

First-time parents, Bro. Clint

and Sis. Bethany Plattner, rejoice in the birth of their son, Tyler Allen, who was born on February 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Maryann Herrmann. May these two families look to God for His grace and love as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Our friend, Beth Ehnle, has announced her engagement to Russ Koehl (Morris, MN). Beth is the daughter of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle and Russ is the son of Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl (Morris, MN). Beth and Russ are planning their wedding on June 13.

On February 15, Bro. Nathan Young (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Stephanie Chalecombe were united together in marriage. May God bless this couple as they begin their lives together.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. John (Sis. Lil) Elsasser, Bro. Harold Streitmatter, Sis. Marie (Bro. Leonard) Menold, Sis. Alvina Streitmatter, Sis. Cindy (Bro. Dennis) Aupperle, and Bro. Dave (Sis. Beulah) Ehnle during the time of their illness.

"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

John 12:46

May our friends, Michael Herrmann (Bro. Allen and Sis. Ross), and David Blunier (son of Sis. Joyce), be a light to those that they come in contact with as they make a beginning in the Lord through repentance.

The Pilgrim's Song

Our hearts are filled with praises;
Our zeal it does renew,
Removes all fear and doubting,

Give motives pure and true.

It has great fascination
For us on earth below,
And in all tribulation
Doth heaven's cheer bestow.

And when with troubles burdened,
We'll tell our Friend so dear.
He hears our earnest pleading;
With help He'll soon appear.

He graciously beholds us
And leads us in His way,
And joyfully we'll journey
To heaven day by day.

So let us journey onward
To heaven and the blest,
For after strife and toiling
We'll reach the land of rest.
Zion's Harp #136, vs. 5-9

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Valerie Wuthrich

Lisa Leman

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers come and share God's Word. Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) was with us one Wednesday evening. Also, Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) was with us for our monthly Bible study. We thank God for these brothers and pray they and their families are richly blessed for their labor in the Lord.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Jana Gastman were blessed with a baby girl on January 20. Kaitlyn Sue was welcomed home by big sister, Hayley. Grandparents are John and Sis. Barb Gastman and Mike Harris and Sis. Linda Harris.

We extend our sympathies to Sylvia Legel and Agnes Fehr in the death of their brother, Arthur Mischler.

We are thankful that Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) has sought the Lord and begun his walk with Him.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Mae Kae Hodel, Sis. Sara

Diggle, and Madison Leman (Bro. David and Sis. Stacy Leman).

We want to welcome into our congregation Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Hinrichsen and their four children. May they feel the continuing love of the Holy Spirit.

An Appreciation Dinner and Singing was held for our retiring ministers, Bro. Jim Leman and Elder Bro. Don Sauder. May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their many years of service for our spiritual growth.

Notes of Thanks:

We sincerely thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy in the passing of our dear father, Bro. Joe Rassi. Your support is much appreciated. May God bless each of you.

*In Christian Love,
The Joe Rassi family*

The family of Bro. Edward G. Blunier wish to sincerely thank each one of you for all your acts of love shown to him in the hospital; at the time of his death and funeral. You have all been so kind and loving, and all your prayers on his behalf were so appreciated. May God bless you all always.

Ed L. Blunier and family, Jan Blunier and family, and his brothers and sisters

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb

February 7 was the wedding day of Adam Reinbeck and Kathleen Strobe. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara Reinbeck and Paul and Sherry Strobe. We wish God's blessing on their union.

We have a newly engaged couple: Bro. Greg Post (Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Missy Bauman (Bro. Les and Sis. Helen) of Goodfield. We wish them God's special

blessings as they take this important step in life.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Karol Holmes gave birth to their fourth child, Brock Marshall, January 20. Brock has one brother, Grant, and two sisters, Jamee and Jade. Grandparents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Phyllis Holmes and Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette are the happy parents of Janelle Rose, born January 29. Nathan and Philip are her big brothers, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette and Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman (Eureka, IL) are her grandparents.

John and Misty Sauder and their girls, Willow and Echo, welcome home a new baby brother, Talon Rye. He was born February 5 and his grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and Jim and Shirley Green.

There are times God chooses to close a chapter before it has hardly begun. Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner in the death of their infant son, Clark Edward. May God comfort them during this time of deep sadness.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Jerry and Sis. Melba Hanguartner in the passing of her brother, Bro. Edward Blunier (Roanoke, IL). May God be their Comforter.

Those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized recently are Sis. Diane Koch (Bro. Scott), Sis. Miriam Frank (Bro. Marvin) and Bro. Glenn Stuber (Sis. Dorothy). We hope they feel our love and prayers.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) for coming to Tremont and helping our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder read the Memorandum to us. We pray that

the messages brought forth will be prayerfully considered.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble."

Psalms 46:1

Who of us can comprehend the power of God? Just by the power of His Word He made heaven and earth. He created everything we see and everything we can't see. He performed countless miracles such as raising Lazarus from the dead, stilling the storm and feeding the five thousand. Many times, just in the hour of deepest need, Jesus showed His great power.

With our world so messed up in sin, so far from God, and bound for hell, He saw and acted. Out of love He sent Jesus to redeem the world. By His Almighty power, God overcame Satan; crushing the power of sin and death. On Easter morning, He raised His Son victoriously.

With this same power, God again and again rescues us His children from the troubles we get ourselves into. These predicaments are also our opportunities. Jesus invites us to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). God also encourages us to "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psalm 50:15). God knows our needs. He sees and He acts. He takes care of us and He loves us. We thank and praise Thee, Lord, for using Thy Almighty power on our behalf.

Bro. Luis and Sis. Cindy Gomez are the thankful parents of Elliott Lee born January 22. Elliott was welcomed home by big sister,

Elizabeth Ann. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy Witzig (Morton, IL) and Enrique Gomez (Mexico). Also rejoicing are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold of Ixtlan Michoaccan, Mexico, with whom Luis lived for many years.

We are thankful that we can travel from one church to another and hear the Word of God spoken in truth and purity. This past month we were fortunate to have the following brothers minister to us. They are Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). Bro. Roy helped our Elder Bro. Ron Messner in the delivery of the Memorandum. Thank you for your efforts. We also thank our home ministering brothers for all that they do, and for so faithfully serving us.

We extend our sympathy to Nate and Kristen Kellenberger on the death of Kristen's father, Dennis McConnell. (Nate is the son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger of Washington.) May you be comforted as only God can comfort in the time of great loss.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Maller - Trudy Eisenmann

The days of March are upon us and we hope Spring will soon be around the corner. We have had a lot of happenings since the last issue, so let us begin. Several have begun their walk with Christ: Brenda Girod (Jack and Sis. Carla), Blaine Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann), and Matt Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue). We rejoice with all of you. Enjoying marital bliss on February 8 was Bro. Tim Franklin to Sis. Stacey Stoller (Bro. William and Sis. Kathy). We encourage you to look to your Heavenly Father each day as you

start your life together.

On January 25, we witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls. Brady Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie), Tina Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), and Ron Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie). The visiting minister who lended himself for this special occasion was Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Other ministers visiting this past month were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). Thank you very much.

In the hospital we had Joel Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Bro. Herb Frauhiger and his wife, Sis. Lucile, Bro. Norman Gerber, Bro. Ted Pfister (Sis. Rose), Hank Ifer (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Angie), Bro. Robert Gerber (Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Elaine Reimschisel (Bro. Richard), and little Taylor Maller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime). Also needing a helping hand was Sis. Lillian Isch.

As new life begins, so does life come to an end. Sis. Mary Fiechter (late Bro. Fred) whose stay on this earth was of 104 years, went Home to be with the Lord. Surviving is her daughter, Sis. Nova Kipfer, and two sons, Glen and Richard Fiechter. One daughter, Sis. Lu Moser (Bro. Ervin), also went to her resting place this month. Sis. Lu left behind her husband, Bro. Ervin, and daughter, Sis. Brenda. Also suffering a loss is Sis. Diane Tonner (Bro. William). Sis. Diane's mother, Mae Hirschy, ended her pilgrimage on earth as did Sis. Sharon (Bro. Gary) Barger's father, Warren Lawson. Our sympathy goes to all the family and friends of these dear loved ones.

Engaged to spend the rest of their lives together will be Bro. Kirt Reimschisel (Bro. Robert and Sis. Louise) to Sis. Katie Wirtz from Wichita, KS (Bro. Mike and

Sis. Lila, West Bend, IA). Bro. Jason Craighead (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay) will wed Sis. Gwen Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay). We hope as they plan their wedding day, all goes well.

Trent and Teresa Reimschisel are fortunate to be blessed with a baby girl. Victoria Laine was born on November 16, and placed in their care in January. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel.

As Easter approaches, let us all remember that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed for us all.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller

We were so thankful to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger of our Bluffton congregation with us to preach the Word. It's always a blessing to feel as though we are one church worshipping in two buildings and we enjoy seeing our Bluffton brothers here as often as possible.

We have four converts to announce this month which reminds us that the Lord is still touching hearts! Kellan Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki), Kyle Gerber (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo), Ryan Heyerly (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Roxanne) and Shaun Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg) have committed their lives to Jesus and we pray that they will be overcomers through God's grace.

Sis. Stacey Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) was united in Holy Matrimony to Bro. Tim Franklin (former Steve and Shirley) on February 8. We wish them God's richest blessings as they travel on together as one.

Bro. Jason Craighead (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Gwen Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay, Bluffton) have announced their

engagement and plan to be married on May 24. May God bless their lives as they begin their new walk together in Him!

We have laid to rest three dear souls this month. Sis. Agnes Schaefer has gone on to her eternal reward. Our prayers go out to Bro. Duane and Sis. Betsy Gerber along with her other five children and the entire Bertsch family. May they have a peace, knowing we can all be reunited someday, if we're walking with Jesus. Also, Sis. Elma Kipfer at the age of 99 years has passed from this life into all eternity. She left some dear nieces and nephews to carry on. Jane Aschliman, the daughter-in-law of our deceased Elder Bro. Sam Aschliman, has been laid to rest. May we keep these families in our prayers.

Our church family has been touched with sickness. Dear little Taylor Maller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Jamie) has been born with many obstacles to overcome. He is in the hospital and we're certainly praying for this entire family, knowing they want God's will to be done and all things are in His hands. Bro. Max Steffen (Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Louise Gerber (Bro. Carroll) have also spent time in the hospital. We realize that God is so powerful and we have so little control over our lives. We just pray that these dear loved ones can feel God's healing touch if it can be His will. We also were thankful to see Bro. Ivan Frauhiger back in church with us. It's such a blessing to be able to fellowship with the brethren!

As we at Bluffton North are hosting the mid-winter Elder Conference, we covet the prayers of our brethren. The church has so many evil forces threatening to overtake us and we need to be spiritually alert and holding up

our shepherds to God in prayer as they make decisions that will affect our future church. We are so thankful for the brothers that have allowed themselves to be used. May they feel our love and support as we continue on fighting the good fight of faith.

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

Colossians 3:17

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Lily Pelsy

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

Philippians 4:7

Our church family is rejoicing over seven souls who have found peace with God and man. They are Amber Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi), Brian Franscoviak, Tabatha and Zachary Denton (Bro. Todd and Sis. Penny), Andria Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg), Patrick and Dustin Gutwein (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Donna).

Loved ones in the hospital this month were Josiah Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Virgil Von Tobel (Sis. Viola).

We rejoice with Sis. Sharlin Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie) and Bro. Jaret Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) on their engagement.

May the Lord be near Sis. Priscilla Anliker in the passing away of her husband, Bro. Eli. We express sympathy also to their sons, Bro. Ron (Sis. Vicky) and Bro. Wendell (Sis. Karel). May God comfort Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emilie) also as they laid to rest his brother, Bro.

Eli, and sister, Sis. Mabel Anliker (Elgin, IL).

May God bless our Sis. Debbie Anliker as she has moved to Indianapolis.

We thank Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for sharing the Word of Life to us.

May the grace of God be with each of the brethren with a new responsibility: Assistant Superintendent - Bro. Doug Leman; Sunday School teachers - Bros. Brent Gutwein, Chad Huber, Earl Johns, Dave Westfall, Sisters Becky Gudeman, Shannon Huber, Valerie Leman, Julie Westfall; Church Trustee - Bro. Harv Gutwein; Church remodeling committee - Bros. Dale Gudeman, Jeff Tanner; Ushers - Bros. Dale Pelsy, Brad Wuethrich; Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Curt Leman; Parkview Haven Board - Bro. Harold Fritz; Local Missionary committee - Bro. Elmer Bucher; World Relief Rep. - Bro. Phil Gutwein.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, gifts, and many acts of kindness shown to us during the illness and passing of our husband and father, Bro. Eli Anliker. May God richly bless you for the love and support given in our time of sorrow.

Sis. Priscilla Anliker and family

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Dotterer

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven over Bill Bradford Jr. (Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail) and Jenny Cook (Bryan Cook) who have made the decision to live for Christ.

On February 4, we held our annual business meeting. Voted into office are: Trustees - Bros. Ron

Gress and Jim Bucher; Usher - Bro. Matt Waibel; Missions Coordinators - Bros. Bill Bradford and Eric Zeller; and Silver Lining correspondent - Sis. Gail Bradford.

We thank Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for coming and sharing the Word with us.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"If any brother has greetings, now would be the time to extend them." Lester, Alto, Remington, Chicago, Latty, Smithville, West Bend, Eureka, Forrest, South Bend, Junction, Congerville, Tremont and Francesville were the many churches extending greetings on the Sunday that Molly Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) became our new sister in the Lord. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) proclaimed the Word of God on this joyful day.

A difficult time has come into the life of Sis. Mary Gudeman, wife of our deceased Bro. Art, as she moved into the Parkview Haven facility in Francesville. This lovely, mild sister is in our prayers as she has left her warm, familiar home for another warm home with the inevitable new adjustments.

Rachel Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) has endured a time of illness in the hospital. Many prayers and much love surround the Feller family as Rachel continues treatment. We are thankful that Sis. Luann Troxel and Sis. Lina Bock are feeling better.

On the Sunday that Sis. Lucille Nuest celebrated her 80th birthday, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), her nephew, ministered the Holy Word of God. Bro. Gene stated that he doesn't understand auto mechanics, yet he believes a

car works. So it is with the Word of God, that there are times we do not understand every Word, but without a doubt, we believe it works!

One of the special attributes of Sis. Lucille, along with other sisters and brothers who are seasoned in the faith, is that they are willing to partake in the events of our younger, single brothers and sisters. Their love and examples are priceless, vital, and respected. This was again evident as our single group hosted a blessed weekend of fellowship with several Ohio single groups.

Praise and thanks wend Heavenward to our loving Father for each brother and sister in this precious faith. The vibrance of the singing; the harmony of the fellowship are deeply inspiring, plus spiritually invigorating, as we share each weekly day of rest.

Today is the Lord's day!
His blessings rich are freely shed
in gracious streams upon my head.
A peace divine, a heavenly rest,
descends from God into my breast
upon this blessed day...

Hymns of Zion #299

INDIANA, LAYFAYETTE

Gordon Gerber

We were blessed recently to have Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) provide us with scriptural truths from the Word of Life. Each time we gather to study God's Word together, we can find new inspirations that lead us closer to our true Home. May God richly bless these brothers for their willingness to be with us.

Our group meets on Thursday evenings at the Fellowship Center in Lafayette, with song service beginning at 7:30 p.m. We alternate

between Purdue Fellowship services and regular mid-week church services. If you would like to join us or obtain a schedule, please contact Bro. Neal Widmer (765) 497-4709 for more information. We welcome you in Christian love to our gatherings.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

We enjoyed hosting a group of college age young people February 8. A blessed time of worship and fellowship was experienced that weekend.

Other visitors were families of Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), and Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ). The last two visited on Wednesday evenings. Bro. Dan spoke on "Humility" at the monthly topical Bible study. We appreciated the humility in the ministering of the Word from all these brothers.

Our prayers are with Sis. Thelma Schlatter who was hospitalized following a heart attack while visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Colleen and Arnie Moser, in South Carolina. She is now out of ICU and her condition is stable. Sis. Helen Zimmer is staying with her daughter, Diane Souder, until she recovers from pneumonia. May both of our sisters feel our Saviour's presence and healing touch.

We have had several messages from Philippians. I feel the thoughts from this book convey the theme suggestions for this month.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that

are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." (Phil. 1:9-11). "...that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel..." (Phil. 1:27). How can we strive together with one mind (likeminded), being of one accord? In Christ, and only in Christ "...Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8). As I think of these verses, I realize how much more I need to give up self to the direction of the Holy Spirit. "...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Phil. 2:3).

As we look for spring, may we also be watchful for Christ's return. Jesus is coming.

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Linda Beer - Renee Beer**

On January 31, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) assist our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer with the reading of the Memorandum and lovingly exhort us to hold fast to the sound doctrine of our faith.

We appreciated having these ministering brothers spend a weekend with us: Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Glenn Riggensbach (Smithville, OH) and Glenn Price, Jr. (Sarasota, FL). Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) also spent

a Saturday evening with us speaking on Evolution. May God richly bless each of you for your willingness to be used in His service.

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

On February 14, we rejoiced with Michael Kohl and Kathy Price (Bro. Glen and Sis. Kate) as they were joined together as husband and wife. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

We think of our loved ones who had outpatient surgery, have been hospitalized, or continue to experience difficult health: Sis. Mary Ann Haab (Bro. Art), Sis. Esther Getz, Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Alvin Haab (Sis. Carol), Bro. Elmer Hartter and Sis. Melba Hunsberger. May each one continue to feel the Lord's healing hand.

The Lord has once again blessed our Elder brethren as they assembled in Bluffton for the mid-winter Brotherhood Conference. May we be attentive to the instructions and conclusions that they bring forth.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Patti Bahler**

"But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live."

Ezekiel 18:21-22

Because of God's perfect love, He is merciful to those who recognize their sin and turn to Him in repentance. Our hearts rejoice with thanksgiving as two more souls have acknowledged their need for a Saviour. Angela Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) and Lea Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) have begun their repentance. Our prayers are with Angela and Lea as they seek the Kingdom of God. May they find the true peace that only our Lord Jesus Christ can give.

We thank each of our visiting ministers for lending themselves in the service of the Lord. We benefited from hearing Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We also thank our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for sharing an afternoon with us again.

On February 14, Brent Waibel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Arleta) and Heather Balensiefer were united in marriage. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold

Sue Beebe

Peace and Unity! These are beautiful words which describe an atmosphere of which we would all like to be a part. In fact, we are called upon by our Lord and Saviour to live "as one" in harmony so that the world could come to know God. What a responsibility! Jesus prayed for us by saying, "...Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (John 17:11). And in John 17:23, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast

loved them, as thou hast loved me." Can there be a nobler reason for walking together as one in the Lord?

Further encouraging us along the path of life, and toward living in unity was the summary of the Brotherhood Conference which was brought to us on January 28 by our dear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN).

Our heartfelt sympathy and love is extended to our dear convert, Ben Flis, upon his dad's passing away on January 24.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime we'll understand.

Then trust in God through all the days;

Fear not for He doth hold thy hand.
Though dark thy way, still sing and praise,

Sometime, sometime, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

We enjoyed an evening of singing hymns with the Milford brethren on January 25, and thank them for their kind invitation.

Our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) for bringing us the Word on February 8. May God's blessings be upon him and Sis. Deb for sharing the day with us.

We were uplifted in spirit through the fellowship and love shown to us by a group of brethren from Francesville who traveled to be with us on February 15.

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

Zion's Harp #237

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

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

Proverbs 6:23

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) ministered unto us from God's Holy Word this past month. Also, our home Bro. Gene Lehman presented a Bible topic on the church of Sardis in the Book of Revelations. We appreciate these brothers' willingness to give of their time in God's service.

Our prayers have been with Fran Klopfenstein and Sis. Josephine Farney as they have both suffered from falls recently. We hope that they will soon feel back to normal and be enjoying usual mobility again.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

Bro. Brian Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Cherise Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl, Morton, IL) announced their engagement on February 15. We pray that they will continue to see the Lord's will as they plan for their lives together. May God bless them throughout this special time.

Many thoughts and prayers have been uttered for our Sis. Elaine Bahler (Steve) and Marilyn Albrecht (Roger) over the passing of their father, Bro. Eli Anliker (Francesville, IN). May we remember that "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal", and may the Holy Spirit be their constant Comforter in the days ahead.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Karla Gerst

Only he is called a brother
 Whom the tie of love does bind;
 And the love of God, the Father,
 Filleth soul and heart and mind.

Zion's Harp #237

This past month we were blessed with the opportunity to hear the testimonies of two dear souls and welcome Sis. Julie and Sis. Brenda Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen) into the fold. We are very thankful for the many visitors who shared the weekend with us. Among them were Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA).

Other visiting ministers who brought us the Word this month were Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). We pray that God will richly reward them for their labors in Him.

Inspire, O Lord, each servant
 With love and ardor fervent
 Thy gospel to proclaim;
 That, prompted by Thy Spirit,
 They work and toil with merit
 Unto the glory of Thy name.

Thy messengers Thou sendest,
 By them to us extendest
 The living Bread of heav'n.
 That none of us may perish,
 Arouse our hearts to cherish
 The grace and healing to us given.

Give faithful servants ever
 Who have but one endeavor,
 Thy Gospel to proclaim;
 Who heed Thy Spirit holy
 And strive and labor solely,
 O, Lord, to glorify Thy name.

Zion's Harp #207

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

A blessed evening was shared together as the Memorandum was

read and expounded upon, so lovingly, by Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). How needful it is to be forewarned of the dangers about us and to be reminded of God's commandments and the traditions upheld by our precious faith. In St. John 14:15 we find these words of our Lord: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." And in II Thess. 2:15 we are reminded to "Stand fast, and hold the traditions which we have been taught."

When we asunder part
 it gives us inward pain
 But we shall still be joined in heart,
 and hope to meet again.

We share together in their loss as Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro. Charles) and Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Lon) and their families bid their earthly farewell to mother and grandmother, Sis. Betty Banwart (Bro. Albert, West Bend, IA). As we weep with those who weep, may we also rejoice with Sis. Betty as she now can lay her armour down and rest in the arms of her Saviour.

Noah Metzger was also recently called from this earthly life and our sympathy is extended to his surviving brothers, Eli of Chatfield, MN and John of Clermont; and also, his sister, Sis. Kati Grimm (Bro. Paul) of Sabetha, KS, and many nieces and nephews.

Mildred Schupbach (George) recently spent a few days in the hospital and we are thankful she is able to be home again.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Delores Reinhard

"There is nothing in life God won't help us overcome."

We have been blessed with

many teachings from the Scriptures by visiting ministers. We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Bro. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), and Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA).

An expression was made by one of our visiting ministers that to me really stuck on. He said "We as Christians should be out in this world as "lights", not as "loud-speakers". I had to think on this and ask myself "Which one am I?"

We have had a lot of flu and sickness this winter with different ones in our congregation. We pray for God's healing and strength to be with each one so we can all assemble together once again.

Prayers are the Stairs to God

Prayers are the stairs
 We must climb every day,
 If we would reach God
 There is no other way,
 For we learn to know God
 When we meet Him in prayer
 And ask Him to lighten
 Our burdens of care—
 So start in the morning
 And, though the way's steep,
 Climb ever upward
 'Til your eyes close in sleep—
 For prayers are the stairs
 That lead to the Lord,
 And to meet Him in prayer
 Is the climber's reward.

On January 24, Sylvia Webber of Pella, IA and Mark Zuiderveen from Davenport, IA exchanged wedding vows and began their walk of life together. May love, joy, and peace abound through this union of hearts. Sylvia is the daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Jan Webber and Mark's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Zuiderveen.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Sharon Gerst**

We extend our thanks to all the visitors we have had this past month. Among them were many visiting ministers who shared the Gospel message with us. They were Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

We welcome back into our area Jeni Kellenberger, who is attending the University of Iowa in Iowa City. We regret if there is any others we have overlooked. We welcome each of you and hope to be able to worship and fellowship with you during your stay in the Iowa City area.

On the weekend of February 14-15, Sis. Amy Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) was brought into the fold. Sis. Gwen Bruellman also became part of God's family in West Bend on this weekend. It is such an encouragement to see the love and joy of a new child of God. It is also a reminder of what our goals and priorities in this life should be.

A new member of the Body of Christ is also a responsibility for the older sheep of the fold. As older members, we are responsible to be a good example and not lead the new lambs astray. As brothers and sisters, we have the duty of being our brother's keeper. We should be willing to help each other along this narrow pathway of life as we strive for that heavenly goal.

I need the prayers of those I love,
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged
way,
That I may true and faithful be,
And live for Jesus every day.

I need the prayers of those I love,
To help me in each trying hour,
To bear my tempted soul to Him,
That He may keep me by His power.

I want my friends to pray for me.
To hold me up on wings of faith,
That I may walk the narrow way,
Kept by our Father's glorious grace.

I want my friends to pray for me,
To bear my tempted soul above,
And intercede with God for me,
I need the prayers of those I love.
Hymns of Zion #201

IOWA, LESTER**Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold**

We are thankful for our ministers who bring us the message of salvation, and pray that God will bless them and their families. Visiting ministers were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Trent Knobloch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Heather Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary) were united in Holy Matrimony on February 1. We wish them much happiness, and pray that God will be the center of their marriage.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Deb Metzger (Bro. Tom) on the death of her grandmother.

Our prayers are with those who suffer bodily affliction. Bro. Ed Roeman (Sis. Amelia) was a hospital patient. Lois DeHaan (Bro. Tim) and Bro. Dale Knobloch (Sis. Mary Ellen) were surgical patients. Bro. Dale has experienced some complications and remains hospitalized at this time. We pray that God will comfort and heal where it is His will.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, prayers, visits, flowers and gifts of

love while in the hospital and since returning home. God bless each of you.

Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Melody Steiner****Debbie Wagenbach**

We rejoice in the new life that God has created in five dear souls. We welcome into the fold our new sisters-in-faith, Christy and Lanae Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy), Holly Hay (Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie), Denise Lanz (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Janet) and Bethany Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June). We shared a very blessed weekend and would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ed with his duties.

We offer our best wishes to Bro. Chad Kuntz (Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra) and Sis. Natalie Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy) on their engagement. We know that as they plan for this second most important step in their lives, they will look to God for His wise and perfect direction.

Several from our congregation have suffered illness and hospitalization in the past month. We pray for their recovery. We also know of loved ones coping with serious illness. We pray that God will stand mightily by them and their families as they face the last enemy. "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (I Cor. 15:26). We have to remember that the Bible goes on to say that "...Death is swallowed up in victory." (I Cor. 15:54). Let us rejoice for all those who have diligently striven and gained this eternal victory!

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Grace Enough For Me

In looking thro' my tears one day,
I saw Mount Calvary;
Beneath the cross there flowed a
stream
Of grace enough for me.
While standing there, my trembling
heart,
Once full of agony,
Could scarce believe the sight I saw
Of grace enough for me.
When I beheld my ev'ry sin
Nailed to the cruel tree,
I felt a flood go thro' my soul
Of grace enough for me.
When I am safe within the veil,
My portion there will be,
To sing thro' all the years to come
Of grace enough for me.
Tabernacle Hymns #211

We are so thankful Eugene and Lana Joos have found God's grace to repent and now confess peace. Parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Joos and Philip and Cathy Garret.

We appreciate all who visit our congregation, especially those who are called upon to speak God's Word. We wish to thank Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) for being with us this past month.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr

Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine), Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan) and family, and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara) and family, all of Lamont-Gridley, KS spent a recent Sunday with us. We appreciated their willingness to serve us in expounding the Word in truth and purity.

We rejoice with Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) who has confessed peace and we look forward to her testimony and

baptism in March.

Along with many of our loved ones who have been ill at home, Sis. Ida Schmidt, Randal Metzger (Dawn) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg have all spent time in the hospital for medical care. Jill Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb) was hospitalized for injuries from a sports accident.

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy Knobloch on the January 18 arrival of Larae Ann. Jordan and Andrea are delighted with their new little sister. Grandparents are Sis. Lauretta Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

The death angel has called Home two dear ones from our congregation who will be greatly missed by all of us. We offer the families our deepest sympathy and prayers. May they feel God's loving arms around them in their many lonely days ahead.

Bro. Edwin Wirtz (Lucille) passed away on January 14. Left to mourn his passing are his dear wife, Lucille; sons, Keith (Sandi), Havelock, IA; Ron (Carole), Emmetsburg, IA; and daughter, Pam Lyon (Virgil), Boone, IA; along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also surviving are brothers, Bro. Verner (Sis. Betty), West Bend; and Paul (Bev), Chrystal Lake, IA; and sisters, Lydia Edwards, West Bend; and Adeline Spencer, Hanlontown, IA.

Sis. Betty Rose Banwart (Bro. Albert) was called suddenly from her earthly home on January 30. She will be missed deeply by Bro. Albert and sons, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Charlen), Mahomet, IL; Daniel (Brenda), Forrest, IL; Bro. Leo (Sis. Tami), Burlington, IA; daughters, Sis. Rebecca Virkler (Bro. Andy), Lowville, NY; Sis. Rose Grimm (Bro. Wayne), West Bend; Sis. Sue Schneider (Bro.

Charles), Elgin, IA; and Sis. Sandra Butikofer (Bro. Lon), Manchester, IA; and her 22 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Her empty spot will also be felt by brothers, Bro. Ed Zaugg (Sis. Helen) and Richard Zaugg (Dorothy), both of West Bend; and sisters, Leah Frank (Kenneth), Battle Creek, MI; Eva Banwart and Sis. Elma Mogler, West Bend; and Ruby Besch (Bob) of Rodman, IA. Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) also supported our home ministers with prayers at the funeral of Sis. Betty Rose.

Along with the many tears of sadness that we shed together, we also can share the tears of joy along with Sis. Gwen Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne) as she gave her testimony of what God has done for her. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) with us to share this most important work along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm. We welcome Sis. Gwen into the fold as a new sister in the Lord. We ended our wonderful weekend together by listening to our brethren share the reading of the Memorandum with us. May we as the sheep be willing and submissive to the kind and timely warnings that our shepherds instruct us through the Holy Spirit.

We apologize for an error in our January news. Fellowship Center trustee is Bro. John Schmidt (Sis. Paula) who succeeded Bro. Melvin Fehr (Sis. Glenna).

JAPAN, SHIODA
Willis Ehnle

On February 1, my wife, Lois, and I went to our Tokyo church and Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie

Inoue came to our Shioda church. We exchange churches the first Sunday of every other month and enjoy the opportunity to meet the loved ones in each other's churches.

On Wednesday, February 11, some of our members from Tamahata and Shioda went to our Tokyo church for our annual church conference. Bro. Akito and I covered some of the contents of the Memorandum from the previous August Conference in the States, and in the afternoon we sat around a table and talked about things which pertain to our church here in Japan. Also, Bro. Akito extended many greetings from different churches in Hungary where he recently spent one week. Lois and I also have many fond memories of our visit to Hungary about ten years ago.

We appreciate prayer for Sis. Misawa who now has a heavy cross of caring for her husband, who is no longer able to care for himself.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Chris Aberle

Greetings of Christian love from Tokyo.

The members from Shioda and Tokyo churches enjoyed gathering together on February 11 for the annual church conference meeting in Tokyo church. We all had lunch together and then discussed various aspects of the conference message and how we as individuals could better support and strengthen the church body.

In the past several months, Bro. Andy Klaus went to China for two weeks and also on a business trip to Arizona for one week. Bro. Akito also went on a business trip to Europe for three weeks. As a small congregation, we really miss those who can't worship with us on Sun-

day.

This is an exciting time for Japan as a country because we are hosting the 1998 winter olympics in Nagano. It took billions of dollars and many, many hours of preparation for this event. The athletes from around the world have been training daily and will push themselves to the limit in attempts to obtain the prestigious gold medal.

In Philippians 3:14, Paul writes, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." How is our spiritual training going? Are we training daily and pushing ourselves to the limit to glorify God? Are we strengthening ourselves in the Word and pressing toward our eternal goal?

The glory the athletes will receive from the medals and worldwide attention is short-lived. If we as Christians persevere, we are promised eternity in Heaven at the end of our earthly race. So let's press on for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

KANSAS, BERN

**Lori Baumgartner
Holly Meyer**

Greetings to all! At the time of this writing, we are experiencing yet another cloudy, dreary day. It seems we've had very few days with sunshine this winter, and are greatly anticipating the arrival of spring! Regardless of whether or not the sun is shining, we always know the Son is shining if we but only seek Him and call upon His name.

We've had two special occasions this month and therefore were blessed with visiting ministers. The Memorandum was read to Bern and Sabetha with the help of Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis.

Clara, Pulaski, IA) on January 24. A thought from the evening that we all can work on: If you wouldn't say something to a person's face, don't say it at all. Pretty basic advice, but to really live it can be quite a challenge! Invite-a-friend weekend was held on February 14-15. We were so thankful to have Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois Allenbach (Kiowa, KS) among the many visitors and appreciated him ministering to our full congregation on Sunday. Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) also were with us as they visited their family for a weekend. We thank these willing brothers and invite them back again soon.

Bro. Wilhelm Metzger has spent some time in the hospital and our friend, Arlene Bauman, had to return to the hospital after suffering a stroke this month. May they, and others in our congregation who have needed medical help, feel God's healing touch.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Anna Ulmer in the death of her brother, Raymond Ulmer, who passed away at the age of 74. She had lovingly cared for him many years in her home and he was believed to be one of the oldest living persons with Downs Syndrome.

As one life ends, another one begins...Travis Allen was born on February 11 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey. Big sister, Hannah, welcomes him home along with grandparents, Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Eugene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha, KS). May they receive Godly wisdom as Abraham of old:

"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord..."

Genesis 18:19

God continues to lead souls together in His time. We are happy to report that Gail Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) is engaged to Robbie Nutter (Ralph and Linda, Valley Center, KS). Sis. Natalie Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) was announced to Bro. Jason Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) of Taylor, MO. May these two dear couples feel Thy presence and our love as they prepare for their July weddings.

Ministering Bro. Jim Kaeb and Bro. Adrian Strahm have both returned from work projects in Haiti. We are so thankful for the opportunities to serve others here and abroad, and praise God for granting both brothers traveling mercies as they labored for Him.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

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

Proverbs 18:22

On February 1, we were blessed to witness the union of Sis. Tammy Sinn (Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Nathan Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) of Eureka, IL. May God continue to bless this union of hearts as they walk this life on earth as one in Christ.

We would like to thank the ministers and their wives that traveled to be with us this month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar, MO), Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser (Lester, IA) and Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti (Lamar, MO). May God richly bless them for serving us.

Along with joy there is often sor-

row. Our prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr on the passing of Ruth's sister-in-law, Sis. Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA). We also include Sis. Marie Zaugg in our prayers, as Betty was her cousin. May all of Betty's family feel God's nearness in this time of special need.

Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) were present to help Elder Bro. Charles read the Memorandum. May we all take what we heard to heart and by God's grace grow closer to Him and each other. We want to thank these dear brothers and their wives for sharing with us. May they feel God's nearness as they shepherd the flocks that He has entrusted to them.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling

O Father hand, that guides me so
securely,
O Father eye, that watches over me!
O Father heart, that hears my
pray'r so surely,
And thinks of me in love and charity!
Conduct me further on my pilgrim
journey,
The narrow way that leads to
Heav'n above;
And make me worthy of that life
eternal,
Alike in sore distress, in peace and
love.

O my Redeemer, who for me expired
And purchased me with His own
precious blood!
Who pardon from all Sin for me
acquired,
That now my heart can rest in peace
with God!
Deliver me from all distress and
worry,
And from all bondage fully make me
free;
In conflict with the cunning
adversary,
Be Thou the hero who gives victory.

O Holy Spirit, who with gentle
prompting
Dost comfort, chasten, and impel to
prayer!
Who perfect peace and holy
understanding,
Faith, hope and love from God to
me doth share!
O govern me; impress on me the
likeness
Of Jesus and the seal of
brotherhood.
O, fill my heart with peace and
pray'rful silence,
A holy temple of the Living God.
Zion's Harp #180

God, our precious Father. Jesus, His Son and our Saviour. The Holy Spirit, our Guide. Tell me, what more could we ask for in life than to have these three in one to walk with us. In every situation we are a majority. Sometimes, when I look around at the moral and spiritual decay, I want to cry out "It doesn't have to be this way!" God is real; He's alive and He has not changed. We just have to open our hearts, let Him in and allow His power to work in our lives. Don't give up dear ones. Now more than ever before, this world needs true witnesses and lives dedicated to God's work and will. And may we serve Him with reverence, but also with joy and praise. When we go to church on Sunday or Wednesday night, what is our attitude? Do our shepherds, and ministers of the Gospel and our friends look upon a happy countenance, or a sour one? Do they hear joyful singing, or dull and lifeless? Satan would love to see us become slack in our walk, and cause our light to become dim; but just remember, we have Someone greater than this deceiver. Namely, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; and they will never let us down!

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) was with us for

our annual meeting this past month and the blessings were all ours to have them in our midst; to share the Gospel with us, and to encourage us to take up our work in the church and in the Lord, thus keeping this precious Faith an ever shining beacon in a dark world. We truly appreciate our shepherds who give of so much of their time to the Lord's work!

Our prayers of love are with several of our dear sisters in the Lord who were hospital patients this past month. Sis. Mildred Farney underwent heart surgery. She is doing very well at this time, though still in the hospital. Sis. Edna Reed is still recuperating from the broken hip and pelvic bones. She says she truly appreciates the cards she receives. They are on her wall for her to enjoy every waking hour. Sis. Sophia Kircher was also in the hospital for a short stay, and we are happy to say is again able to be in our midst. May God give each a measure of His strength.

We had many gone from our midst this past Sunday for various reasons, and it was our turn to hold services at the Home. The few who were able to be there were greatly appreciated, and the blessings bountiful.

Be joyful in the Lord. A smile is one gift that doesn't cost anything, but can make someone else's day just a little bit brighter!

KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord..."
Isaiah 1:18

Recently I heard an Elder brother speak on keeping peace

and unity among the brethren. He encouraged us to complement one another so that we may work together as one in the Lord. Let us strive to reason together so that if there is any strife or division among us, it might be worked out in love.

We will miss Bro. Korbin Beyer as he recently went to Detroit, MI for an internship.

Our sincere thanks goes to Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti in reading the Memorandum.

On January 27, we held our annual business meeting. Our prayerful support is extended to those who have been elected to hold new offices and we thank those who have faithfully served in the past.

We always appreciate the visiting brothers who share God's Word with us. This month they included Elder Bro. Marvin Le-man (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO).

Hospital or surgery patients this month are Sis. Elsie Lambert, Sis. Lois Meyer (Bro. Eli), Sis. Edna Somerhalder, and Bro. Carl (Sis. Louise) Engle. May they continue to look to the Lord for strength in their afflictions.

Sis. Viola Traub was called Home to be with her Heavenly Father on February 8. May the Lord comfort her family in their time of sorrow.

David Grimm passed away February 16. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Leona, and his family. Local family includes a daughter, Yvonne Althouse; a sister, Sis. Irene Lehman (Bro. Andy); and two brothers, Wilbur and Bro. Paul.

While spending the winter in Florida, Bro. Willard and Sis.

Eloise Bahr were involved in a car accident. We are thankful for God's protecting hand as they escaped serious injury.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express deep appreciation for all cards, gifts, flowers and especially prayers, received while hospitalized for spinal surgery. May each be richly rewarded.

Sis. Edna Somerhalder

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) ministered to us on a Wednesday evening in January. We appreciate the fact that he and Sis. Phyllis were willing to include a stop in Wichita in their travel plans. We invite more of you to do the same.

Also, in January we heard the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Kirt Reimschisel to Sis. Katie Wirtz. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Louise Reimschisel of Bluffton, IN and Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz of West Bend, IA.

On a recent Sunday, the ministering brother discussed our need to develop a patient attitude. So often, when things go wrong, we question why we were born. The answer to that is that we were born for eternal life. Then this Sunday, during afternoon service, a brother selected #116, "The Faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ". After we sang four verses, instead of closing the book, I read on through the remaining verses and felt the seventh verse complimented the reason we are born. Jesus wants us to be with Him in eternity.

This Shepherd ne'er forsakes His
 fold
 In joy nor yet in sorrow,

But shares to us His love untold
 Each day and each tomorrow.
 Then let us follow to the end
 And with Him enter heaven's land.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Doug and Rebecca Germann

Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly
 whole;
 I want Thee forever to live in my
 soul;
 Break down every idol, cast down
 every foe;
 Now wash me and I shall be whiter
 than snow.
Hymns of Zion #210

This past month we were surprised with a beautiful snowfall of around 18 to 20 inches over a two day period and most everything in the I-75 corridor was closed for several days. The beauty of the pure white snow was a reminder of God's Almighty power and His ability to make a sin sick soul whiter than snow through the blood of our Saviour, Jesus.

We are thankful that yet another soul wishes to have that atonement for his former life and to be made whiter than snow. We wish God's blessings upon our friend, Alex Neukomm, as he begins his walk upon the narrow way. He is the son of Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm.

In addition, we want to thank Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN) who served us from the Word of Life. And Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN) also spent a Wednesday evening of fellowship with our congregation. Other visitors were from Taylor, MO; Rittman, OH; and Atlanta, GA. Many thanks to our visitors for the fellowship.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner

Michelle Oesch

Love is something eternal—the aspect may change, but not the essence. There is the same difference in a person before and after he is in love as there is in an unlighted lamp and one that is burning. The lamp was there and it was a good lamp, but now it is shedding light, too, and that is its real function.

—*Vincent Van Gogh*

On December 20, 1997, we celebrated the marriage of Rachel Schrenk (Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathy) to Rob Cadwallader (Tom and Kathy Deason). We wish Rob and Rachel many special blessings as they begin their lives together. We apologize for missing this news before.

The evening of January 16 we held our annual business meeting. These positions were filled: Bro. Jim Blough (Sis. Julie) as a trustee; Sis. Michele Blough (Bro. Martin) on the World Relief Committee; Bro. Wes Daniels (Sis. Sue) and Bro. Vernon Meyer (Sis. Carol) as ushers; Sis. Cathie Schrenk (Bro. Duane) and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Bro. Howard) on the kitchen committee; Sis. Kristen Plattner (Bro. Howard) to write the Silver Lining; and Bro. Terry Steffen (Sis. Laurie) as secretary. Each job, no matter how small, if done in service to the Lord, is sure to bring a blessing and His help is but a prayer away.

We rejoice with David and Tanya Steffen at the birth of their new little blessing. Brooke Lyn arrived January 27. The excited grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen and Judy Haglund and Ted Carlson.

The evening of February 14, the teens held a Valentine's Auction to benefit World Relief. The teens

auctioned off a dessert they had made or their services for the day. It was a fun evening and thanks go out to everyone who gave of their time and gifts.

Many prayers went with them as our Elders gathered together for the Elder Conference recently. It gives us grateful hearts to know that their hearts and prayers are united to guard against Satan's many attacks on our faith.

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

II Thess. 2:15

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel -
Peggy Jackson

Two men were talking together. "Come, I will show you [bondage]" said the one. They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew. Everyone was famished and desperate. Each held a spoon that reached the pot but had a handle so long that it could not be used to reach their mouths. The suffering was terrible. "Come, now I will show you [true peace]" said the first man. They entered another room, identical to the first—the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long spoons. But there, everyone was happy and nourished. "I don't understand," said the second man. "Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room and everything was the same?" The first man smiled, "Ah, but don't you see?" he asked. "Here they have learned to feed each other." (Thomas F. Crum "Bits & Pieces")

Jesus said, "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I

am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

John 13:13-14

Our prayer is that in this month each of us would look only to serve one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. What a difference it could make!

Sometimes in life we experience difficulties and sorrow and when these touch people close to you, you feel it too. This month we lost several people in our congregation. Sis. Anna Magyar went Home to be with the Lord and we extend our sympathies to her family. Sis. Minnie Freidinger took Jesus' hand and laid down her armor in February. Our deepest sympathy to Sis. Maxine Virkler (Elder Bro. Andrew) and her sisters, Audrey (Detroit, MI) and Dee (Bluffton, IN), in the loss of their mother, Sis. Minnie. Kenny Meylan (Karen) also passed away and we extend heartfelt condolences to his family as well.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) and Gerry Meier (Sis. Edie). Our prayer is that the Lord will touch their bodies and restore them to a full measure of health if it could be His will.

May God bless you in this new month and remember to serve one another in the Lord. God bless you!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes - Kristie Meyer

After a long and cold winter, we can finally see the signs of spring. The weather becomes milder, we see rain falling instead of the snow, the days gradually become longer. As the weather and world around us are changing, there are also changes here in our Detroit congregation.

Our prayers and consolation go out to Dorothy Leman (Chuck) in the loss of her uncle, Bro. Ed Blunier (Roanoke, IL). Feelings of loss and sympathy also go out to the families of Sis. Anna Magyar and Sis. Minnie Freidinger who both spent time in our Woodhaven Home. In my daily devotional, there is a quote from a noted atheist. When he was dying, he asked one of his relatives for a lighted candle to be placed in his hand. "Why a lighted candle?" asked the concerned relative. "Because I am afraid to go out into the dark," was the reply. How blessed we are to not have to fear the darkness of death for we have the light of our Lord and Saviour to lead our way.

A special weekend was shared when our new Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie Dawson shared their testimony with us. It was spiritually uplifting to hear them share their experience as a married couple and we wish for them a beautiful life in our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Billie, from our Fort Lauderdale church for making the trip to assist in this blessed work.

Prayers are with Sis. Diane Kaisner as she recovers from some fortunately minor surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are always with those who are in pain or are suffering from illness.

Thanks are extended to those from our Detroit congregation who were moved to lend a hand to the work being done in Haiti: Bro. Mike Reinhard, Sis. Dorine Kurkowski, and Sis. Harriet and Sis. Brenda Orcsik. Bro. Tom Hitz is to follow with a return trip later in the month so we wish to him a safe journey and return.

Threads of Gold

Little self-denials, little hones-

ties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

—*Frederick William Farrar*

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

Sis. Esther Linemann and Sis. Vera Schmidt are remembered in our prayers. They are recovering from surgery and hope to be able to assemble with us soon.

We welcome Bro. Jeremy Freed (Indianapolis, IN) back into our fellowship. He was gone several months to Indiana for classes.

Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was with us one weekend and Bro. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) was with us on a Wednesday evening for services. We thank them for sharing God's Living Word and pray that God will richly bless them for their labors.

Our annual business meeting was held February 7. We extend a thank you to those who so graciously gave of their time and talents and pray that those who were given new responsibilities may rely on God's Holy Spirit for guidance.

A number of us had the privilege to enjoy a blessed weekend in Morris on February 7-8. It was uplifting to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) who is attending college here. May God grant him the needed grace to let his light shine bright in this sinful world.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Nancy Wulf****Linda Schmidgall**

On January 24, Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Art Nohl with the reading of the Memorandum. We are always thankful for encouragements and warnings. We want to thank these brothers for coming.

The weekend of February 7-8 was a blessed one as we could hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls. They were: Bros. Micah Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel), Doug Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie), Sisters Brenda Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon) and Ruth Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen). Ministers here for the occasion were: Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). May God richly bless them for their efforts in bringing us God's Word.

We rejoice that Fonda Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon) has turned to the Lord. May she feel God's nearness and grace as she goes through this time of repentance and conversion.

Our prayers have been with our loved ones in the hospital this past month. They were Risa Fehr (Randy and Lori) and Max Feuchtenberger (Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula).

Note of Thanks:

We would sincerely like to thank all those who remembered us in prayer, visits, flowers and thoughtful gifts while Ben was in the hospital and during his recov-

ery from his accident. We were thankful for your support. May God bless one and all.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill Furrer and Ben

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Becky Braulick****Jan Messner**

This can be such a refreshing and peaceful time of the year as we look forward to the coming of Spring when the flowers bloom and all things start anew. Even with the wonderful beauty and hope of Spring, we have also experienced sadness and heartache.

On December 17, Sis. Pearl Lienemann was called to her Heavenly Home where she is now at peace through eternity. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to her family, Sis. Carol Ann Messner, Jane and Darrel Redmann, and their children and grandchildren. Also, our prayers are with her sister, Sis. Florence Messner. (We humbly apologize for not getting this in last month's issue.)

On January 24, Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores Messerli were in an automobile accident while in Zapata, TX. The Lord called Bro. Cornelius home that night, while Sis. Delores was put in the hospital where she is still in recovery. Bro. Cornelius' funeral is to be at a later date. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Delores and her family as well as Bro. Cornelius' brothers and sisters. May the Lord strengthen and provide for them in their time of sorrow and pain. Sis. Delores, even though we are so many miles apart, we want you to know that you are close at heart and we continue to pray for your recovery and look forward to your return home.

As our Elders gathered this past

month to discuss so many things on our behalf, we just want to remember them in prayer always as they continue to watch over their flocks and labor so very much for us. How thankful we are that they are so willing to continue to carry out the Lord's work.

This is also the time of year for our Snowbirds to start coming home. We look forward to them again assembling with us. It will be a joyous and also a sad gathering this year as we will be laying to rest our dear Bro. Cornelius.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**Brent Kellenberger**

This month we were blessed to have Bro. Carl Wyss and Sis. Lydiann (Washington, IL) worship with us on a Wednesday evening. We are thankful that Bro. Carl was willing to preach God's Word to us.

On February 14-15, we were also blessed with visitors from Congerville, Goodfield, Wichita, Fort Scott, Sabetha, and Bern. We are thankful for each one who made an effort to travel here and hope you will visit again someday.

Last night I spoke with a brother who lives in Regina, Canada. He informed me that they were having an extremely mild winter. This fall there were many questions surrounding El Nino and the effect it would have on the weather throughout North America. From what I've heard, the west coast has been hammered with storms. The significance of this is that we don't know the future and must always be ready for the rain and the sun. In America as a nation, we have lots of sun—there is very little persecution of believers compared to other countries. However, we need to keep our spiritual armour on and

the sword before us at all times, because the rains often come when the rain gear is left behind.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Martha Kellenberger
Carolyn Banwart

We appreciated having Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. David Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) here for a Sunday service. May God bless them for their love in sharing God's Word with us.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend with Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and many other brothers and sisters from various congregations. It is always a blessing to fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

Our surgical patients this month were Karla Rutledge and Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera). We trust God will continue to heal and bless them.

JoAnn Marti and Jonathan Wentland were married on January 17. Her parents are Sis. Carol Marti and Fred Marti. They are living in Kingston, WA.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Our church was blessed with many visitors this past month, including the following ministers: Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL).

The congregation was asked if we are warmed by the Word when we hear it, or does it cause our hearts to burn within us? (Luke 24:32). If our hearts burn, it may be that there are impurities there that need to be purged. If our

hearts are prepared to serve and follow the Lord, then His Word can warm our hearts. What a dramatic difference there is between being warmed and being burned!

We welcome Jill Stoller to St. Louis. She recently graduated from the University of Illinois, and has found employment here. Her home church is Fairbury, IL.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Tina Sutter

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"

Psalm 107:1-2

This month we were blessed with two little ones. Phil and Lori Wiegand gave birth to a baby boy named Austin Philip. Little Austin will join his big brother, Brandon. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann Wiegand, Don Hurshman (Marion, IL) and Carol Mettemeyer (Quincy, IL).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Diane Sutter gave birth to a baby boy, Cooper Dale. He will be loved abundantly by his sister, Shelby, and brother, Mitchell. The paternal grandmother is Sis. Charlene Sutter. Clayton and Verene Scott are the maternal grandparents. May God be their guide as they train these little ones.

Bro. Jason Stratton and Sis. Natalie Lehman have announced their engagement on January 25. Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton. Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) are Natalie's parents. We are so thankful when God brings two souls together to serve

Him.

Special thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for ministering to us this month.

Dan Sutter was in the hospital for one-day surgery on his knee this month. Please pray that the Lord will guide us in the decision for further surgery and his recovery.

Our Bible Class went to Bloomington for ACYF on February 15. We thank all those who make these times possible for our young kids.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 2:20

Bro. Floyd Graves Sr. (Sis. Loretta) was in the hospital on January 29. He is home now and doing good. He was able to assemble with us on February 15. Sis. Charlotte Virkler has been in the hospital in Rockville, CT but is home now and was able to assemble with us on Sunday, January 21.

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

Hymns of Zion #218

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Becky Virkler (Bro. Andy) and their children on the death of her mother, Sis. Betty Banwart (Bro. Albert), who was called to her Heavenly rest on

January 29.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Betty Virkler and her family for the passing of her mother, Gladys Able (late husband, Lyle), from this life, and to her granddaughter, Sis. Linda and Bro. James Beyer and their children.

Sis. Corrine Virkler was called to her heavenly rest. Her late husband was Bro. Carl Virkler. We extend our sympathy to her family, her daughter, Jane Demorest, and sons, Donald F. Virkler, Ralph E. Virkler and Berry L. Virkler, and her many grandchildren.

We extend sympathy to the family of Sherry Sturtze who passed away February 2 at her home. She is the wife of Virgil Sturtze and her father and mother are James and Ruth Hill. Her mother-in-law is Sis. Edna Sturtze.

We pray for each of those who lost their mother and that God will comfort them to know that they are in the arms of Jesus.

Sis. Betty Virkler fell and broke her wrist and has not been able to assemble with us. May God's healing hand be with her.

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Easter will soon be here when we commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection. The atonement of Jesus, our High Priest, was perfect in every aspect and perfect in every respect, giving us many blessings, a few of which are:

1. His body was beaten with stripes, so He could set our bodies free, for He "...bare our sicknesses" (Matt. 8:17); and with His "stripes we were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

2. His head had a crown of thorns, so He can set us free from a reprobate mind (Titus 1:16), and

He can give us "the mind of Christ" (I Cor. 2:16).

3. His hands and feet were pierced, so He can set ours free, and use our hands and feet for service.

4. His side was pierced, so He could set us free from sins and give us peace.

5. He was rejected, so we can be "...accepted in the beloved" (Eph. 1:6).

Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn (Palitto) Miller will be having a Silver Wedding Anniversary on April 15, as they were married in 1973. They have two sons: John and Bro. Joe.

Angela Palitto (Bro. Mark and Debbie Palitto) has turned to the Lord in repentance, and has peace with God.

Recently we had four of our brothers join a work team to Haiti: Bro. Dave Graf, Bro. Greg Henico, Bro. Mike Palitto, and Bro. Ned Spangler. We appreciate the generous efforts of all those from our various churches that join in helping in these worthy endeavors.

Our beloved Elder Bro. Gene Pamer set aside an evening for the blessings of the reading of the Memorandum of the Conference, and Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted. They stayed to spend Sunday with us and we appreciated their services and fellowship with them and their wives.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

How appropriate to hear such joyful news during the weekend of Valentine's Day as Bro. Jason Whitman's engagement to Sis. Lori Laukhuf (Latty, OH) was announced. Bro. Jason will be graduating this spring from Capital

University and his parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Eileen (Latty, OH). Sis. Lori's parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Edith Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We rejoice with this young couple and look forward to welcoming Sis. Lori to the Columbus area.

Visiting ministers who traveled to be with us this month were Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We thank these brothers and their families for visiting our small congregation.

Columbus had their annual Invite-a-Friend weekend and there were families in attendance from several Ohio and Indiana churches.

OHIO, JUNCTION Sandra Manz

We were blessed when an evening was set aside for our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter to present an informative report on the history of the King James version of the Bible. A special committee has been researching and discussing this topic, and we appreciate the opportunity to hear the results of their labors.

Thoughts and prayers have ascended in behalf of our Elders as they convene for the mid-winter Elder Conference. Let us stand united in support of our beloved Elders.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjos

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn on the birth of their daughter, Brianna Marie. She is welcomed home by big sister, Natalie. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn,

and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht (Lester, IA).

Sis. Tootie Stoller (Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Brenda Wenninger had surgery this month. Sis. Helen Schlatter (Bro. Ben) had a stroke and now is in a nursing home. Sis. Laura Dunham (Bro. Charles) was hospitalized with pneumonia. We pray for God's healing hand for all of our loved ones.

We are saddened in the passing of Sis. Betty Laukhuf. Our sympathy goes out to all her family. Sis. Betty's children are Iva Lou (Ervin) Owens, Van Wert; Larry (Charlotte) Laukhuf, Haviland; and Patty (Dave) Greulach, Haviland. Bro. Albert Zeltwanger (Tucson, AZ) went to his Heavenly Home. Bro. Albert was originally from Latty. Our prayers go out to his daughter, Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Bro. Curt), Tucson, AZ. Bro. Albert has two remaining sisters, Sis. Clara Sinn, Latty; and Sis. Minnie Fetter, Toledo.

Our congregation rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four dear souls. We welcome into the fold our new Sister Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marsha) and our new Brothers Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnne), and Curt Sinn (Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann).

We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) for sharing the Word with us this past month. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

The angels in Heaven rejoice that three dear souls have turned to God in repentance: Darin Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie), Gretl Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) and Denise Plummer (Bro. Rick). We wish them much grace in their new walk of life.

Erin Laukhuf (Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita) and Ian Gilbert (Steve and Lisa Gilbert, Decatur, IN) are engaged. The couple are planning a May 16 wedding. May God bless them as they begin a new life together.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the Jasper sea...
Gospel Hymns #6

Our dear Sis. Freda Beer is now resting safely in the arms of Jesus. She ended her earthly pilgrimage on January 30. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, Bro. Ben, and daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Robert Malone. Sis. Freda always had a positive outlook and we will miss her warm, gentle nature. May her family feel our love and prayers as they miss her deeply.

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

Phil. 4:7

Jared Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) has attained that peace that passeth all understanding and is now looking forward to baptism. May he ever feel our prayers as he leaves his old life behind and looks forward to a new life in Christ.

Our prayers are with Mark and Di Sauder (son and daughter-in-law of Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder) as they lost their house to

a fire recently. We all are thankful that no one was injured in the fire. May this event in their lives be a gentle reminder to each one of us that all things here on this earth will pass away but God's Word will never pass away. (See Luke 21:33)

Sweet are the promises, Kind is the word;
Dearer far than any message man ever heard;
Pure was the mind of Christ, Sinless I see;
He the great example is and pattern for me.
Where He leads I'll follow, Follow all the way;
Where He leads I'll follow, Follow Jesus ev'ry day.
Gospel Hymns #788

Desiring to follow His leading, the engagement of Sis. Stephany Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) and Bro. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie, Rittman, OH) was announced on February 15. As this couple comes to know each other and their love grows, may their three-fold cord begin building the strength that will last forever. May they ever feel our prayers during this exciting time.

Having just recently gone through the interview process in effort to acquire a different job, the following question sparked a lot of thought when I heard it on the radio: "If you had to use God as a character reference, would you get the job?" I must admit the question brought doubts to my mind as to whether or not I would have gotten the job. On the other hand, I would not want to even begin to think "Of course I would have!" Let us each strive to ever do better in trying to please our Lord but let us also be careful to not become proud of our accomplishments for we know that nothing is of ourselves.

OHIO, RITTMAN**Lucy Gasser - Carla Stoller**

We were so blessed to have Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisting our Elder Bro. Henry with reading the Memorandum. Scriptures teach us to esteem very highly those who watch for our souls.

We certainly want to extend our love and prayerful support to Bro. Jerry Bauman as he has been given the new responsibility of serving as a minister. May his wife, Sis. Martha, and children, Matt, Mary, Sarah, Anna and Laura, also feel God's strength as Bro. Jerry begins his duties in the ministry.

Greg and Brenda Trent welcomed a son, Alan Jaret, on January 14. Emily is his sister and Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent are Alan's grandparents.

January 24 was a memorable day for Bro. Dan, Sis. Jennifer, Wendy and Tresa as they welcomed Rachel Olivia into their family. Rachel's grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH).

Zachary Austin was welcomed by his parents, Bob and Traci Zollinger, and brothers, Justin and Nicholas, on January 26. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger are Zachary's grandparents.

We want to extend sympathy to Sis. Erma Ingold, as her husband, Bro. Carl, passed away. May God comfort Sis. Erma and their children, Bro. Art (Sis. Bonnie), John, Marie (AJ) Webster, and Marilyn (Dale) Jaquet.

Sis. Ruth Hilty and Bro. Melvin Beery (Sis. Elizabeth) have been hospitalized. May God care for them during their recovery.

Certainly we rejoice as Jennifer

Dotterer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel) and Karen Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim) have begun their repentance. We trust that Jennifer and Karen will turn to God for daily strength and guidance.

Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara Stoller and their son, Derek, are spending a few months in the Rittman area. We appreciated Bro. Bryan's father, Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), ministering to us recently. Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) also have brought forth the Word to us. We surely appreciate each minister.

Two engagements were announced on February 15. Bro. Eric Maibach (Jeff and Elsie) and Sis. Stephany Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev, Mansfield, OH); and Bro. Ken Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Sis. Sue Ellen Gasser have felt God's direction to be united in marriage. We wish them God's rich blessing.

After a short recess, we have begun assembling again for Sunday School. We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the many willing teachers.

OHIO, SARDIS
Joy Indermuhle

Our annual business meeting was held on January 18. We thank each of the brethren that served in various duties over the past few years; may God be their rich rewarder. We trust God will give grace to each of the brethren elected, to faithfully fulfill their new duties.

"Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation."
Acts 15:31

We thank Elder Bro. Andy Stol-

ler (Smithville, OH) for coming the weekend of February 14-15 to help our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle read the Memorandum. It was good to hear the exhortation of the Elder Body and to be reminded, once again, of our responsibilities as Christians and members of the Apostolic Christian Church. We appreciate Bro. Andy lending himself on Sunday as well.

As I read the Silver Lining last month, I felt an overwhelming appreciation and love for the special brotherhood we cherish. We have opportunity to rejoice and sorrow with one another even though we live many miles apart. Are we thankful enough for the brotherhood we share or do we take it for granted most of the time?

"Let brotherly love continue."
Hebrews 13:1

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Ruth Gasser - Edith Miller

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!
 Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not.
Zion's Harp #112

How thankful we are for our "watchmen"! We were privileged on a recent Saturday evening to assemble with the Rittman congregation to hear the conclusions of the 1997 Conference. We were given many helpful exhortations by our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) along with our local Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer and Andy Stoller. We appreciate their untiring efforts in preserving the faith. May we make their job easier by being submissive. Bro.

Aaron spent the following day with us at Smithville. May God richly bless him for his labors.

On January 25, we welcomed into the fold four precious lambs. They are Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie), Rachel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Carrie Miller and Seth Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith). Brothers who came to assist our own Elder with this important work were Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH). Also visiting us that day were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We thank all the brothers for their efforts and we pray God's blessings upon our new brother and sisters.

We also thank Bro. Don Gude-man (LaCrosse, IN) for visiting us on a recent Sunday and for bringing forth the Word.

Two families have been blessed with the birth of little boys. On February 1, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre welcomed Ross Steven into their family. Stephanie, Jennifer and Angela are Ross's sisters. Grandparents of Ross are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser (Rittman, OH).

On February 9, Kevin Andrew was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty Indermuhle. Natalie will be happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Janet Indermuhle. May God's presence be felt in both of these homes as they seek to provide a godly environment in which their children can grow up.

We rejoice with Bro. Ken Maibach and Sis. Sue Ellen Gasser (Rittman, OH) as their engagement was made known to us. May God bless them as they prepare to walk life's pathway together. Parents of this couple are Bro. Roy

and Sis. Mabel Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Those who have been in the hospital this past month were Sis. Carol Kiser and Sis. Florence Hanzie. May they feel God's healing touch.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim) on the death of her stepfather, Erwin Rice.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail to express our appreciation for the many deeds of kindness, gifts of love, visits, calls, cards and especially your many, many prayers offered up to the Throne of God in our behalf. Prayer changes things, and we're so thankful you took the time to remember us. After having to spend over four months in the hospital and the nursing home, Don is now home and slowly gaining strength. May God richly bless you all!

Bro. Don and Sis. Luzelda Stoller

OHIO, TOLEDO

Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly;"

I Peter 5:2

We were thankful to be given wise counsel from our Elder body when the Memorandum was read to us. We appreciated the service of Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) who helped with this work. Other visiting ministers throughout the month included Bros. Neil Ramsier (Bay City, MI) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH).

We would like to offer our con-

gratulations to James and Sis. Julie McCullough, who graduated from the University of Toledo in December. They are currently working in the Toledo area. We are thankful that they have chosen to pursue employment here.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg

The Ship of Faith

Should our faith and courage falter
In the tempest of this world,
Fervent prayer upon the alter
Is an anchor that will hold
In the wounds of Jesus surely,
Grounded on His blood securely,
And ascends, through faith alone
To His holy, sacred throne.

Oh, this anchor is untied
By the endless chain of love,
That extends from earth beneath us
To our Father's home above,
Jesus draws in love so tender,
Till we all the radiant splendor
Of that peaceful harbor see
Where our home fore'er shall be.

Therefore, on, beloved pilgrims!
Faithfully your way pursue;
Yonder for you as His children
Lies that peaceful haven, too.
There the little bark arriveth,
After tempest it surviveth;
For your compass, Holy Writ,
Keeps thy bark and guideth it.
Zion's Harp #94

We were reminded of this hymn recently and the need to sometimes alter our course in the tempest of this world to keep our ship of faith from sinking or meeting with other disasters. Jesus is our lighthouse out on this stormy sea. We must always keep Him in our sights, but especially during those heavy storms of life that would rock our boats or worse yet, sink our ship of faith.

We thank Bros. Ed Knecht and Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) for ministering unto us this past

month.

Our prayers are with David Rumbold (Debbie) as he is hospitalized at this writing in serious condition resulting from complications of diabetes. We pray for his wife and two children as well during this difficult time. We pray for his healing, but at the same time we must pray that God's will be done in all things.

We've had a number of visitors from our church in Silverton this past month. We thank them for taking the time to worship with us. It's always so uplifting to have a few more voices of praise and more children in Sunday School in a small church.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Our annual trustee business meeting was held Saturday evening, January 17. In addition to other business, several positions were filled by election. Bro. Ben Bolliger (Sis. Carolyn) was selected for a five-year term as usher, as Bro. Jack Kuenzi (Sis. Janet) has completed his term. Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) was elected for a three-year term as Trustee, replacing Bro. Jim Kuenzi (Sis. Barbara). Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Teresa) has completed his four-year term on the sound equipment and Bro. Eldon Metz (Sis. Alice) was selected for this duty. We have three Committees who provide our church suppers when needed and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn) has completed her three-year term and Sis. Karen Walter (Bro. Chuck) was chosen for this responsibility. Sincere thanks are extended to the brethren who have completed their tasks and served us so well. And to the ones with new duties to the church, may love be like the oil

that smoothes a fine-tuned machine's operation, and make their service a joy for themselves and the congregation. May they enjoy the support and cooperation they need.

On January 24, another sweet little girl was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Leman. Nelia Marae came home to the delight of her big brother, Vonn, and sister, Maris. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz, and Bro. Jim Leman (Roanoke, IL).

Special thanks to visiting ministering brothers this past month: Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR). We believe our gracious Lord will richly reward them for their labors of love. Our young single member group was encouraged and uplifted by their special evening with Bro. Sam Schlatter. We appreciate all our visitors and their efforts to include the Oregon churches in their travel plans.

As March is "Silver Lining" month for Silverton, we will just mention that the subscription rate is now a voluntary contribution instead of a set price. This can be given directly to the Silver Lining, to the Correspondent or put in the box marked "Silver Lining" at church, anytime during the month of March.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"O Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 117:1-2

We were sad to lose Bro. Kevin Clough from our congregation as he has accepted employment in the Fort Wayne, IN area and will be attending church in Bluffton. May God grant him grace and success in his new work and in his continued effort to walk with the Lord.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

Luke 6:31

This past month, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) minister God's Word to us. Traveling along with Bro. Charles was his wife, Sis. Miriam, and the Tremont Young Group. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed fellowship through dinner and a singing held at the church. We in Nashville thank all of you for your traveling efforts and pray that the Lord will bless you.

If you are in the Nashville area, we invite you to worship with us. We meet on the first and third Sundays of each month with upcoming service dates as follows: April 5 (Latty, OH); April 19 (Bradford, IL); May 3 (Champaign, IL); May 17 (Sarasota, FL); May 24 (Smithville, OH - additional service); June 7 (Morton, IL); and June 21 (Elgin, IL). Please contact one of the following numbers if you plan to worship with us: Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN).

TEXAS, CENTRAL**Dorothy Martin - Pam Sauder**

As we observe local farmers preparing the soil for sowing, we are reminded of God's promise to Noah, "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).

We are grateful to our visitors who gather to worship with us, especially those who sow the seed of God's Word through the ministry. Visiting ministers this month include: Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top. The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 338-4222; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 566-2118.

TEXAS, DALLAS**Eric Strassheim**

We are thankful for the many visitors we have had this past month. We appreciate the services of our visiting ministers as well.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL) made the long journey to be with us this month.

Services will be held the first and third Sunday of every month. If you would like to visit or possibly relocate in this area, contacts are Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (972) 867-4074, Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102, or Bro. Eric Strassheim (903) 454-4643.

Beyond the losses of this life
That cause us to despair,
New hope is born within our hearts
Because our God is there.

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner**

On January 18, we were blessed to witness the ordination of Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary) as a Deacon. Also we were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Sis. Suzanne, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA) with us to carry out this work. We were all supportive of this work and trust we can support him as he carries out his duties. We wish Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary grace as he assumes these duties.

On February 1, we were thankful for the visit of Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) who served us Holy Communion along with our Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner. How fortunate we are that we are to be among God's people from many congregations and be as one body to partake of this sacrament.

It was an inspiring evening on January 17, as Elder Bros. Kenneth Sauder and Edward Aeschleman read the Memorandum. We can reap so much wisdom from this letter. May God give our dear

Elder brothers the needed inspiration and spiritual wisdom as they gather for the Conferences this year.

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Lloyd Kraft (Sis. Nadine, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and thank him for bringing us God's Word. Also, the visit of retired Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Sis. Clara, Eureka, IL), and retired ministers, Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) was appreciated.

On January 15, our annual business meeting was held. Bro. Melvin Gerber was elected our new trustee taking Bro. Willis Stoller's term. Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy were elected on our food committee taking Bro. Ben and Sis. Wilma Blunier's term. Bro. Russell Stoller was elected treasurer taking Bro. John Perdelwitz's place. For those taking on new duties, we give our prayerful support. We wish to thank those who have served us in these duties.

It is "a time to be born and a time to die". We wish to extend sympathy and prayers to the family of Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Sis. Delores) who was killed in a tragic car accident on January 24. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Delores; sons, Allen, Dale, Arlen and Calvin; daughters, Donna Meyer and Kathleen Messerli; brothers, Bro. Daniel, Howard and Roy; sisters, Sis. Marie Messerli, Elizabeth Patterson, and Lillian Schreiber; and 12 grandchildren. Sis. Delores was hospitalized in critical condition but after several operations is improving. A memorial service was held at Zapata church on Tuesday, January 27, and burial in Winthrop, MN will be at a later date.

Sermon continued from page 2

something to encourage us. It is a warning, yes! A chastisement, yes! It could be all those things, but it should also be an encouragement, because we have everything at our disposal to get to the end of the journey safely. We have everything we need and there's nothing left out! Again, so many times I think of that.

We, as human beings, try to do the best we can by the grace of God. We have various responsibilities in the church and in our work places. In our best intentions, it seems like we inevitably forget something or overlook something. We don't quite get the job done like we would like to do it. I apologize to you, as a church, because I know I do that. Never intentional, but it happens.

But when we think of God, that doesn't happen. It just doesn't happen, it hasn't happened. The plan is perfect and everything is in place. But it depends on us, doesn't it, as to whether we will take full advantage of what God has to offer us. We don't have to worry about any disappointments.

I think of a song, it is an old hymn, *There's No Disappointment In Heaven*. It just comes to my mind. How many times here upon this earth are we disappointed with things? Maybe sometimes we shouldn't be. I'm not saying it is always justified; perhaps, maybe a lot of times it is not. But there are times when we are disappointed in things, whether it is a product we buy or a service we get. We are disappointed.

There again that goes back to the human aspect of it because even though it may be a business, or whoever it is that is trying to do their level best, they still can't please everybody all the time. It is a human element that enters into the picture. On the other hand, maybe we are hard to satisfy. Maybe we just can't be satisfied. We've heard that before, too. Somebody will say, "Well, you can't satisfy them."

Again, that human element entering into the picture of disappointment and dissatisfaction. I guess there are lessons that we can learn, too, while we're thinking about that. You know the question we may have to ask ourselves is, "Am I hard to satisfy? Do I drive a hard bargain?" Then on the other hand of the picture, "Am I always trying to get the maximum out

of my dollar?" There is a lot of things we could think about here and I didn't really think about speaking of that.

The part that I think is important is that with God there are no disappointments. I'm not saying things are always going to go good. Look at Job. We read about Job. We know that Job, even as we read in the Word, it says, "...that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job. 1:1). He hated evil. In God's eyes, he was a perfect man. I don't know exactly to what extent that was, but God was satisfied with him. We can feel sure of that. God was satisfied with Job. We know the story well.

The devil said, "Sure he will be faithful to you because you protect him." God allowed the devil to bring those plagues upon Job. He allowed him to do that. Yet, Job, even though he went through very difficult times, in the end we know he was blessed even more than at the beginning.

So even though, beloved ones, there will be no disappointments with God, that doesn't mean we won't have to go through some difficult times in our lives. There are some very deep valleys sometimes and maybe some extremely high mountains that are very difficult to go across. But we have to remember, Christ went through those times, more than we could ever imagine. Christ went through those times. He went through the low places and He went through the very difficult places to get across. But, yet, He was faithful. He wanted the Father's will to be done.

Even though, as a human being, and we know it well where He prayed in the garden, He pleaded that this cup be removed from Him. Yet, in the same breath, He said, "...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42).

Beloved ones, I hope we can encourage each other to that end. You know, we are our brother's keeper, and there again, I hope I can be that to the whole body of believers and to the friends. I hope I can be that shepherd of all the sheep...the little, the big, the strong, the weak. It doesn't matter. Once we have made that commitment to walk with God, beloved ones, may it be that we will do this.

May it be that we will encourage each other in a loving way...that when our life is over, we can all be together

in Heaven...that our life on earth won't have been in vain...that the grace of God won't have been in vain that He has given us...that our Lord's blood that He shed on the cross won't be in vain...and that there will be some return from that.

Would not that be terrible? When we think of Christ giving His life, shedding His blood, and when everything comes to an end, there would only just be a handful of those who had taken advantage of it. We know there are those already today that have gone before us many, many years ago, and many of the martyrs, and we are just confident that they will be in Heaven. Our race isn't run yet. It would be sad if there would just be a real small handful that were willing to deny themselves, to pick up their cross and follow our Lord.

He speaks here of Israel and he said: "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." (Romans 10:2-4).

We have to be careful, don't we, that we don't establish our own righteousness? Because it tells us in the Bible that "...all our righteousness is as filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6). What would we do with filthy rags? There is probably only one thing we can do with filthy rags. We can wash dirty ones, but filthy ones have to be cast into the fire; they are of no value. That is our own righteousness. That is what we can do. It is not nearly enough, is it?

It says here, "We have not submitted ourselves, (if that is the case), to the righteousness of God." I can just feel the righteousness of God and of Christ Jesus. I long for that full measure of righteousness of Christ. I hope we all have that longing, and we pray for it, and we accomplish that in our life. When we think about it, that is pretty much the final analysis of it that we can be like Christ. He gave Himself for us. He died for us. He overcame the world. In Him, we can overcome the world.

When I speak of the world, I am speaking of all the things that Satan has to offer. Everything. Because it is

not good. Everything that Satan has to offer is bad, evil and destructive. Beginning from the thoughts that Satan may have in our life and try to put in our mind, the evil thoughts, negative thoughts, the thoughts about other people, the conflicts, the strife, the worldliness that is around about us, anything, the snares that Satan has to offer, these are the things that by God's grace, we want to stay away from and overcome, so that we can have the mind of Christ.

It says here, "But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)" Romans 10:6. I don't know exactly what this means, but I think sometimes as I look at our lives today, in society, there seems to be a tendency to bring Christ down to our level. I'm not sure exactly what this means here, but surely it can mean that, that we would bring Christ down to our level.

"Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)" Romans 10:7. Christ is already arisen from the dead and dwelling with God in Heaven. I wonder here if this Scripture, as it speaks of faith, that we have faith in God to believe things the way they are, that we don't change things.

When we have faith in God, faith in the Word, faith in our Lord and Saviour and faith in His blood, then we know what is in place is right. We wouldn't change it. We wouldn't want to change it, would we? I hope not. I hope we wouldn't want to change anything that is in place from the Word and from the Spirit of God.

"But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;" (Romans 10:8). Now, that is putting things in order. That is taking the Word and we are acknowledging the Word is the truth. It is infallible, it doesn't change, and within the Word is the key. The key to joy, and happiness, peace and life everlasting. It says here, "The Word is nigh." In other words, it is close to us and that is important. How can the Word be close to us?

First of all, we go back here to the second verse where it talks about the lack of knowledge. We need to read it, don't we? We need to read the Word. We need to apply the Word. We need to know what it says, but that is not

enough.

We heard that in our Conference tapes a couple Wednesday evenings ago, that just knowing the Word is not enough. We can know the Bible from cover to cover and know exactly what all is in it, but, beloved ones, if we don't apply it, it is of no avail.

When you brothers who are farmers own a brand new piece of equipment, but you never use it, it is not going to do you any good for any of you. If we have something that we don't use, it is not going to do us any good. The Word is the same way. Yet, we need to know what it tells us. Why? Well, for one thing, so that we can have it established in our hearts and minds what is right and wrong, and the Spirit will help us in that--the Spirit of God. Because the Word and the Spirit are the same, they don't conflict. So we need to know what is right and wrong.

So, what else? I think an important thing, and no doubt it is important, because Christ used it in times of temptation. He actually, verbally, and mentally used the Word to overcome temptation. That is why it says here, "The Word should be nigh thee." It should be "...even in thy mouth, and in thy heart." (Romans 10:8). God's Word should be deeply implanted in our heart so that we know what we should do and shouldn't do and so the Spirit can prompt us and can tell us.

That is the faith that we speak about here...the righteousness which is of faith. So can't we really see what the difference is between our own righteousness and the righteousness of God? The righteousness of God is from the Word and the Spirit that dwells in our heart. It is not what we do. Sometimes it might be what we don't do, by the grace of God. It can be what we do, but it is by God's direction. That is the righteousness of faith based on the Word of God and on the Spirit of God. In what areas? All areas. I think that is the part, beloved ones, that becomes difficult. I really do. You know, I have mentioned that before, but I think that is the part that becomes difficult. When we think of the righteousness of God, it isn't only a pick and choose situation, but it encompasses everything.

We read in Ephesians we are to walk circumspectly and with a vision around us. We read we are to watch and pray. We are to apply the whole council to our life, every bit of it. That

is the righteousness of faith. That is the righteousness of Christ. That is a real job, isn't it?

It really is, because we are all different. By nature some of us have virtues in this area or that area that are better than some of our other areas. We are all different. But to be able to take the whole council of God, to be able to apply it to our life and be able to be Christ-like, then that fulfills the righteousness of faith. May we be encouraged to do that.

We go on then here and it speaks of confession with the mouth, and the Lord Jesus. It says, "That 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." (Romans 10:9-10). Again, it goes to the heart, doesn't it? Every one of our hearts, and for the dear friends, it seems like we have read things in the past that has really brought this out.

When Christ said we need to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Him, there are steps that need to be followed. For the dear friends today, there are steps that need to be followed. You can't follow Christ if you don't deny yourself. You can't follow Christ if you don't become one of His. You can't become His unless you repent and become converted.

So, as we read here, it is important that with the heart, man believeth. How can we believe with a heart that has not been cleansed? Christ has made that way possible that our heart can be cleansed so we can believe. We can have that Word in our heart and we can have the righteousness of Christ. So may it be, beloved ones, that we would all be encouraged to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We read that. It simply says, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 13:14). All of us. Brethren and friends alike.

Friends, if you haven't done that yet, it can be done. I just wish that the friends who walk yet, and I believe that there are many who are miserable and don't know what to do and which way to turn, I wish you would come to the foot of the cross. You will find the Lord Jesus is a merciful Saviour. He is a loving Shepherd and He just wants to take care of you. He wants you to be one of His sheep.

Faith of our Fathers

On a recent trip, a brother photographed a scene that is not often captured in a spontaneous photograph.

On a high hill stood a lone thistle that overlooked a pasture filled with sheep. In this photo, the shepherds, on horseback, were heading out to bring in the sheep.

The photo reminds us of the importance of acting upon our faith and how quickly we can become a thistle.

Beloved, a thistle has a very pretty flower and from a distance appears to be filled with natural beauty. However, we all know the nature of the thistle and why it stands alone, untouched and by itself in the pastures. No animal or human wants to encounter a thistle because of the tiny thorns. Is it possible to develop thorns in our lives, which would leave us standing alone on judgment day as the sheep are gathered into the fold?

So much is heard today about how we need to strive for unity in the Church. We all hope and pray that individual opinions will not become thorns and separate us from each other and the Word of God. We all want to be in the fold as it is gathered into Heaven.

Differing "opinions" can indeed become thorns, which stick and prick those that are around us if the opinions do not promote kindness, love, peace and unity. Opinions arise from our independent nature, and can be used to develop good trends as well as causing disunity. However, when we get stuck on promoting our opinions in the face of opposition, we create disunity and

discord. Usually it is pride that causes us to vigorously promote our opinions.

One certainly can recognize opinions because most of them open like this:

I believe we should...

I don't care what anyone else says, I think...

No one understands the old way, so it stands to reason we should...



It would be best to...

On the other hand, it is pretty easy to recognize a submissive, earnest opening to an expression. Some of those expressions may sound like this:

Here are some facts that I have laid out for us to...

In the Word of God we see a real good example of...

There is a higher power that outweighs my thought...

I yield to the superior thought of my colleague, however I do want to make this point...

Opinions are very often self serving and cause hurt even as the thistle with its thorns. As we view that thistle on a hillside, stop and consider the hurt if that thistle would represent you or me. With the different "opinions" comes the thorns. Is that being our Brother's keeper? Do the different opinions promote

love and unity? We have the Word of God and we need to use it in all seasons. If we compromise with opinions, we will eventually affect convictions and that may lead to disaster within our faith and the Kingdom of God, which is within the converted soul.

One has to consider the faith of our fathers of the 1860's when the Civil War was devastating our "One Nation, under God," leaving many trials for those who lived during that period of history. It was this time frame wherein we seen brethren being invited into an area or location where maybe only one family had a desire to learn more about the truth that would set them free. Do we think that our old forefathers went into those future Church communities with "opinions" or "Biblical facts" as weaponry for the condemnation of Satan and sin?

We have all read of the accounts of brethren walking 40 or 50 miles to get to some particular location and then in the privacy of the home expound the precious Word of God. It is a humbling feeling when we consider the results of brethren who, equipped with zeal and humility, would speak about repentance, conversion, and salvation. I cannot imagine jokes and opinions being a part of that dialogue.

We are living in a time of relative plenty and we know, for our own good, it will not be this way forever. How are we preparing for the winter season of faith on earth? Will the Lord find faith when He comes again?

No Man Can Serve Two Masters

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

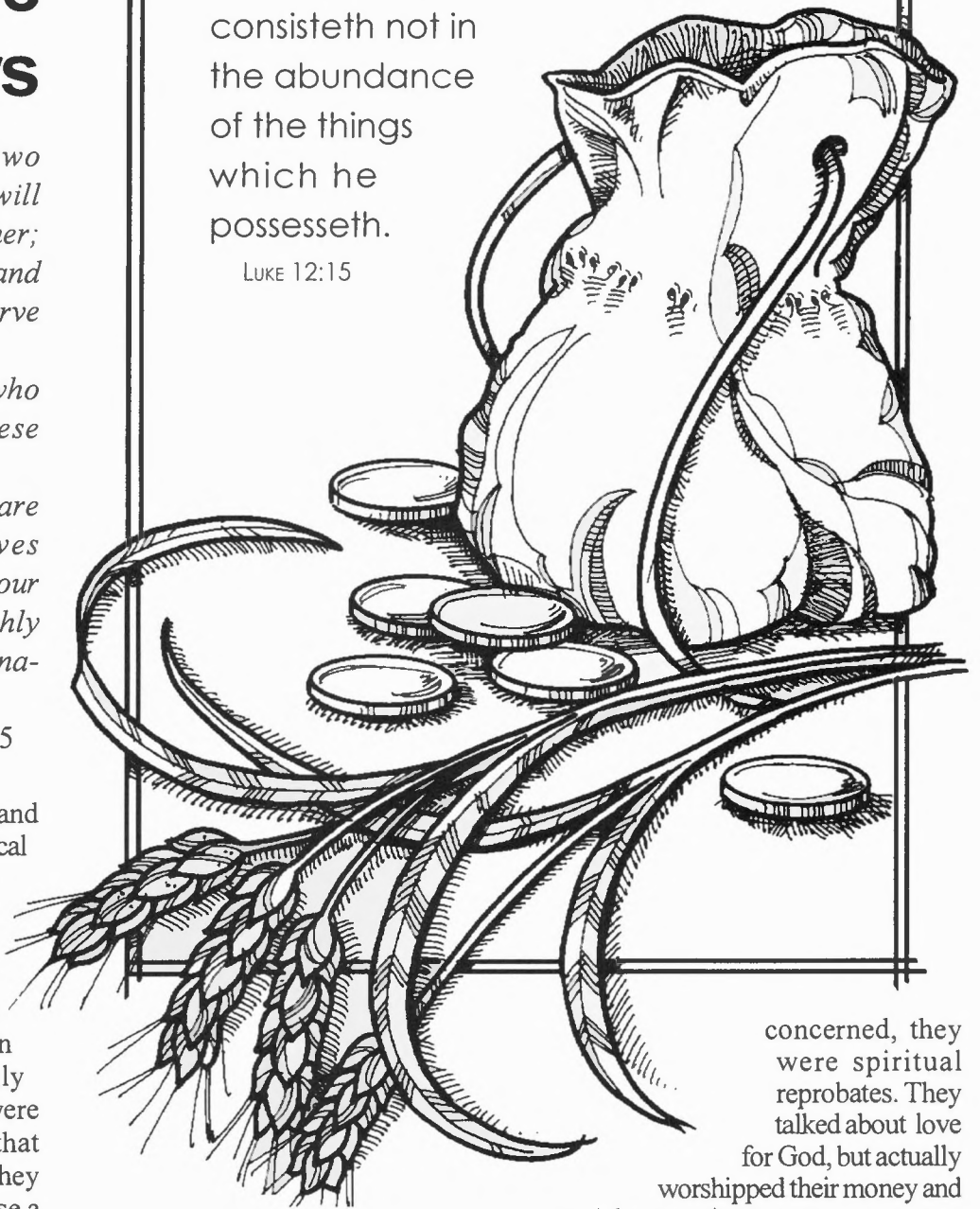
And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

LUKE 16:13-15

The Pharisees were the largest and most influential religious-political party during New Testament times. They considered themselves the spiritual elite and opposed Jesus because He refused to accept their teachings of the law. But also because he exposed the hypocrisy in their hearts. They were not only conceited and deceptive; they were greedy as well. They thought that godliness was a way of profit. They chose religion as one would choose a well paying career. Their objective was not to glorify God and help their neighbors, but rather to make themselves wealthy. As they heard the Lord Jesus teach that they should give up wealth in this world and lay up their treasures in heaven, they mocked Him. To them, money was more important than God's promises. Nothing would stop them from accumulating and loving their wealth.

... A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

LUKE 12:15

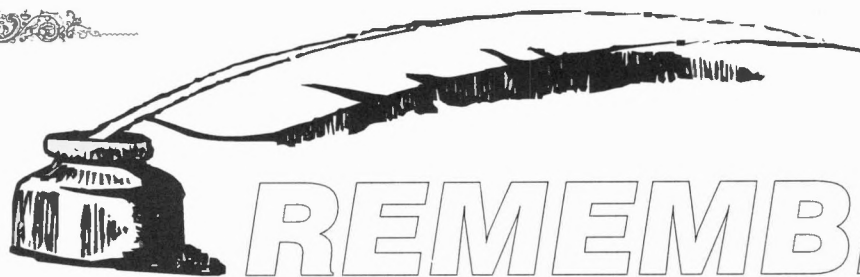


concerned, they were spiritual reprobates. They talked about love for God, but actually worshipped their money and

material possessions.

The Pharisees looked as though they were devout and spiritual. They were concerned that men would consider them righteous. But beneath this outward show, God saw the greed of their hearts. He was not fooled. While others praised them, the life they displayed was an abomination in God's eyes. They thought they were successful as they combined their religious profession with financial prosperity. But as far as God was

That which is highly esteemed among men surely is abomination in God's eyes. True success is finding contentment and peace through Jesus Christ, in those things which money cannot buy. God sent His son that we might have life and have it more abundantly through His forgiveness and His love. Those that have received these true riches will have a desire to share them with those that are without.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Excerpts from the Geistlich diary continue. It describes the visit of Elder Henry Geistlich to America in 1866.

Wednesday, June 6: At Croghan, N.Y. The weather is pleasant. Last night I slept good although I was awakened in the night by a heavy thunderstorm. We visited among the brethren today, among whom was Bro. Vetter, who used to live in Zurich. We found him and his wife and their four or five children in good health. We enjoyed seeing each other, talking about many things and happenings of the past in the old country. From there we went back to Peter Virkler, who is a brother of Joseph Virkler. There were quite a few brethren assembled here. We brothers talked about many things, our conversation going from one thing to another. Also, our song books were discussed and Bro. Joseph Virkler brought up the fact that some notes should be corrected and that there are also some misspelled words, especially in the new edition. We also talked about gross sinnings, about which I gave the brother a letter to read from B.M.B. of Switzerland. He recognized the spirit that was contained in the letter, as unclean and the writer of it impure. How good it is if we stay by the clear word of godly truth and daily gain through it with the godly grace, which in us and through us, serves our own, and to others salvation.

Thursday, June 7: At New Bremen, N.Y. Today I wrote a letter to Bro. Reuter. There was church both Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the church house which belongs to the congregation. The members here are quite numerous, living in a circle of about ten miles. It seems to me there is an active spiritual life among the brethren here. Much earnestness and zealousness can be seen among them, not only in the evening at church, but also in their doings from morning until night.

Friday, June 8: At New Bremen, N.Y.

The weather is cold and rainy. Today there was church at Naumburg, a place where there are many Germans. There is a nice church house here and they have a large assembly. However, to get here we had to go through a wild country through timber and woods. This region is like a wilderness with many log cabins yet standing, which the early settlers built. At the church services I had for my text (II Timothy, 1:5-12). With the help of the Lord it was given to me to speak with much joy. I had a good feeling in the spirit among these brethren. There is church every day. During the entire day there is church here and there in the houses.

Saturday, June 9: At Naumburg, N.Y. Bro. Vetter talked with me today concerning the Lord's supper and Holy kiss to them that are set back. Now concerning my spiritual work. God let me feel my poverty and my helplessness. I often felt weak as I saw the brethren assembled and fear came over me, but never did the Lord allow us to come to shame. If we recognize our nothingness and our infirmities, He then lets us see how rich and helpful He is, to all who call to Him. This I could feel when I was in doubt about what to speak, when the brethren were assembled. I opened the Bible and read a chapter. It came easy for me, as the Lord granted me to speak His Word abundantly. Therefore, God's Word is an unknowable treasure, a precious spring, from which many thirsty souls have drunk and refreshed themselves on the riches of His house and Holy temple. It is as St. John writes, "We have taken from his abundance grace for grace." It is and will be an abundance. It is an invisible stream of godly blessings. They are gifts and graces concealed in Christ. In all eternity this tree of life will not wither.

This godly wealth will not end for ever and ever. We can find in Revelation, Chapter 21, that the Holy City has

an unmeasurable amount of wealth and riches, where the street is pure gold and its doors and gates are all garnished with all manner of precious stones such as jasper and sapphires and emerald, sardonyx and pearls. And that its glory and light is the Lamb, and the city has no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God does light it and the Lamb is the light thereof (verse 23). This is the land of which it says in a song:

"There is a pure land of wonder
Where the real joy exists
Where hate and quarrel surrender
Because there the love is."

By all this I thought that the new world, America (where I am now and for which many eagerly long for), is not that glorious land of wonder. But we shall rejoice in hope, for that new Jerusalem which is above.

Sunday, June 10: At New Bremen, N.Y. Weather fair, although somewhat cool. I was reminded today of my church at home, thinking of my dear ones, and how my brethren are getting along, both in body and soul. I commit them and us all to God and trust that He will care for them and protect them from all evil to body and soul. This is my daily prayer and supplication to the Lord. Today there was church before noon and afternoon. It was a large assembly, the church house here at New Bremen being filled, there being about 30 rigs in the yard. Also, a brother named Krahenbuhl, from Illinois, visited here. He was on his way to Canada. Earlier he was a Mennonite, born in Alsace, but has been in this country for about 30 years. He now is a minister in our church. He is a lovable brother, being a real example to the unbelievers and unfaithful. He offers almost his entire life to the work of the Lord.

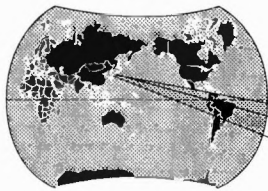
By Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue:

The Geistlich Diary continues

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“God Washed My Feet”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It was an ordinary Sunday morning, February 1, 1998, and I was reading from John 13 about Jesus washing His disciples' feet. It was our Sunday morning worship service. I was sailing along all right until I came to verse 8 where Jesus told Peter, “If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” Then I began to think, if that was true for Peter, it must be true for me, too. But when did Christ wash my feet?

In meditating on this scripture that Sunday morning, I concluded that Christ washed my feet when He died on the cross for me. Washing another person's feet is an act of humility and servitude. Christ, not being in human form at this time, can't very well wash my physical feet, unless He would do it vicariously through another human being. That might be, since we are to be His ambassadors (II Cor. 5:20), “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,” but I concluded that Christ Himself washed my feet when He died on the cross for me, since that is the extreme

form of humility and servitude. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Having concluded that Christ did indeed wash my feet, spiritually speaking, I was consoled that I do indeed have part with Him, I am associated with Him, and I belong to Him. Then, for some reason, the idea, “God Washed My Feet” popped into my mind. This seemed even more amazing than to say that Christ had washed my feet, since God the Father is the One to whom Christ prayed and He is the ultimate.

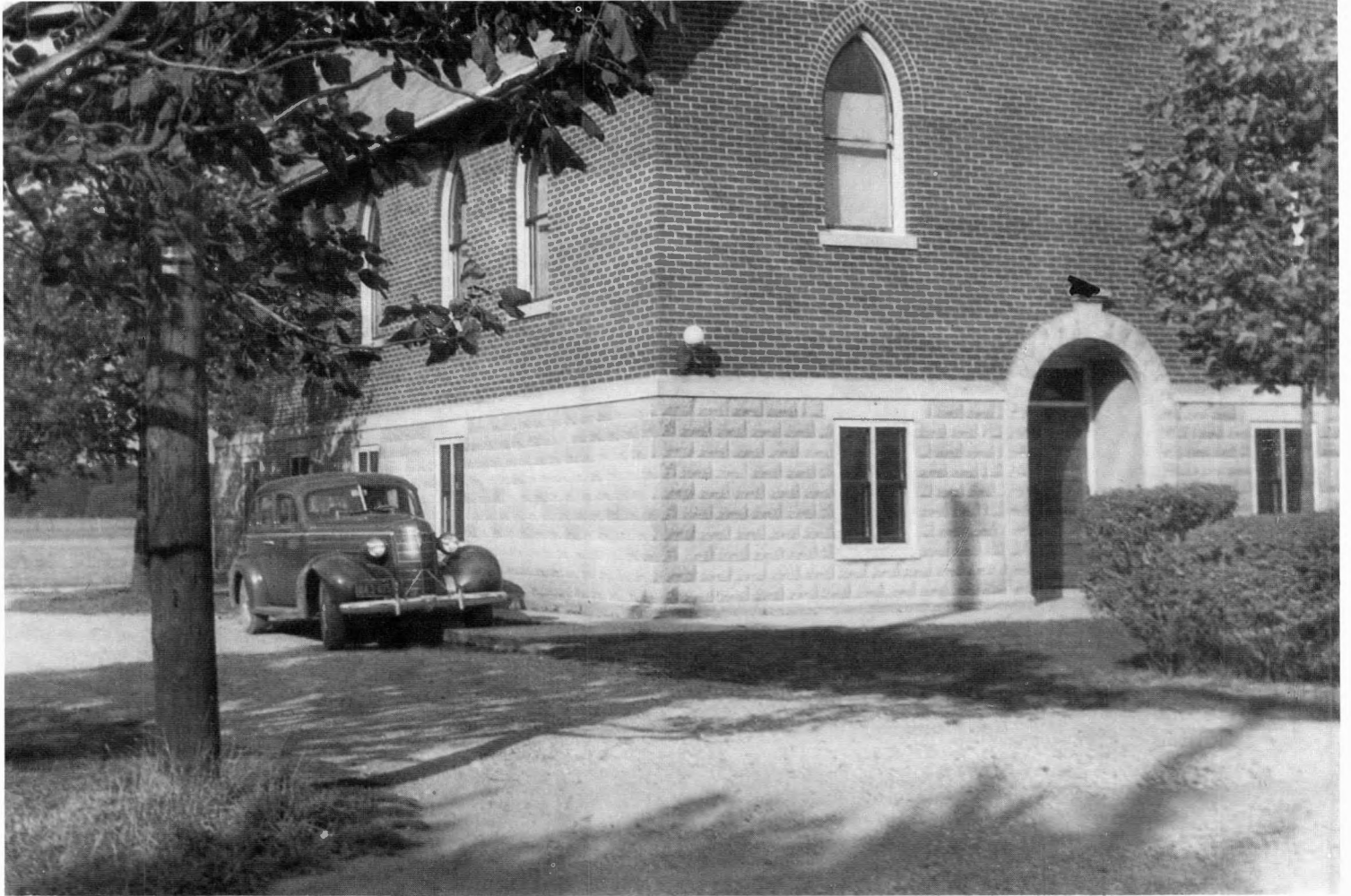
In Corinthians 5:19 we read, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.” Therefore, God was in Christ, spiritually speaking, and I can say that God washed my feet, that God, when in human form, died for me. This is impressive, this is overwhelming. What can I give up and what can I do, to show appreciation? It's a question which confronts us all, if we really believe and aren't just going through the

formality of being a Christian, or a child of God. At least for me, it is an important question which must be answered. Will you help me find the answer?

Jesus said, “Ye also ought to wash one another's feet.” Then I should be willing to wash your feet, or I should be willing to die for you. Is there anything I can do for you which would help me fulfill my calling? The Bible teaches that we should be willing to die for one another. No more of this self-centeredness. After all, God washed my feet and I am to follow in His footsteps. We are all in this position.

On the surface, to be in this position of needing to follow God to such an extent, sounds like a heavy burden, but it is not. To be in this position and to go this way is to attain to the abundant life which Christ spoke about. “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

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Leo, IN -1862
(pictured in 1941)

During the Civil War, the Leo Church was founded by two brethren. At first the Leo congregation met in homes of the brethren until 1878, when a small wood-frame structure, spartan in design was built. In 1910, the building was moved and a new two story brick building was erected. In 1968, a large addition was built and served the congregation until the present, when in 1994, a totally new structure was dedicated. Leo is also the home of the Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

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