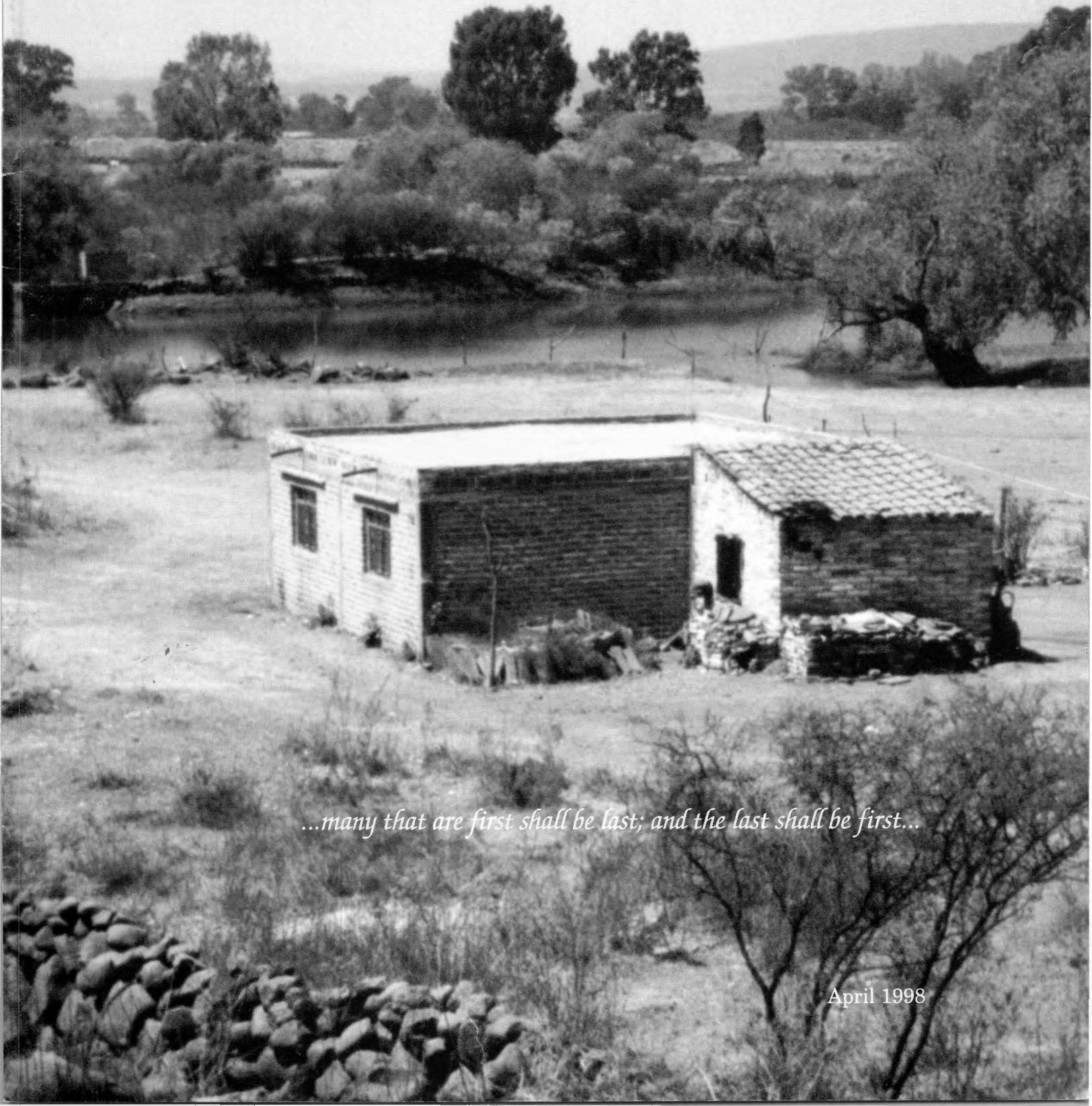


# *The Silver Lining*



*...many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first...*

April 1998

## “BE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH IN GOD”

*Sermon by Bro. Robert Beebe, South Bend, IN*

### Job 1 and Acts 26

“Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.” (Acts 26:32). Yet, Paul was at liberty, was he not? If you think of the situation Paul was in, he was the freest of all the names of all the people that we read up here.

Here we’ve seen the kings and rulers sitting upon the places of authority and, yet, the one that had freedom—the freedom that is going to really mean anything for all eternity—was Paul. He was the one who stood before them with chains about his legs. He was the one who was at liberty.

Do we understand, each of us who have been redeemed, and know that freedom comes only as we are humbled and repent as we turn to Almighty God? Certainly that is what the Apostle Paul is trying to share with those that were listening to him, that his life and all that he went through, all the times even when he was angry and trying to destroy other people in doing what he had a zeal for, did not bring him a joy and a peace like he was having even in this very time when he was talking to Agrippa and Festus, that he was the one who was free and at liberty.

They were the ones that were in bondage. It just shows to us that when we look about, we see other people. What we see on the surface is not the way they really are. It is not the way God sees them. Certainly there is only One that can really judge and can really determine what we are like.

We can be in America and have as much wealth as possible to gain, but we can be slaves and we can be a servant of Satan and we can be going to hell. Certainly that is the

way it is for so many people in our country. Having all that could possibly be imagined by the rest of the world, and yet, be in such a despicable, such a despondent and such an awful way with no hope.

We could be the poorest person in the poorest country and have nothing, have an empty stomach and have such poor circumstances, and yet, be at liberty, have a hope and have an assurance of life eternal.

When we look at those who we work with, and when we look at those about us, we don’t know what is in their hearts, but God does. We can sense from this chapter that God was judging. God had judged Paul. God had shown to him that the way he was going was not right, and God had given him an opportunity to repent. How thankful we are that we can read and understand in God’s Word that repentance is so important.

I have heard it said by someone not even of the Apostolic Christian Church that repentance is the bed rock of Christianity. Repentance is the bed rock of Christianity. Without a repentance, without a turning away from ourselves to God, there can be no hope. Repentance, though, doesn’t save us, does it? It is the bed rock of Christianity, but it doesn’t save us because nothing that we do can save us. Isn’t that an irony? Isn’t that a conflict on our lives?

We think—especially we here in America—that if we are going to have something or if we are going to get something, we have to do it ourselves. But when it comes to our faith and when it comes to understanding God’s Word and God’s way for logic to find it, we can’t do it. There is nothing of our effort that can ever save us.

There is a song that says, “Could our tears forever flow or could our efforts no languor know.” In other words, we could just continually work. We could have the zeal of Elijah. We could roll tears all our lives, but that is not going to pay for salvation. It could never earn us salvation. It could never build up an account for our salvation.

How thankful we are as we see here in this chapter, that it is what God did and what Jesus Christ did. We think of what Paul experienced that had life. When we think of how he started and how he was such a Pharisee, “...that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.” (Acts 26:5).

Of all the Jews’ ways and all their sects and all their different organizations, the Pharisees were the straightest. It was the strictest. It was the most determined to do that which was right by the letter of the law. That is the way he lived. But he was saying, “That didn’t help me. That didn’t save me.”

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

April 1998

## Listening With the Heart

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings" (Prov. 4:20). In a world that is crying to be heard, the skill of listening is sorely needed. Much effort is put forth to try to teach communication skills but so often the need to listen is not emphasized enough.

To assure good communication, the first requirement, of course, is that the message being sent is crystal clear. "And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (I Cor. 14:7-8). The message of salvation must be sent clearly and in a manner that it cannot be confused with the sounds of the world.

A clear message, however, is only the beginning. There must also be receptive, discerning hearers. We have a duty to learn how to listen to more than words. Effective listening requires us to try to understand the message that the speaker is trying to convey.

Spiritual deafness is the result of choosing to not listen to the voice of the Lord. Men have long refused to listen to the message that God has for His people. "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and they see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house" (Ez. 12:2). Zechariah reported a similar concern when he wrote "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear" (Zec. 9:11).

Spiritual deafness did not end with the coming of the Saviour. There were still those who chose not to listen to the message of salvation.

After Stephen gave his defense of the gospel to the council, those who heard what he said, chose to remain spiritually deaf. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,..." (Acts 7:57). Paul, while in Rome awaiting his trial, reminded those to whom he spoke that Esaias prophesied years before that there would be spiritual deafness when he said "...Go unto this people and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not un-

derstand; and seeing ye shall see and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing;..." (Acts 28:26-27).

The cure for spiritual deafness is faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We need to be sure we do not intentionally stop our ears and deny ourselves the opportunity for salvation.

Refusing to hear the Word of God is only part of the problem. After we have heard the gospel message and to a degree understand it and apply it to our lives, we need to take the time to listen to those who are around us. We especially need to listen to those who are hurting.

Job's three friends did well by going to him and spending time with him at his time of extreme difficulty. For seven days they sat and mourned with him. This was undoubtedly a great comfort to Job as he tried to deal with his grief.

Although Job's friends went to him with the best of intentions, as soon as Job began to express his grief and to unload his burden, his friends began to accuse him of wrong doing. Although they may have heard the words that Job spoke, they did not listen with their hearts. The dialogue went on for some time throughout Chs. 3-15 in the book of Job. Job finally said "I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all. Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest? I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you and shake mine head at you. But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips would assuage your grief" Job 16:2-5).

If only his friends would have taken the time to hear his grief. They would have been in a much better position to help him. When someone is in great distress, it is not the time to heap accusations upon them. It is the time to listen to their grief, to offer comfort and compassion and to listen with the heart. If in the course of listening it becomes apparent that there is sin or wrong doing in the life of the one who is sharing their grief, it must be dealt with at the appropriate time but perhaps not at that moment. If we can gain their confidence by showing we care, we will be in a much better position to help them.

Jesus taught us about the importance of listening with a discerning ear. When his disciples asked him why he spoke to the people in parables He said "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing But blessed are your eyes for they see: and your ears for they hear" (Mt. 13:15-16). They listened carefully to what the Lord Jesus Christ was saying and they listened to more than merely the words which were spoken. They listened to the meaning and to the importance of the message Christ was providing them.

Careless listening and the problem of hearing words but not the message is a frequent problem. "And lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not" (Ez. 33:32).

Paul cautioned against just hearing what we want to hear. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

When we listen to someone, we need to focus our attention on what is being said. Many times instead of really listening to the other person, we are trying to decide what we are going to say when they have finished speaking. As a result, we do not really know what they said and may respond in a totally inappropriate manner.

We can improve our listening skills if we listen actively. Look at the person who is speaking, if possible. Make sure they know we are listening to them. We may need to kindly ask a few questions to be sure we understand what they are saying. We may also need to encourage them to give more details and to reflect upon what they have said to be sure it accurately represents the situation. Above all we need to learn to listen with our heart, with compassion, with our minds focused upon what is being said so the one who is speaking knows we truly care about them.



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

### North American Church

#### Building Fund

#### Building Advisory Committee

Over two years ago, the Mission Committee appointed a National Building Advisory Committee (BAC), which was approved by the Elder body.

The purpose of the committee is to assist local congregations as they consider building projects. Members are Bros: Brad Eisenmann (Chicago) Chairman, Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) Sec.-Treas., Bill Masters (Bloomington, IL), Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH), and Bob Schieler (Goodfield, IL). Counseling Elders are Bros. Phil Stettner and Gene Marti.

#### Available to all congregations

These brothers have been helpful in working with small congregations such as Atlanta, Prescott, Kitchener, Portland, as well as several others. However, their guidance is not offered just to small or beginning churches, but also to assist in church building for the entire brotherhood, whether the congregation is large or small.

#### How does a congregation proceed?

So often a new congregation begins when a few brethren move into a given area. This is quite consistent with the spread of our faith over many decades, and we do our best to support these groups as they grow and need a place to worship in.

Finally there comes a point where they need to provide a permanent place of assembly, and are faced with the problem of how they can pay for it. What should they do next?

#### Brethren counsel together

After discussion of this matter among themselves, the Mission Committee brought the subject to the entire Elder body. Their recommendation was that we should establish a North American Church Building Fund to further the effort.

#### Purpose of this fund

For many years we have used our European Church Building Fund to assist our brethren in Europe to finance houses of worship in several countries. Actually several million dollars have passed through this fund and without this help, church buildings could not have been constructed or repaired in these areas.

We are very thankful that the Lord has provided that assistance could be given in Europe, but we also feel there is a need here in the United States to assist our new or needy congregations. This is the purpose of the North American Church Building Fund.

#### The source of the money

In years gone by, our Brotherhood Assistance Programs were created and used to cover losses incurred from misfortunes. After prayerful consideration and much discussion, it was agreed that these programs should terminate. It was also agreed that \$4,000,000 from the reserves of these Assistance Programs be transferred to the North American Building Fund. The administration will be by joint counsel of the Mission Committee, BAC, and the Elder body.

#### Small congregations

The brethren hope to use some of this money as grants to small or needy congregations that need help in providing a place of worship.

Local congregations who feel they could qualify should proceed according to the following method. The information printed here is very general, and specific needs should be forwarded to the BAC at the address listed at the end of this article.

- The first step is approval by the local brethren and elder, after which the BAC can become involved. They will assist in developing a plan for building or remodeling a suitable facility.

- The BAC will assist in the development of a financial plan. Members and friends of the congregation will be asked to estimate the amount they hope to contribute over the next 5 years.

- The local congregation must be incorporated and legal documents submitted for approval to the Mission Committee.

- Approved projects will be financed from the Fund as needed to supplement local resources.

- As contributions come in after the project is complete, wherever possible, money should be returned to the national fund so that other congregations can also benefit from this program.

#### Established congregations

Loans from this fund may be approved for congregations that have a building or remodeling project but are not eligible for a grant from the fund. These loans should be of a relatively short duration, normally no more than 5 years. Loans must be approved by the above channels, with a reasonable rate of interest being charged.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Brad Eisenmann  
6005 Sherman Drive  
Woodridge, IL 60517  
630/241-3802



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

## Do Brethren in Romania Receive Our Gifts?

For a number of years, our brethren have sent a sea container filled with humanitarian goods each month from the Bluffton Distribution Center to Romania. This effort is administered by the World Relief Committee with input from the European Board. The Board consists of the following brethren: Bros. Nate Steffen, Chairman, Gene Marti, Phil Stettner, Leon Graf, Louis Bikadi, and Gene Lehman. They counsel with each other on a regular basis, and meet by conference call several times a year. Their last call took place on March 10, 1998.

### Your support is vital

The European Board recognizes the fact that they can function only with the continued support of our brethren, and wishes to inform the brotherhood of their work. Experience has shown us that if we are faithful in reporting to our brotherhood, the support for the effort never fails to come.

### Visiting European brethren

In recent years, members of the European Board have been able, by God's mercies and the support of our American brethren, to visit our brothers and sisters in Europe. Through reports in this paper as well as in slide programs, we endeavor to keep you informed.

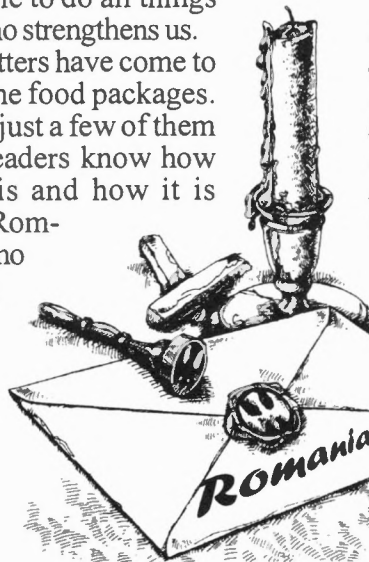
### Letters from Romania

Each month as the food packages go out among the needy brethren in Romania, we receive letters of appreciation from those recipients.

We would like to tell our supporters that things are getting better, but the truth is that they are not. This is true not only in Romania, but across Eastern Europe. This is confirmed by other groups such

as Christian Aid Ministries and Iron Curtain Ministries who assist us in making the work possible. We grope for solutions to the great problems, but trust in God who is able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

A great many letters have come to us as a result of the food packages. We want to print just a few of them here to let our readers know how great the need is and how it is received. Many Romanian homes have no indoor plumbing or central heating. They live in conditions which existed here in American perhaps fifty years ago. They all say thank you!



### Thanks and Appreciation

*We thank our Lord and you for the continuous help we receive. We are well physically and spiritually and we wish you the same. I received the package which brings me joy, especially when it contains medicines which I need at my age. I am 70 years old and suffer from rheumatism, heart problems and hepatitis. I am a widow.* FL

*We are very happy with everything you are sending in the packages. I hope that our daughters will soon embrace our Lord in all their life. They attend church in Chesa.* FB

*We are happy that the Lord has put in your hearts to help us, and your help is always awaited with impatience, since that is the only way we have to feed our family. My husband works in construction and is a good craftsman, but this is useless in our country, because he does not get paid. We can hardly pay our bills. We have not been able to pay our*

*rent, and have a big debt. May God help us to overcome these difficulties in our life. N, A, and children*

*I am 78 years old, and since the age of 5 I have been suffering. I was married and have two daughters. In the Second World War, my husband was sent to Stalingrad, Russia. I have never received any aid as a widow. One of my daughters became a widow with three children. I live by myself and receive about \$5 a month pension. I am waiting for the end and the coming of Jesus.*

SD

*I am 62 and in poor health, needing surgery for gall stones, but it is too expensive. I am also blind in one eye, so life is very hard for us. Your gifts are a great help. My pension is about \$6.00 per month, and a pound of wheat costs about \$2.00. I cannot eat beans, but could use corn meal. Everything else is very useful, and we just can't thank you enough for all the good things you do.*

J & E F

*We have no words to fully express our thanks to God and you. It is difficult to describe the conditions which exist in our country today. The cost of everything is rising fast and the wages and pensions are the same as they were long ago. Many factories are closed down, and the people are out of work. Inflation is very high. We just pray that God gives us grace and strength to carry the weight of our cross.* KM

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO:  
Apostolic Christian World Relief  
180 Park Place  
Wadsworth, OH 44281

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

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

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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION****Bibles distributed by our Churches**

<u>1998</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>TOTAL — 15 YEARS</u>
March	3,436	13,622	425,820

\* Repaired Bibles Shipped = 180

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

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

**PLACEMENT OF POCKET TESTAMENTS**

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

Be sure to ask permission to place the Testaments.

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

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

*Old and New Testament Tapes - KJV Bible - Available*  
**Pulpit Bibles - Red Letter - Self-Pronouncing - K.J.V.**  
*- Available At Leo Bible Distribution Center -*

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

The 22nd Annual  
Gateway Woods Auction and Sale

**Saturday, August 15, 1998**

Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office @ 219/627-2159 with any questions!

**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**

Are you looking for a professionally and spiritually fulfilling career? Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a female counselor. A Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field is required. A Masters degree 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 Karoly Eotvos

*Re-written from the original English manuscript by Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**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.

**CORRECTION:** The price stated in the March Issue of the Silver Lining was incorrectly stated at \$8.55 per book. This price did not include shipping or sales tax. Please contact Apostolic Christian Publications for the total price, which can vary by location of buyer.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE**

**1-800-747-9049**

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

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

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

**WORK PROJECT DATES  
MEXICO CONSTRUCTION  
WORKTEAMS**

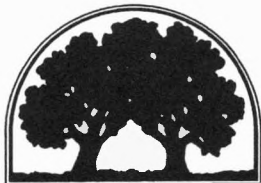
**November 4-12**

Medical Dental Team (Creel)

Contact Bro. Dave Wegman

(Bloomington)

(309)452-8079



**Office Job Opportunity**

Gateway Woods is currently looking for a brother or sister to assist our current office staff in Leo, IN. Our programs have been blessed with growth over the years and additional help is needed as we look to expand. Qualifications include a heart to serve, good interpersonal and organizational skills, and computer experience. Responsibilities will include secretarial and clerical help for our Foster Care department and various administrative tasks. This is a part-time position that will move to full-time.

For more information, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder  
Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
219/627-2159 (office)  
219/627-2606

Phil Stettner  
Counseling Elder  
219/565-3499

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
HOME FOR THE  
HANDICAPPED**

We warmly welcome a new resident to ACHH! She is Laura Litwiller, 19 years old, and the daughter of Myron and Sara Litwiller of Morton. Laura attends Morton High School and will graduate in May of 2000. She is a very social person and likes to interact with others, as well as go on outings, etc.

Spring activities are beginning to surface! Horseback riding started this past week; some residents are involved with various activities, such as bowling, with the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association. We will be starting training for Special Olympics Track and Field very soon. Once a month, on a Saturday, staff take a group of residents swimming. Recently, we started going to a new, special pool in Peoria built by Easter Seals. It is especially adapted for people with disabilities, such as, one large section has a whirlpool. The pool also has parallel bars, steps and ramps for wheelchairs to go down into the water. There are balls, baskets, and all sorts of floating objects to play with. Everyone is enjoying the new pool immensely!

Michelle Felton has begun her volunteer work as a disabled community representative in our Resident Council. She lives in Pekin, graduated from Illinois Central College and desires to be an advocate for people with special challenges who live in her community. Michelle assists with the Resident Council meetings by sitting in and listening to issues that our residents discuss. She also assists with a monthly Bible study here at ACHH. Michelle truly believes that though she is challenged with not being able to walk, due to Cerebral Palsy, God has a plan for her life. We appreciate her willingness to participate in our residents' lives.

**CASSETTES FROM EUROPE**

We still have a supply of the cassette tapes produced in Austria containing beloved hymns of our old Heft (Long Book).

All profits from the sale of these tapes go to Europe, where the money is distributed among our very needy brethren in the Eastern European countries of East Germany, Hungary, Romania and others.

The Heft or Long Book tapes were recorded by Bro. Josef Farkasch, who is a music professor near Salzburg, Austria. He plays the classical guitar and many other instruments on three tapes of songs from the Long Book. Some include singing.

The Heft (Long Book) tapes include three volumes. Volume I includes songs 1-11, 13-18; Volume II includes songs 12, 19-31; Volume III includes songs 33-48. Each tape costs \$8.00. For shipping costs on orders of 1-5 tapes, add \$.75 extra for each tape. On orders of 6 tapes or more, add only \$.30 extra for each tape. Make checks for Long Book Tape payable to the Long Book Tape Fund.

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

Don and Lorna Schrock  
100 Forest View Road  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-6810

Dennis and Beth Feucht  
317 North Third  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 266-9498

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Timothy 6:6)

Birthdays for May are: ACHH - Judy McRoy and Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch (3), Terry Stoller (6), Janet Smiley (9), Anna Stichling and Steve Slagel (13), Allison Given (14), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser and Chip Terhorst (22), Garth Boyer (26), Marjorie Feller (30). OAKWOOD - Herbert Stieglitz (11). 650 DETROIT - Jackie Barton (26).

## 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
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 Hackenjos	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	

1999 Work Season (Jan - July) will be discussed at the National World Relief Committee Meeting. Advance inquiries may be made through your local World Relief Treasurer Representative, or you may contact Bro. Harold Witzig, 308 N. Second Ave., Morton, IL 61550 by mail, phone (309) 266-6263, or fax (309) 266-8575.

### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Janel Ramseyer

Have you ever seen people acting in an un-Godly manner? I have a lot recently. Have you ever seen Christians acting in a manner not honoring Christ? I have a lot. Recently. Have you said or done something that you know is not scriptural? Something that made you feel uncomfortable around people because you knew they knew? Something that reminded you of how utterly human and sinful you are? Something that made you realize you really aren't as good as you originally thought? You really aren't better than those to whom you compare

yourself (though you know you're not supposed to be doing that)? I have. A lot. Recently. And I'm so glad. Not that we sin so grace may abound, but I'm so glad that there is such a thing as grace because I never quite live like I should.

I'm glad I fail and I glory in my struggles (II Cor. 12:8-10) because they remind me that nothing I will ever do is good enough to gain my salvation. They remind me that I can do nothing of my own will (John 8:28) but that even my breath, my existence is a gift from God because He has decided that I should live one more day. I'm grateful for the Holy Spirit who convicts me of my guilt (John 16:8-11) and empowers me to

be transformed and develop Christ-like character (Gal. 5:22, II Cor. 3:18). We are all commanded to examine ourselves (II Cor. 13) and are reminded of this commandment each time we take Communion.

And what of those Christians who are not acting as the Bible commands? Scripture is also clear on that issue. Besides the parable of the beam and the mote (Matt. 7) and the Biblical method for confronting a brother or sister in sin (Matt. 18), may we never underestimate the power of prayer. Jesus Himself says "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." He will not act according to our limited human understanding or in the visible,



tangible ways that we expect, but He will move (Isaiah 65:24). He said He would. And remember that we are not dealing with flesh and blood—our enemy is not the person with whom we're dealing. Ephesians 6 says that our fight is against "...the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We all have the same hope and the same calling. May we remember this as we look to spend eternity together.

We recently held our annual Representatives' Meeting in Leo this year, and added a meeting in Goodfield, IL to save our Reps some travel time. (Each Apostolic Christian Church has a Gateway Woods Representative who acts as a liaison between Gateway Woods and their local church.) Gateway Woods staff members and current and former residents presented on many topics including: Future Plans, On-Grounds Education program, Family Focused Treatment, Finances, and Family Foundations Seminars. Though the Rep Meeting is a service Gateway Woods offers to its supporters, we were greatly encouraged by your interest in our programs. If you were not able to attend either of these meetings, feel free to contact our office for more information!

New to Gateway Woods in the last month are Doug, who joined the Schrocks, and Angie (Foster Care) and Becky, who joined the Grafs. We welcome them to our family and look forward to working with them and their families over the next few months.

We are looking forward to summer, especially with this changing March weather! We've hired Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City, MI) as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in joining our Summer Team, please contact the Gateway Woods office at 219/627-2159. We're already getting a taste of summer as several volunteers spent their Spring Break helping

out at Gateway Woods. Bros. Brett Heiniger, Gabriel Clough, Eric Staley, and Clint Kaeb from the University of Illinois joined us for the week of March 9; Matt Kaufmann, Luke Baker, Joel Gehrig and Doug Brewer from Illinois Community College joined us for the week of March 16, and Brett Plattner and Jenny Plattner were in Leo for the week of March 23. We really appreciate our "winter volunteers" because they brighten our cold winters and remind us that summer is on the way. God bless you for giving of your time and energy!

Gateway Woods seems to constantly be growing and changing. Sis. Denise Klopfenstein's desire to cut back on her hours creates an opening for a female counselor. We are also looking for administrative/secretarial help in the Gateway Woods office. This position will start out as a part-time position with 30 hours per week, and will grow to a full-time position as we look to expand our program. If you are sensing that God is calling you to "...leave your nets and follow Him", please consider these openings. You may contact Bro. Tim Sauder at 219/627-2159. The Lord is doing an incredible work at Gateway Woods and we would love to have you join us in that work.

If you live in northeast Indiana, you can also join the Gateway Woods team without moving, by opening your home to children who have nowhere else to go. One of the many ways God is blessing Gateway Woods is by growing our Foster Care program. Just two years ago, we had two foster children. We now have sixteen! Please contact Bro. Bill or Sis. Jan Baumgartner at 219/627-2159 with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at our 22nd annual Auction and Sale this August 15, 1998. Feel free to contact the Gateway Woods office with any questions.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Molly Stickling

A teacher was explaining the differences between Seasons. When asked what types of clothing we use in the winter, the children responded with, "Umbrellas and raincoats!" The teacher stood corrected, because down here in the South, our winter has consisted of rain and more rain. Thankfully, the weather is beginning to feel more like Spring. On one of those rare sunny days, a teacher came upon two children having a rather important discussion. Both children were on their scooters with their heads looking straight up to the sky. One child asked, "Why does God move the clouds?" The other child responded without delay, "So He can see us!" Satisfied with the response, both children continued playing. The conversation brought a smile to the teacher, but also both an awesome and humbling feeling that God does see us at all times in everything we do and in everything we say. For there is no barrier that God cannot see through.

The school year continues to fly by, and the children have focused on about every letter of the alphabet. This month, letters V, W, X, Y and the color yellow were our focus. The children were easily fascinated with our theme on animals and insects this month, too. When teaching the children about how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, one child exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

The preschool was blessed with three willing volunteers. Sis. Holly Steiner (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Janel Blunier and Hope Knapp (Goodfield, IL) came and spent their Spring Break with us. We are thankful for the many jobs they accomplished, and especially all the love they shared with the children. "With good will doing service, as to

the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." (Ephesians 6:7-8)

We ask for your prayers as we have a need for a new teacher. We pray God will direct willing hearts so our need could be filled. Please communicate our need, or contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at 205-232-2035.

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## ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Joan Reinhard**

Springtime smells fill the air and I am reminded again of the new life awakening in the earth after the winter months. It is truly a season that uplifts us and lightens our step as we see things blossom around us. We can also so easily relate then to the awakening and uplifting that the Easter season brings. Christ arose! He did not stay dead. How basic is this simple truth, yet it is the foundation of our hope for resurrection and eternal life with Him. He was the first fruit of the resurrection and paved the way for us. How important it is for us to humbly accept this gift and to willingly live each day doing whatever He would have us to do. We cannot out give the Lord.

We have again enjoyed some visitors this month and we thank you for coming. The visitors were from Atlanta, GA; Bloomington, Goodfield, Peoria, Princeville, IL; Bluffton, IN; Bay City, MI; and Rittman, OH. We also appreciate Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and his wife, Sis. Marilyn, from Elgin, IL who came and shared the Word with us on February 15. May God continue to protect all those who travel and share in fellowship one with another.

We thank the Lord that Kendra Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) is recovering well from surgery that she had on her ear. We just pray for strength for her family and

for comfort for little Kendra as she struggles with her health.

We are looking forward to holding Communion service April 5 here in Athens. We appreciate so much this reminder of the Lord's last supper that He shared with His disciples. We know, too, that this privilege should not be taken lightly, but with a sincere searching of our hearts.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men..."

*Galatians 6:10*

We hosted the Western World Relief Review on February 28 and March 1. What joy to see many brothers and sisters serving the Lord in so many ways. Slides of various projects showed the need for World Relief. Our prayer is for God's blessings on each one sharing the workload.

The first week of March, a group of brothers and sisters went to Ixtlam, Mexico to help construct a church. We saw slides of the children who will attend Sunday School. What a fine group to receive your help.

Our readers will rejoice with us, as on March 18, Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton and family, Sam, Mary Beth, T.J., Katie and baby Megan, were in church together for the first time. Let us keep praying for this dear family, as Mary Beth is not out and about.

Our church family and some of their families are having medical crisis, needing prayers. Sis. Frances Martin was hospitalized for a medical procedure.

Visiting ministers to whom we are grateful were Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL).

We have also enjoyed many winter visitors. Each of you were appreciated and loved.

Our sympathy to Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy Blunier on her dad's death.

Sis. Anita Corven was welcomed into our church on January 18.

On March 11, Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich addressed some guidelines and cautions from the Winter Elder Conference.

Take heed, brethren, if you enter the valley of the shadow of death, you will need God's true love, no modifications or enlightenments in your faith.

To know Him is to LOVE Him.

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

**Jane Hodges**

Spring is such a beautiful time of year with new life springing forth all around. It always seems more special to believers because it is the time of year we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. We should always be thankful for His great sacrifice, and worship humbly before Him, serving Him to the best of our ability.

Once again, our hearts are praising God that another soul has decided to answer God's call to repentance and seek forgiveness. We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer that their son, Tim, has been given the grace to seek his soul's salvation.

We were doubly blessed this last four weeks with two ministers most Sundays. They included Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Sid Kaufman and Ken Eisenmann (both of Cissna Park, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Tom Schambach and Bill Gudeman (both of Elgin, IL), and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ).

### *Note of Thanks:*

We sincerely thank all for their kindness and sympathy, prayers, cards and memorials after the pass-

ing of Verena's father, Bro. Ernest Schneider (Peoria, IL). The floral arrangement sent by the Prescott church was especially beautiful. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena Kaeppler*

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL) and Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ). Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and John Lehman were here to read the Memorandum to us and also to serve Communion to our congregation. We appreciate the efforts of all the brethren who serve on the pulpit. Thank you for making Tucson part of your travel plans.

Sis. Joan Knapp received the sad news that her brother, Bro. Alden Reutter (Rockville, CT), passed away while vacationing in Texas. Sis. Joan and her husband, Bro. Loren, traveled to Rockville for the funeral. We pray the Lord will provide strength and comfort to Sis. Joan and her family in Rockville during this time of loss.

Our weather has made a decided turn towards spring, which in Tucson can quickly lead to summer! We have experienced a tremendous amount of rain this winter but in between the showers we have been having warm, sunny days with temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

#### Joshua Martinez

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

*Matthew 28:5-6*

Greetings of love in the name of our Lord and Saviour! As the Easter season approaches, we are reminded of our Lord's suffering and death to redeem mankind. We also feel joy in our hearts because of His resurrection, His victory over death and His precious gift of life eternal. Such a precious gift we were given, such a beautiful and bright promise!

We are truly blessed to be a part of our precious church heritage. It is beautiful to know we can travel from one church to another and know we will hear the truth from our ministers as well as guest ministers. Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was in our midst this month. May God bless him for allowing the Spirit to work through him so that we could all gain a blessing.

This past month we enjoyed many visitors, who as always, are very much appreciated! We wish to extend an invitation and our welcome mat should your travels bring you to the sunny Southern California area. Have a happy month!

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Rose Huette

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Fred Witzig (Altadena, CA). We thank them and their families for sharing with us. It is wonderful how the ministers in our churches travel to support one another in God's work. It truly is such a blessing. We thank our ministers for coming and invite them back as the Lord opens the way.

March 15 was the day Sis. Peggy Schulz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Victor Jevremov were united in Holy Matrimony in Silverton, OR. Sis. Peggy is the daughter of Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorthy Schulz from Oakville, IA. We wish this dear couple God's richest blessings as they establish their home in Escondido,

CA and we extend a warm and hearty welcome to Sis. Peggy!

We are looking forward to the testimony of our friend, Phillip Petrovic, on March 28, and Lord willing, his baptism the following day. May Phillip feel our love and prayers and God's nearness.

Our congratulations and God's blessings are extended to Sis. Yasmine Petrovic and Phillip Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian), our High School graduates! May they look forward to each day as an opportunity to grow in the Lord and always follow His leading.

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### ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA

#### Laura Baxter

We have just passed a beautiful Easter season and it is good to be reminded again of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. One thing that stood out to me was the faithfulness and diligence of Mary Magdalene, Mary, and Joanna, and the other women who went to the tomb early that first Easter morning. According to Luke 23:55 they had gone to the tomb on Friday to see where Jesus' body was laid. They probably also saw that huge stone that was rolled in front of the tomb entrance, but still went early Sunday morning with their spices and ointments believing that they would somehow be able to move that stone. When they got there, that stone was rolled away (Luke 24:1-2). There are times we are asked of God to do something that we believe to be impossible because we see a huge "stone" in the way. But I believe that God wants us to begin obediently and as we get closer to that "stone", it will be rolled away for us. And we will find a great blessing at the end just as the women saw the empty tomb and saw Jesus.

We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and

his ministering here this past month. We are thankful for the diligence and faithfulness as he shepherds our congregation.

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.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER**

Two days before the first day of spring, the wind was blowing and we received about 10 inches of snow. Many meetings, etc. were canceled that evening. Not quite what we would want this close to the first day of spring. Now, after two days of sunshine, most of the snow is gone. How often the snowstorms of life come into our life just when we are looking for better "weather" and we become discouraged. Yet the sunshine of God's love can melt that snow and bring the springtime into our hearts in less than the two days the sun took. Think of Christ's disciples as they triumphantly led Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and then only five days later had the storm of his crucifixion come into their lives. Then when the "sunshine" of His resurrection came, some refused to recognize it. Do we get so discouraged in the "storms" that we don't recognize the "sunshine"?

As we consider the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, can we see the transformation that this brought into the lives of the disciples; how that after the Holy Ghost came upon them they were no longer worrying about who would be the greatest, or what about this one? Rather they went out and preached the Gospel. They committed their whole lives to serving God. Do we make use of this power of the Holy Ghost to live a separated, holy life for God? Are we willing to stand

for this faith that has been preserved down through the years, so that the oncoming generations can have the same opportunity of salvation that we have had? We dare not let the prosperity of this time nor the standards of those who are not living the Gospel bring about a lukewarmness in our lives, for as we read in Revelation, He will spew us out of His mouth.

May the "sunshine" of God's Holy Spirit light up our lives and lift us out of the darkness of this world that we might walk in the Spirit and please our great God.

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### **CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE** **Cherie Galat**

"The elders which are among you I exhort,...Feed the flock of God which is among you..."

*1 Peter 5:1-2*

Our dear Elder brethren gathered together in Bluffton North, IN to consider the weighty matters of our spiritual life. How important it is to pray for and support them as they carry out their labor of love.

We appreciate so much our ministering brethren that recently visited our congregation: Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Also here was retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA).

It was a blessing for many of us who traveled to Philadelphia, PA for the ordination of Bro. Ben Wiegand for ordained deacon. May he and his wife, Sis. Michelle, feel the love and support of the brethren. What a great joy it is to gather with brethren to witness this work of faith! May God ever guide Bro. Ben in the future.

We are saddened by the death of Bro. Alden Reutter and express our

sincere sympathy to members of the family. May his wife, Marion, and children, Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean), Bro. Dean (Sis. Miriam), Glenna Luginbuhl (Barry) and Ted (fiance Shanon), and other family members be comforted by God's compassion and love. We also express sympathy to Sis. Linda Beyer (Bro. James) upon the death of her grandmother, Gladys Able. May God comfort both of these dear families.

Sometimes we suffer physical ailments. We pray that all will be well with Sis. Michelle Virkler (Bro. Wayne).

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said..."

*Matthew 28:5-6*

Even so may we be buried in the likeness of Christ's death and arise on that great day when He comes to take us Home.

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

Our thoughts and prayers were with Ken Belsley when he had surgery and was again hospitalized for infection. We are thankful he is again able to assemble with us.

Julia Marie Martin arrived February 18 to brighten the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Martin. Julia's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joy Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). In a few years, Lord willing, we will have a nice Sunday School.

Our thoughts, prayers and support are with Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand as Bro. Ben became ordained deacon for Philadelphia and Washington, DC. Many

from our congregation were able to travel to Philadelphia for the ordination.

We are so thankful ministers give of themselves to come to minister to us. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Ben Wiegand and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). May the Lord richly reward them for their efforts. Other visitors this month were from Elgin, IL; Rockville, CT; and Smithville, OH.

For those planning a summer vacation in this area, please be advised we are unable to have services in the hotel on July 26. 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. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. 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.

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### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Nancy Rocke

"And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

*Mark 16:5-6*

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Kaywin (Sis. Karen) Martin in the passing of his mother, Sis.

Priscilla Martin, of Roanoke, IL.

A delicious spaghetti dinner was served by the Sunday School students. We appreciated their labors of love.

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### FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Anjie Baum

As Easter is approaching, we are reminded of Christ's death and resurrection. We rejoice that Christ conquered sin and death! How amazing that He actually took our sins upon Himself, being completely blameless, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (I Peter 2:24)

How painful it must have been for Christ to carry such a heavy burden, and how much more painful it must be when we reject what He has done for us. This Easter season, let us all spend time on our knees thanking Him for the gift only He could give us...salvation.

We wish to thank Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) for their service in bringing us God's message this past month.

Recently we enjoyed a potluck dinner, and we are particularly thankful for our visiting brothers, sisters, and friends from Sarasota.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our thanks to our Ft. Myers church family for the cards, gifts and love shared to us for our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you.

*Mel and Leona Steffen*

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### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Rachel Sabo - Melissa Sabo

Jesus bore all our transgressions  
With Him there upon the cross,

And for us endured the anguish,  
As a meek lamb suffered loss;  
There He won for me and thee  
Life and joy eternally.

*Zion's Harp #183*

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

This month we had our annual bake sale, chili lunch and auction. We want to thank everyone who participated.

A group from Sarasota went on March 6-14 to Kingston, Jamaica missions trip to the deaf village. Many from the work team were excited to meet the deaf child they are or will be sponsoring. May the Lord continue to bless the CCCD ministry.

Hospital patients this month were Ralph Walter, Dolores Rassi, and Bro. Clarence Koehl (who was in a car accident).

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Peggy Camp

We were blessed this past month to have Bros. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO) share the Word of truth with us. May God richly bless these brothers for their efforts.

As the Easter season approaches, may we all be thankful for what Christ has done for us. His death and resurrection makes it possible for each one of us to receive everlasting life.

As always, we welcome visitors to stop and fellowship with us. Our Sunday services begin at 10:20 and 12:30. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13; go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629.

for further information.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**  
**Carlene Jepson**

It is difficult sometimes to think about how blest we really are. How our Lord provides for our every need. We take for granted our homes, clothing, food and the many other things that are available to us. I'm sure it pleases our Lord when we can help with the needs of others. We are thankful that Bro. Jeff Strunk recently had the opportunity to help out in Haiti and that he had a safe journey.

We are so thankful to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein and their children (Brandon, Mindy, Jackie and Jayla) back in our congregation. It is a joy to see all their smiling faces. There is always pleasure when someone moves into a small flock.

On February 21, we took the occasion to think of our Saviour who shed His blood for our sins as we partook of Holy Communion. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for sharing the Lord's supper with us.

We would also like to thank ministering Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) for sharing the Word with us during the previous month.

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

Sarah Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) has been diagnosed with a blood-clotting disorder. Continued prayers are needed for the Lord to heal Sarah without long term damage to vital organs.

The Memorandum was read on Wednesday evening, February 25. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for assisting Bro. Everett.

We praise God that Sis. Anne Marie Young has been able to regain her health enough to worship and fellowship with us.

Lisa Mariani (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine) and Pam Vail were baptized on March 1. Pam's parents are the late Roger and Elizabeth Vail of Tiskilwa, IL. We wish our new sisters in Christ much grace as they start anew. Thank you, Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), for so unselfishly giving of your time to assist with this special event.

Drew Bryan was born March 4 to Bryan and Beth Hanslow. Thankful grandparents are Cris and Cindy Harrell, and Dale and Linda Hanslow of Mahomet, IL.

Our monthly hymn sing was held March 15, with the 3rd and 4th graders singing a special song and each one reciting this Bible verse:

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (I Timothy 4:12)

It is such a blessing for a congregation to gather together and sing hymns of praise to Almighty God. They are literally sermons in themselves. No wonder the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians:

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19)

Our dear shepherd, Elder Bro. Everett Hari, was hospitalized for a brief time. He is at home now, thanks to our great God. May the Lord continue to bless him with strength and healing.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

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

*Luke 24:5-6*

As Easter draws near each year, we typically think of the Heavenly Home Jesus gave up to come to this earth and eventually die for us on the cross. In preparation for Communion, we also take a close look at ourselves to see how we are living and where we may have made mistakes in the past year. It is good for us to do this, brethren. However, do we also ponder on how the Lord may view us here below?

As time without end stretched out before Him and behind Him, God, in His wisdom, created the earth and all that is therein. When we think of eternity, it's no wonder that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." The Lord gives each one of us a few moments of eternity to prove our love and obedience to Him by serving Him on earth. May we use our few moments of eternity very wisely, brethren, that by God's grace and help we may be able to serve Him forever in Heaven.

Bro. Bryan Klumpp was brought into the fold on March 1. Parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Klumpp. May the Lord give Bro. Bryan His guidance and grace to stay true and faithful during his time here on earth.

We were also privileged to hear the engagement announcement of Sis. Diana Elsasser to Bro. Dean Feucht (Lester, IA) that same weekend. Parents are Sis. Vi Elsasser and Sis. Emma Feucht (Lester, IA). May the Lord bless them during their engagement time and even more so after they are married.

On March 8, Bro. Ben Endress and Sis. Katie Slutz were united in marriage. We rejoice with parents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn Slutz. May God give Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie wisdom and His blessings

as they "walk the path of life".

Ministering Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) visited us on March 6 to give a topical Bible presentation. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). We thank them all for coming and for the spiritual edification we received through them. May God bless them for being willing servants for our benefit.

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### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Following our unusually mild midwestern winter, Spring arrived locally with a mixture of snow, rain, and bone-chilling cold winds. We know that this will be giving way to much milder temperatures, renewal of life outside, more daylight hours, and renewed hope for all of God's living things. It is this renewal that we look forward to as we enter the Easter season. As parents, the first signs of Easter's approach is the children's preparation of the Sunday School program. We anticipate the retelling of the familiar story of what truly gives us hope for a new life. I was recently reading that there is little agreement on the origin of the name "Easter" for the oldest celebration in all of Christianity. Easter has been celebrated since the mid-second century. The actual name "Easter" may come either from the Christian observance replacing a pagan observance of the spring goddess "Eostre", or as a derivation from an old German term meaning "sunrise". Whatever the origin of the name, it is a season of introspection, thanksgiving, and renewal for believers as we celebrate

God's risen Son.

The church was filled with students, their families, and our local congregation as the annual Parent Weekend and Champaign Appreciation was held on the weekend of March 7-8. The local residents realize that this student-sponsored event involves a lot of work for our students, with the young people preparing a Saturday evening dinner for all to attend. We do value what they do for us and also enjoy having the company of their families with us for this and other weekends.

As springtime is upon us, we know that many things will be coming into new life, springing forth, and flowering. In addition to the greening of the grass and the appearance of the flowers and robins, we have a new love coming into the lives of some of our students. Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL) is engaged to be married to Sis. Mindy Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Ben Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) is engaged to Sis. Kristy Stoller (Princeville, IL). May their love for one another continue to increase with each passing day.

"Something that is stronger and deeper than any words is found in love." (Anon)

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) were with our congregation over the course of the past month. We appreciate the time that these men and their families took to be with us and to minister to our church.

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

#### Jill Rager

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will

cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

*Isaiah 61:11*

On February 21, our congregation gathered to hear the reading of the Conference report. Many thoughts were shared to encourage each of us to walk in a way that builds unity within the church. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for assisting in the evening as well as sharing God's Word on the following Sunday. Our congregation was blessed as a result.

Joys and blessings seemed to abound for us this month. On March 8, Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) and Sis. Mindy Knapp (Stan Knapp and Sis. Judy Knapp) of Goodfield, IL joyously announced their engagement.

March 14-15 was another time of rejoicing for us as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of our new Bro. Rocky O'Shea (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean). It is always such an encouragement to hear what God has done in the life of one who has "just recently been to Calvary" as our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann put it. Many visitors filled the church that weekend, and we want to especially thank the visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for their efforts during the weekend.

What better way to welcome spring than with a baptism...the celebration of new life and the death of the old. In springtime, all of creation seems to shout the meaning of baptism. I find myself peeking out my front window often these days to check the progress of the crocus bulbs that we planted last fall. It amazes me that from a brown, "dead" bulb, a lovely "gift of life" can sprout even amidst the snow! As we celebrate spring and the Easter

season, let us not grow weary in sowing the seeds of Christ's love no matter how "dormant" the seed may seem. Although God's ways may surprise us at times (like when we see flowers in the snow or His only Son on a cross), His ways are still perfect.

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Beth Steffen  
Darlene Walder**

Spring will soon be upon us with the awakening of the trees and shrubs and the flowers will soon be popping their heads up out of the softening earth. Along with the new life of nature also comes blessings from God with the arrival of Jonathan Ross Walder. He is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder and brother to Brittany and Jeremy. His grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles Walder and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank (Tremont, IL).

Along with Spring also comes the time of remembering Easter and the awesome sacrifice that our Heavenly Father made in allowing His most precious Son, Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and die for all of our sins.

"...Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen..."

*Mark 16:6*

Arise! for He is risen today;  
And shine, for He is glorified!  
Put on thy beautiful array,  
And keep perpetual Eastertide.

A little lad was gazing intently at the picture in the art store window: the store was displaying a notable picture of the crucifixion. A gentleman approached, stopped, and looked. The boy, seeing his interest said: "That's Jesus." The man made no reply, and the lad continued: "Them's Roman soldiers." And, after a moment: "They killed Him."

"Where did you learn that?" asked the man.

"In Sunday School," was the reply.

The man turned and walked thoughtfully away. He had not gone far when he heard a youthful voice calling: "Say, Mister," he repeated, "I wanted to tell you that he rose again."

That message, which was nearly forgotten by the boy, is the message which has been coming down through the ages. It is the Easter message. The story of the eternal triumph of life over death.

—author unknown

We are thankful that Sarah Maul (Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda) has taken advantage of the saving grace of Jesus' resurrection and has started her repentance. We lift her, as well as all our converts, up in prayer.

Those of our congregation that were hospitalized were Sis. Virginia Ehman. She had back surgery and is recuperating. Also, Bro. Wayne Hauptli, Sis. Gladys Winger, Greg Martin (son of Sis. Rosie), and Kara Teske (daughter of Bill and Judy Drayer) have been hospitalized for various reasons. We pray for God's nearness and healing to each, according to His will.

We want to extend congratulations to Bro. Matt and Sis. Betty Obergfel of Peoria, IL for the recent 50th wedding anniversary they celebrated.

Just beginning their walk together is Bro. Nathan Young and Sis. Stephanie Challacombe. They were united in marriage on February 15 in Bradford, IL. Bro. Nathan's parents are Sis. Kate Young and Harvey Young. May God be the center of their home.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). They came to make known that our ministering Bro.

Wayne Laubscher was given the duty of deacon of our church. We pray that God will continue to direct the decisions that are made for our church and we are thankful that God's love is everlasting to everlasting.

On March 8, our Bible Class had the opportunity of hosting the Fairbury Bible Class. Often when we are young, we can make friends that will last a lifetime and it is good that we can provide our young people with this advantage. Make new friends but keep the old, some are silver and the other gold!

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Missy Banwart  
Sandy Steiner**

Flourishing youth,  
Thou our hope and our fond  
expectation,  
Hark to the voice that is calling in  
kind invitation!  
That hand obey,  
Which oft has pointed the way  
To the dear Saviour's salvation!  
*Zion's Harp #168*

We are thankful that another soul has chosen to heed the call of the Lord. May God grant much grace unto Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) as he seeks to walk upon the narrow way.

Several souls have needed our prayers in the past month. Bro. Harvey Schieber, Bro. Orville Zimmerman (Sis. Lulu) and Sis. Lori Banwart spent time in the hospital. Our sympathy also extends to Sis. Arlene Banwart (Bro. Jerry) in the death of her sister, Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). May each of them and their families be uplifted by God's grace and comfort.

On March 7, we gathered to hear the reading of the Memorandum which both exhorted and encouraged us to walk separate from the world and closer to the Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer



(Akron, OH) for helping our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this endeavor. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). May God bless their efforts.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone who helped make our 50th anniversary a special day. Thanks to all who came, for the lovely cards, good wishes and gifts. God bless you.

*Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula Zimmerman*

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Peggy Heiniger  
Norma Schambach**

Our congregation extends its sympathy to Bro. Keith (Sis. Libby) Leman and his family in the sudden loss of his father, Bro. Richard Leman, of Eureka, IL. Even though there wasn't time to say good-bye, may the family take comfort knowing they can meet again in Heaven where there will be no more parting.

Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) was willing to spend a Wednesday evening addressing the topic of contentment in a topical Bible discussion. He so aptly reminded us that all we have is a gift from God given according as He sees fit. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Timothy 6:6). He stressed that we be careful not to view our gain as a reward for being godly. We appreciate his love and concern for us.

Saturday evening, March 14, we gathered in one mind and spirit to remember our Lord's suffering and supreme sacrifice for each one of us. Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Nathan and Bro. Ron with Holy Communion. Bro. Ed was with us for Sunday services to complete a blessed week-

end. We received so many teachings, and were encouraged to face whatever comes our way, as God always makes a way through whatever "Red Sea" we encounter in our lives.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) also inspired us to greater faithfulness when he spent a weekend with us. We truly appreciate our visiting ministers.

Believing it is God's will, Bros. Chuck Kellenberger and Ed Strahm were chosen for the ministry. May God give them the inspiration and abundant grace to be used in His service. Our prayers and support go with Bro. Chuck and his wife, Sis. Debbie, and Bro. Ed and his wife, Sis. Ramona, and their families.

*Note of Thanks:*

We sincerely appreciate all of the prayers and support during the passing of our dear wife and mother, Sis. Joyce Weiss. The love shown to us will never be forgotten.

*Our love, Bro. Paul Weiss and children*

*He Only Takes the Best*  
God saw she was getting tired  
and a cure was not to be.  
So He put His arms around her  
and whispered, "Come with me."

With tear-filled eyes we watched her  
suffer and fade away.  
Although we loved her deeply,  
we could not make her stay.

Her golden heart stopped beating,  
Her hard-working hands put to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best.

—author unknown

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**

**Janet Zimmerman**

Our hearts were encouraged and uplifted as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Stephanie Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri), Katie Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol), and Lisa Kup-

ferschmid (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) the weekend of February 22. May they always walk close to God and continue to seek His direction and council. Our visiting ministers for the weekend were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Bruce Hohulin and Wayne Wiegand (both of Goodfield, IL). We thank them for being with us and bringing forth God's Word in truth and sincerity.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne Schumacher welcomed a little baby girl into their hearts and home. Larae Olivia was born on February 18. Larae has a brother, Seth, and a sister, Brooke. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. Larry and Sis. Rebecca Endress (Bradford, IL).

Welcoming home a new baby boy are parents Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle Knepp. Grant Ryan was born March 14. Happy to have a new baby brother is sister, Emily, and brother, Ross. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht and Gary Knepp and Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington, IL). May God bless these parents as they love and raise their children.

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

Our hearts were saddened when so suddenly Bro. Rich Leman was called from this life. Bro. Rich died on February 23. We especially think of his dear wife, Sis. Edna, and his children and grandchildren. His children are Sis. Jane Wiegand (Bro. Don), Sis. Sharon Martin (Bro. Alan), both of Eureka; Sis. Jean Compton (Bro. Gary), of Bluffton, IN; and Bro. Keith Leman (Sis. Libby) of Elgin, IL. May God comfort this dear family as they grieve the loss of their loved one. We will all miss Bro. Rich as he was loved by everyone. With us for the funeral

service was Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Kenneth Schneider (Remington, IN). We appreciated their kind words.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray) whose brother, Bro. Chris Getz (Morton, IL), passed away on February 27. We also sympathize with Sis. Inez Steiner in the passing of her sister, Sis. Kathryn Grimm (Morton, IL), on March 6; and to Bro. Paul Tanner whose daughter, Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA), passed away February 23.

Sunday, March 1, the Bible Class hosted "Invite a Friend". We are thankful for all of our friends that assembled with us and continue to pray that they would heed the Master's loving call. I am reminded of a hymn that we often sing.

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,  
His love and truth with one accord,  
Go offer Him thy youthful days  
And walk within the Saviour's ways.

In youthful days His blessings seek,  
With heart that's tender true and meek,  
And while the years draw on a pace,  
You'll praise Him for His love and grace.

*Hymns of Zion #135*

Visiting ministers were Bros. Glenn Dill (Tremont, IL), John Hartman and Duane Kilgus (both of Fairbury, IL). We thank them for the love and concern shown to our youth.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO).

We think of our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital undergoing various kinds of surgeries and treatments. Bro. Bob Prather (Sis. Marlene), Sis. Ila Bradle (Bro. Roger), Sis. Salome Schumacher, Sis. Ida Belsley and Sis. Frieda Gerber have all met with bodily afflictions. Let us continue to hold up our

loved ones to God in prayer. We need the prayers of those we love to help us through each trying day. May God be with them and provide for their needs in the days ahead.

As we approach the Easter season of the year, our thoughts often go to our Lord and Saviour and His resurrection. We are humbled as we think of the great price Jesus paid on the old rugged cross. May we always be thankful that He was victorious over death and grave and that we have that blessed hope of being with Jesus in Heaven some day.

Sit and pause awhile my spirit,  
This great miracle behold;  
See the King of highest merit,  
On the cross so bare and cold!  
Out of heaven God has given,  
His own Son in love untold!

In humility, dear Saviour,  
Thou for me, I know hast died;  
Though I was Thy foe, Redeemer,  
Thou for me wast crucified.  
Silence keep I, humbly weep I!  
Thus through Thee I'm justified.

Through the power of Thy dying,  
Into Thy death, Lord draw me;  
Let my body, all my being,  
There nailed, Lord, with Thee;  
Calm and gentle may my will be;  
To my love give purity!

*Zion's Harp #226*

*Notes of Thanks:*

We want to thank all who so kindly expressed their sympathy to us in our loss of a husband and father. We appreciate your love, prayers, and many thoughtful deeds.

*The Sam Leman family*

I want to thank all of my friends, neighbors and relatives for the gifts, flowers and cards I received on my 90th birthday. May God bless all of you.

*Sis. Ruth Schumacher*

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**  
**Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel**

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

*Zion's Harp #89*

This month we were blessed with many visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. They were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). May God richly bless them and their families.

On February 22, Bro. Merle and Sis. Gladys Kaisner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them as they shared a very special occasion that not very many couples can celebrate. May God continue to bless them.

Kristen Chloe Finch was born February 18 to first-time parents, Sam and Dawn Finch (Mahomet). The new arrival was middle named for her great-grandmother, Chloe Georges. Grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger, and Wayne and Mary Jeannette Finch (Mahomet). Great-grandmothers are Mabel Finch and Ollie Steidinger.

First-time parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Beverly Young, welcomed Lori Lynn born on February 18. Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young are her grandparents. Great-grandmothers are Ollie Steidinger and Elizabeth Schick (Morton, IL).

Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Kilgus were blessed with a little boy, Tyler Duane, born on February 26. Little sister, Courtney, is delighted. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger and Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus. Great-grandmothers are Emma Werner (Salem, OR) and Ollie Steidinger. May God bless these families.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Willis and Sis. Elsie

Bachtold in the loss of his brother, Joe Bachtold (Sibley).

We are thankful that baby Lori Young (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Beverly) is home from the hospital and doing well.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**  
**Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp**

"And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

*Mark 16:6*

Let us always be thankful our Lord was willing to go to the cross for our sins and the sins of the whole world and then was Conqueror over death and grave to give newness of life and hope of life eternal. After Good Friday evening services, our Sunday School children will bring the Easter message of salvation through songs and verses.

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.

*Zion's Harp #207*

After holding morning services on Sunday, March 8, Bro. Earl Gerber made known to us of his retirement from the ministry. May God bless Bro. Earl for the many years he allowed the Lord to use him in His service to teach us of His Word and bring to us the way of salvation through humble preaching. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to him and Sis. Esther for their willingness to serve us throughout the years. We pray they will continue to feel the Lord's nearness.

Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Wayne Laubscher

(Cissna Park, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) visited and brought God's Word to us this past month. We thank them for their service on our behalf.

In the springtime of the year, nature reminds us of the beginning of new life. The birth of sons has brought new life to two families. Blake Austin Kilgus was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus. His siblings are Amber, Natalie, Krystin, Brooke and Stuart. Blake's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Leland and Sis. Laurene Zimmerman (Eureka, IL). Trenton Levi was welcomed into the home of Bro. Karl, Sis. Bethany, Karla, Trevor, and Tyler Edelman. His grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman and Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger.

Summer weddings are being planned by four young couples. Accepting the Lord's will to become man and wife, Sis. Kendra Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Joe Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri, Rittman, OH) have announced their engagement. Erik Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Angie Wiles (Dick and Pam Rieger) are planning a July 11 wedding. August 1 has been chosen as the wedding date by Arlen Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Denise Bahler (Jim and Rita, Fairbury, IL). Also making wedding plans are Nathan Waibel (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Marge) and Jill Steidinger (Charles and Joanne, Fairbury, IL).

Kyle Edelman (Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna) and Monica Ortego (Joe and Debra, Cropsey, IL) were married March 7. May they look to the Lord for guidance as they establish a home as husband and wife.

Time swiftly glides past. As these young couples look forward to spending years together as husband and wife, Donald and Marjorie Stephens are reflecting on the 50

years that have passed since their wedding day, March 14, 1958. We rejoice with them as they celebrate this occasion.

While wintering in Sarasota, FL, Bro. Clarence Koehl has had the misfortune of being involved in a car accident. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and Sis. Doris as he recovers. We also include Sis. Lil Bachtold in our prayers as her health continues to deteriorate.

Funeral services were held March 6 for Sis. Wilma Bachtold. We sorrow with her husband, Bro. Elmer, who lovingly cared for her during her time of declining health. May the Lord be near him and their children: Sis. Shirley (Bro. Bill) Denick (Bloomington, IL), Sharon (Donald) Metz (Novi, MI), Verna (Tom) Feely (Chatsworth, IL), Janice (Jack) Wilson (Streator, IL), Sis. Linda (Ron) Kinder (Gridley, IL), and Jerry (Bev); her sister, Sis. Velma Kellenberger (Peoria, IL), and her brothers, Bro. Charles Kupferschmid (Roanoke, IL) and Loren Kupferschmid (Peoria, IL).

Others in our church family are sorrowing over death of loved ones. Sis. Lil Bachtold, Sis. Nettie Kyburz, Sis. Janita (Bro. Leroy) Koehl, Bro. Elmer Bachtold and Carl (Sis. Dorothy) Bachtold grieve the loss of their brother, Joe Bachtold (Sibley, IL). Sorrow over the sudden death of Bro. Richard Leman (Eureka, IL) is keenly felt by his brother, Bro. Sid (Sis. Helen) Leman, and sister, Sis. Kathryn Schneider, and several other close relatives in our congregation. We were also sorry to hear of the death of Don Erb (Francesville, IN), Sis. Helen (Bro. Sid) Leman's brother.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, love and good wishes sent to us for our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you.

*Bro. Mel and Sis. Leona Steffen*

We wish to sincerely thank all who remembered us with prayers, cards, gifts, and visits after Duane's surgery and recovery. May God sincerely reward each one with His love and grace.

*Bro. Duane and Sis. Janny Schneider*

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

### Jan Beer

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie Huber (Francesville, IN) and their family visited the Goodfield congregation on March 1, and Bro. Brian served on the pulpit. Thank you for your service to us.

On the first three Sunday mornings in March, Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger conducted a Bible study in the Fellowship Hall for our dear friends. We pray God will bless the sowing of the seed in those hearts.

At our March Family Hymn Sing, a group of brothers from our own congregation provided some special music. They said they sing together because they love the Lord and they love to sing—both points were clearly evident! Thanks, brothers, for allowing us to share in your joy.

Currently, our babyroom is undergoing extensive remodeling to make better use of the existing space. During the two-week project, mothers are using the basement World Relief room and sick lounge. No doubt, the mothers will be very grateful for a "new" babyroom. We thank all those who volunteer their time and talents.

Two hearts have been searching God's will for their lives and He has brought them together for marriage—the engagement of our Sis. Mindy Knapp to Bro. Brandon Rinkenberger was announced on March 8. Sis. Judy Knapp and Stan Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger of the Chicago congregation are parents of

the happy couple. Our prayers and best wishes go with you as you continue to seek God's will in your lives, dear Mindy and Brandon.

The sting of death has been felt very sharply among our congregation. On March 2, Bro. Shorty (Sis. Evelyn) Hofmann's brother, Herbert, died. On March 10, Sis. Sandy (Bro. Sam) Hohulin's mother, Sis. Priscilla Martin, of Roanoke passed on. On March 11, Sandy (Mark) Wiegand's dad, Gene Gillespie, left us. And on March 12, our Sis. Ruth Rokey departed. Sis. Ruth's children in the Goodfield congregation are Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Phyllis), Vermeda (Duane) Freidinger and John (Linda). Each family who has been touched by the appearance of the death angel has our loving thoughts and prayers as they adjust to life without their dear one.

Illness and accident have visited several folks in our congregation since our last reporting. We pray they can feel God's comfort during their trial of faith.

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## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

### Perry A. Klopfenstein

We live in an era of higher educational levels. As knowledge increases, and technology expands, it seems we are all tempted to get caught in those pursuits.

This reminds me of a caution offered by a dear Sunday School teacher who has since been gone for many years, Bro. Will Gramm. He said no one is truly educated unless they know the Bible. At that time (in my teens), I was skeptical of him saying that.

He was right! That's one of the most profound things I remember from Sunday School. Truths found in the Bible should be exalted above all else. This has been admitted by some significant historical figures such as Theodore Roosevelt and Noah Webster.

The Lord Jesus confirms the validity of the Bible in His high priestly prayer, "Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I Cor. 3:19).

As believers, we must take great care that our highest focus be on the Word's teachings. We must learn the Bible, and then follow it. This is a great challenge today because we live amid tremendous broadcasting, publishing and education influences that can often draw our attention away from things that are eternal.

The wedding of Sis. Christine Romersberger and Bro. Matt Ginzel was solemnized on March 22 in Gridley. She is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardene Stoller, and the late Bro. Rob Romersberger. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel (Peoria, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Barb Kiefer and Mike Butikofer. Both have since recovered.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Ken Hoerr and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL).

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Phyllis Farney

### Cheryl Wuthrich

Our congregation has experienced the death of several loved ones since the first of the year and we report several more in this column. As the passing of some of our older brothers and sisters occur, we are comforted by the many young people that we were blessed with in our congregation. We have hope that the faith will be carried on when we see the young people, young families, and many children. God is good; He continues to provide.

Bro. Sam Staker was called Home

on February 19. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Clara; his son, Bro. Ted; his daughters, Judy Corrigan and Janet Woerner; his sister, Sis. Lydia Zimmerman; his nine grandchildren; his six great-grandchildren; and his other relatives.

Sis. Katherine Birkey went to her reward on February 23 at the age of 99. May the Lord comfort and bless her two daughters, Sis. Grace Birkey and Sis. Vilas Belsley; her sister, Sis. Clara Scherer; her three grandchildren; her seven great-grandchildren; and her other relatives.

Bro. Chris Getz died on February 24 at the age of 93. May the Lord grant comfort to his wife, Sis. Esther; his two daughters, Ruth Rapp and Judith Bergquist; his stepson, Roger Aupperle; his stepdaughter, Jane Fidacaro; his brother, Bro. Emery Getz; his two sisters, Sis. Louise Rocke and Sis. Emily Getz; his three grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; two step great-grandchildren and his other relatives.

Bro. Bill Stetzler was called Home on March 2. May the Lord comfort and bless his wife, Lois; his daughters, Sandra Burrier and Rebecca Nebes; his two sons, W. Jerrell Stetzler and David Stetzler; his five sisters, Hannah Mooberry, Sis. Helen Hermann, Eileen Knapp, Sis. Margaret Pflederer and Caroline Schlachter; his eight grandchildren; and his many other relatives and friends.

Sis. Kathryn Grimm died on March 6 at the age of 95. May God comfort and bless her large surviving family. They are her son, Bro. Hank Grimm; her daughters, Sis. Marie Taufer, Sis. Norma Zeller and Sis. Joyce Domnick; her sisters, Sis. Marie Kaufman, Sis. Wilma Wiedman, Sis. Inez Steiner, Sis. Hilda Gerst, and Sis. Verna Rocke; her half brothers, Bro. Melvin Steiner

and Ivan Steiner; her 29 grandchildren; 90 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; and her many other relatives and friends.

On March 8 we held our monthly Hymn Sing. The Goodfield Choir ministered to us with their lovely singing. We praise God for the time of fellowship and singing to His honor.

On March 14, we held our annual Invite a Guest Singing at our Fellowship Hall. What a blessing to come together with loved ones to sing and to fellowship.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Sallie Hoerr welcome Travis Christian into their home. He was born February 12 and was welcomed home by his sister, Alyssa. Grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley, and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr (Peoria, IL).

Scott and Carrie Michel welcomed twins, Andrew William and Elizabeth Christine, on February 8. Matthew and Sarah welcomed them home. Grandparents are Bill and Sis. Doris Michel and Charles and Delores Forbes.

We wish to thank Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for visiting Morton and for bringing God's Word to us.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for the many kind deeds during our mother's stay at Restmor and at the time of her death. The prayers, cards, flowers and food were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to our ministers.

In Him,  
*Grace Birkey, Louis and Vilas Belsley and family*

Dorothy and I wish to extend our thanks to all for the words of encouragement, cards, and kindness shown during my recent hospital stay and time of recovery. Your prayers have played a big part in my

recovery.

*Thanks so much,  
Jack Krantz*

### **ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber**

When Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, saw the multitude at Sinai, he said to him: "I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee. Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place them over them. So shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee" (Exodus 18:12,19,20). On Sunday evening, March 1, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer expressed his thankfulness to God and the congregation that Bro. Ken Hoerr could be chosen the second deacon to be ordained since the beginning of the Peoria Church in 1950. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) assisted in the ordination service, followed by the prayer of consecration by Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer. We thank Bro. Ken Hoerr sincerely for his many years of bringing us the Word of God and wish him God's grace and sustenance for his additional duties. It was mentioned that the power of the pulpit is in direct proportion to the prayers of the congregation and the need stressed to support our faith, traditions and the Elder body. It was a blessed event for the Peoria congregation and we thank the various area Elders and all visitors who were present for, and took part in, Bro. Ken's ordination.

We thank Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) for his message on "Evidencing discipleship" for our family night service on March 4. If our lives were examined from every angle, could we be convicted by a jury, the world, of being a disciple of God? A disciple is a learner and fol-

lower of Jesus and the pattern is not our love, but His example. We can provide discipleship by continuing in the Word and have ready knowledge of the appropriate scripture at the appropriate time; have joy and peace; have our treasure in Jesus, not in things we possess; follow Christ and remember His pathway of service, selflessness, sacrifice; show willingness to be detached from things of this life and bear viewable fruit in our lives. There is no fence to sit on and no middle ground. We must continue in the Word, deny ourselves, take up the cross and hope God will find us faithful.

We thank Bro. Richard Sutter and his wife, Sis. Kathleen (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), for their visit on March 8 and two inspired sermons Bro. Richard brought to us.

The Sunday School presented the Easter program and we thank all who participated. Innumerable words have been spoken and bars sung over the ages to commemorate the Passion Week. In three hours on the cross, when collapsed capillaries made blood drops like sweat, Jesus took upon Himself the sins of billions of people over thousands of years. Later many became martyrs for their faith, some known to us and many having taken their nameless places in history. Are we going to be of those faithful servants Jesus will ask to come in?

We enjoyed the visit on March 15 of the Roanoke Bible Class and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and his family. He reminded us to resolve conflicts, be reconciled to our family and the Lord and not be a prodigal son who does not come home to the Father. As the Spirit touches us, listen what it has to say to us. Thanks, Bro. Kevin, for your uplifting meditations.

February 22, 1948, at Danville, IL was the wedding day of Bro. Matt and Sis. Betty Oberffel. They moved

from Cissna Park, IL to Peoria in September, 1991, and we have been blessed by their presence. Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr were married at Morton, IL on March 14, 1948, the first wedding performed by Elder Bro. Joe A. Getz and the first open ceremony. Their children hosted a family dinner at Wildlife Prairie Park on March 14. Our sincere congratulations to both couples on their 50th anniversaries and warmest wishes for the continued blessings of God with many more years of happy togetherness, good health and spirits.

On February 12, Bro. Todd and Sis. Sallie Hoerr were blessed with a baby boy, Travis Christian, who was welcomed by Alyssa. Grandparents are Bro. Louis and Sis. Vilas Belsley (Morton, IL) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr.

We thank our Elders, ministers and visitors for worshiping and fellowshiping with us and so visibly fulfilling the Lord's command to love and sustain each other in one mind and spirit on life's pathway.

January was Peoria's turn for the annual collection to cover the cost of printing and mailing *The Silver Lining*. \$1,800 was forwarded to the editorial staff and we thank all who contributed. If you were not aware of this freewill collection, you may still put your contributions in the church boxes, marked "For The Silver Lining". The current out-of-pocket cost is \$11.00 per subscriber.

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and

prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

*Luke 22:39-44*

May each of us be willing to say "Not my will but Thine be done" as we stop and think of the price that Jesus Christ paid for each of us when He died on the cross.

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. Ben Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Kristy Stoller was announced to the congregation. Bro. Ben is the son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol (Roanoke) and Sis. Kristy is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy. May this couple feel the direction of God as they plan their future together.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our dear Sis. Ruth Ricketts as she has been in the hospital this past month.

We would like to express our sincere sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona Streitmatter in the passing of Sis. Deyona's mother, Sis. Edith Massner (Burlington, IA). May they feel God's nearness in the time of their sorrow.

### *Golgotha*

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit  
This great miracle behold;  
See the King of highest merit  
On the cross, so bare and cold!  
Out of heaven God has given  
His own Son in love untold!

That your Saviour loves you dearly,  
He upon the cross has proved,  
Where in torments most severely  
He from God was far removed.  
In His anguish He must languish  
For the sinful men He loved.

Thus His soul of God forsaken,

Filled with sorrow to its depth,  
And His flesh is likewise shaken,  
Tortured unto His last breath;  
All His vigor, All His power  
Is exhausted unto death.

These, the fruits of our  
transgressions,  
Fell unto Thee, Saviour dear,  
While this wrathful condemnation  
We deserved as sinners here.  
These afflictions and convictions  
We unworthy ones should bear.

Yet Thy suff'ring has defeated  
Satan's pow'r, yea, death and hell;  
Through Thy death Thou has  
completed  
Thy dear heav'nly Father's will.  
This is given to us even  
Life eternal to fulfill.  
*Zion's Harp #226*

## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Valerie Wuthrich**

**Lisa Leman**

The weekend of March 1 was a blessed one as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of six dear souls. They were: Bros. Drew Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanie), Jason Hodel (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Kathy), Marty Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol), Jay Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge), Matt Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan), and Sis. Cheryl Wacker (Jim). Ministers here for the occasion were: Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Glenn Braker (Princeville, IL). May God richly bless them for their efforts in bringing us God's Word.

On February 16, Carolyn Irene blessed the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori Whitten. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Carol Whitten and John Wade.

Ryan Lee was joyfully welcomed into the family of Ben and Sis. Kathy Fehr. Ryan's older brothers and sister are Isaac, Alecia and Alex. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Bro. Joe Aeschle-

man.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott and Sis. Bev Luginbuhl on the March 10 arrival of Lydia Mardell. Big brother, Samuel, and grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl and Bro. Joe Aeschleman, welcome Lydia into their hearts and home.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Mary Jane Steffen on the death of her father, Charles Stephens, of Benson.

Our prayers are with the Martin family as they said farewell to their mother, Sis. Priscilla "Jackie" Martin. Sis. Jackie passed away March 10, and survivors include a daughter, Sis. Sandy (Bro. Sam) Hohulin, Lexington; three sons, Bro. Kaywin (Sis. Karen) Martin of Coral Springs, FL; Dale (Marilyn) Martin of Winston-Salem, NC; and Glen (Carol) Martin of Benson, IL. May God be with this family and bless all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren with precious memories of their loving grandmother.

On March 15, we heard the wedding engagement announcement of our Bro. Ben Luginbuhl (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) to Sis. Kristy Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) of Princeville, IL. We extend our congratulations and prayers as they make plans for their wedding and their new life together.

We thank Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) for visiting the Roanoke congregation and preaching the Gospel. Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) also came to be with us for our monthly Bible Study. God's blessings on these ministers and their families for their labors of love.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Larry Aeschleman (Doris), Sis. Pat Sauder and Bro. Harlow Blunier (Sis. Sally). There are others from our congregation that are suffering from illness and physical ailments. May each of these loved ones feel our concern and pra-

yers.

The funeral of Sis. Fannie Zimmerman was held on March 19. We extend sympathy to her family: Sis. Edith Sauder (Bro. Howard), Sis. Mary Bradle (Bro. Bob), Bro. Robert Zimmerman (Sis. Madlyn), all of Roanoke; and Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Bro. Roy Zimmerman (El Paso, IL), Donald Zimmerman (El Paso, IL), William Zimmerman (Dacula, GA) and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers go to this family as they said farewell to their dear mother and grandmother.

### *Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone for cards, gifts and good wishes we received for our 50th anniversary. God bless you all.

*Bro. Warren (Slim) and Sis. Ruth Hodel*

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, cards, gifts and many expressions of love shared with our family during the time that Amy battled leukemia and at her death. We were also touched by the cards and gifts sent to Amy by Sunday School children in many of our churches. Her own Sunday School friends were so kind in sharing their love with Amy. Your cards, gifts, phone calls and visits were a lifeline to Amy. She was so thrilled to join you last summer for Bible School and your class picnic. We will always treasure the memory book you made for her and the video where you shared thoughts, Bible verses and hymns with Amy. How surprised and happy Amy was at the birthday party you planned for her. Although her illness went on for many months, her friends never forgot her. Words cannot express the depth of sorrow we felt as we watched our precious 12-year-old suffer and die, but we praise God for His plan for

eternal life and also that His people were so faithful to lift us up when we needed it so very much. You were there to bring food, clean our house and van, take care of our garden produce, plant flowers and work in the yard, care for our boys, visit us in Memphis and drive down with us for check-ups, send gifts, cards and sunshine boxes, plan benefits for us and St. Jude Children's Hospital and many more kind deeds. Our hearts will be forever grateful.

Some of Amy's last words were "call the prayer chain." Your prayers and God's grace helped get us through each day. We appreciate your love and continued prayer support. May the Lord richly bless you for sharing our burden.

*Bro. Dave, Sis. Barb, Andrew and Jon Schwind*

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

"For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God."

*Eccles. 5:7*

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. We greatly appreciate Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for their willingness to come and minister God's Word to us. May God richly bless them and their families for their labors of love.

Many hearts have been saddened as a loved one has passed from this life to her long awaited reward. Our Sis. Lydia Brunner passed from this life on March 12 at the age of 93 years. We extend our deepest sympathy to her brother, Elmer, his wife, Dorothy, and her nieces and nephews. May God grant His comforting Spirit to all who are sorrowing.

Our thoughts and prayers are

with our loved ones who have been hospitalized this past month: Sis. Arlene (Bro. Ken) Huette, Sis. Vera (Bro. Walter) Aberle, Sis. Elsie Sinn and Eunice (Harold) Rowell. May God's healing power be with all who are sick and shut in is our prayer.

How fortunate Holly Anne, born December 25, is to be adopted by our Sis. Anne Zuercher. Her big brother, Seth, is excited with his new sister. Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher are thankful grandparents of Holly Anne.

Adam and Katie Reinbeck are the thankful parents of Rachel Marie born February 22. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck and Paul and Sherry Strobe.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to express my gratitude for the many acts of kindness, cards, flowers, food, visits and prayers during my surgery and recovery. May God bless you all.

*Sis. Bernice Frank*

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Sue Ruppert**

"And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."

*Luke 15:12*

One thing we frequently hear from young children is "Gimme!" This expression is short for "give me", of course, and kids say it a lot. "Gimme this, Gimme that." Little children want everything, immediately, and in this way they are very much like the prodigal son of Jesus' parable. He, too, said "Gimme" to his father: "Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me."

There is the child in each of us who says "Gimme" no matter how old we are. We want this and we want that. In our materialistic world we see people running wild

trying to gratify their every whim. The problem is they only want more. People never experience genuine satisfaction because they never stop saying "Gimme".

Jesus said to His friend Martha, "Thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful..." (Luke 10:41-42) and this is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus gives us His limitless love. He gives us living water and is the Bread of Life. He was crucified in our place. By His grace and power we can say "Gimme" a little less often and instead enjoy the showering of Jesus' love.

How often we fix our eyes on decaying things of this world. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, and lift our eyes to behold Thy priceless love for us.

The Washington congregation has much to rejoice about this month. Three new babies have joined our church family. We welcome Kayla Jean Streitmatter (Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean) who was born March 3. Grandparents are Sis. Shirley Leuthold (and late Bro. John) of Princeville, IL and Sis. Pearline Streitmatter (and late Bro. Vernon). Brother, Kirk, also welcomes her home.

Eric John Schick was born February 20 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn. Grandparents are Sis. Dolly Schick (and late Bro. John) and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter (Princeville, IL). Sisters, Jenna and Jamie, are glad to have a baby brother.

Ethan Aaron Steffen joined the family of Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna on March 2. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL). He is welcomed also by brother, Quinn, and sisters, Myca, Olivia and Paige.

We thank Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) for sharing with



us out of God's Word this month. We always appreciate brothers who let themselves be used by God in the preaching of the Word.

Sis. Elizabeth (Putt) Herbst has moved to the Eureka Home. We know we won't see her sweet smile as much as we have in the past. Sis. Putt, we thank you for your faithful service that you provided every Sunday in the kitchen. God will be with you in your new home.

Little Promise Ledford (Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy) was hospitalized this month, but is home and now doing well.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

#### Kim Maller - Trudy Eisenmann

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we had during the Conference and other times. Among them were Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN).

Sympathy is extended toward the families of Bro. Edwin Amstutz who passed away; to Bro. Kent Sprunger and family during the death of his father, Adrian Sprunger; and also to the family of Sis. Jean Compton during the death of her father, Bro. Richard Leman.

We are also prayerful for Bro. Steve Fiechter who has been in need of the Physician's help, as well as Sis. Barbara (Tom) Pfister, Sis. Nellie Birch, and Bro. Ervin (Emma) Isch.

Rejoicing are the parents of a newborn daughter, Olivia Rae, born to Bro. David and Sis. Sheri Moser.

Also rejoicing are the families of Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat Moser in the engagement of their son, Bro. Kurt, to Sis. Molli Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene). Bro. Nick Baumgartner (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) also

has asked for the hand of Sis. Leah Habegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane).

Expressing a need for the Lord in their lives are Rich Pfister (Al and Becky) and also Amber Rager (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou). May they find His true riches, as even Jesus said, "...behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

#### Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller

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

*Hebrews 13:17*

Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this past month beginning with Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) who joined us for morning services after the winter Conference. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and his wife, Sis. Kathy, joined us March 7-8 to help Elder Bro. Phil in the reading of the Memorandum. Visiting us the same weekend were Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) joined us for a weekend of testimonies and baptisms. May God bless each of these brothers and their families for their willingness to be used. It is wonderful to come freely into the house of the Lord and hear the Word spoken in truth and purity.

Three souls who heard the truth and responded with broken and contrite hearts shared their testimonies and were baptized on March 13-14. They were Darren and Matt Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) and their good friend, Kent Rockwell. Kent is the son of Ted Rockwell and Kevin

and Beth King. It was an encouragement for all to hear how God brought each of these young men to the cross. Parents of unbelieving children were exhorted to keep praying and sharing. We know the angels rejoice to have three new lambs added to the fold. Our hearts pray that many more souls will choose the path to Heaven.

We offer our joyful congratulations to two new couples who have announced their engagements this month. Bro. Kurt Moser (Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat) announced his engagement to Sis. Molli Gilliom (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene, Bluffton). Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Abby, to Bro. Scott Klopfenstein of Indianapolis. Scott's parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris of Leo, IN. We wish both couples and their families blessings of love and joy during this special time and always.

Jimmy and Melissa Watters welcome their firstborn son, Damion Michael, into their home. Randy and Sis. Kathy Shriver are the happy grandparents.

As we rejoice in the arrival of new little ones, we must also say goodbye. Tim and Sis. Carol Mock mourn the loss of Tim's mother. Our hearts go out to them in loving sympathy.

Several loved ones were hospitalized this past month. We are thankful that Sis. Nancy Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary) has recovered from surgery and is back at work. Trayton Gerber, 5 year-old son of Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn, also had surgery and spent some time at Riley Children's Hospital. He is back at home and recovering under the loving care of his family. Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller's baby son, Taylor, who contacted spinal meningitis at 1 month, is still in Riley Children's Hospital receiving therapy. We pray for his continued recovery knowing that God can bring all things to good.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 4:19*

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Pam Huber**

This month, as we joyfully look forward to Easter, we see signs of new life all around us. But, sometimes "we crucify ourselves between two thieves—the regrets of the past and the fears of the future," not allowing God's forgiveness and mercy to heal us. I pray we could all live in the knowledge that God is sovereign and He loves us. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:34, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Allison Gutwein (Sis. Melody) has felt the peace that a new life with Christ brings. We pray for her continued growth and grace as we look forward to her joining the body of believers.

Two weddings were held this past month. Tanya Nuest (Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane) and Andy Howard (Maurice and Nela) joined their lives together and now are starting the blessed path as husband and wife. Aaron Gutwein (Sis. Melody) and Carrie Williams (David and Charlotte) of Garrett, IN are also thankful for God bringing their lives together. May He continue to be their guide as they walk this path together.

We also look forward to another upcoming wedding as the engagement of Chris Huber (Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon) and Becky Davis (Rich and Wanda Schultz and Duane Davis of Wheatfield) has been announced. Our prayers will be with them as they make preparation for that special day.

On March 11, Don Erb of La-

fayette passed onto his eternal rest. He was a brother to Sis. Lorna Putt, Carol Bucher and Bro. George (Sis. Elaine). We also extend our prayers and sympathy to his sons, Craig and Rod (Shelly), who have been attending church with us.

Bro. Bruce Wuethrich (Sis. Kathy) expressed his thankfulness for the prayer support he felt during his stay in the hospital this month. Also, Sis. Louise Onken has spent some time in the hospital again and continues to need our prayer support.

A farewell singing was held for Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz and their children, Sis. Cheree, Jordan, Mahlia, Obed, Ezra, Simeon, Mieke and Selena, on March 15. They will be moving to Nashville, TN in April and will be greatly missed by our entire congregation. We pray for God's blessings as they adjust to their new home.

## INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Lynn Dotterer**

We, along with the angels in Heaven, rejoice here on earth when a soul turns toward God and desires to live for Him. On March 14, Sis. Laurie Schafer shared her testimony and was baptized the following day.

Congratulations to our Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Sis. Abby Kipfer who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Christine Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer (Bluffton North, IN).

We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

Our congregation seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. We welcome Bro. Paul Hangartner and Sis. Deb Anliker to our church family. They are both employed in the Indianapolis area.

We thank Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Marti (Kansas City, MO),

Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Word with us.

## INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Anna Marie Stoller**

I often say my prayers,  
But do I ever pray,  
And do the wishes of my heart  
Go with the words I say?  
I might as well kneel down  
And worship gods of stone  
As offer to the Living God  
A prayer of words alone.  
For words without the heart  
The Lord will never hear,  
Nor will He to those lips attend  
Whose prayers are not sincere.

—author unknown

One of the suggested themes of this month's Silver Lining is "Thinking with the Heart". Thinking and praying with a sincere and genuine love for the Lord brings true peace and understanding of the deep love God has for those who entreat Him.

"Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

*Phil. 4:8*

Joy in our hearts was generated by fellowship with visiting believers during the annual "Fellowship Weekend". Brothers who ministered the Word on this encouraging day were Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). The efforts of the three LaCrosse families who

hosted this blessed weekend are deeply appreciated.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank each of you for the many cards, gifts, and especially your prayers during my time of chemotherapy. We feel so unworthy of all the love bestowed upon us and pray God will richly bless each of you.

*Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold and family*

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**INDIANA, LAFAYETTE**

**Gordon Gerber**

In this past month, the Lord has provided our congregation with Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) to bring us His Word. It is a joy and blessing to study the Word and to fellowship together, for which we are thankful.

As the Lord allows, the Purdue group will meet again on April 2 (Milford); April 16 (Leo); and April 30 (Bloomington), with regular church services on March 26, April 9 and April 23. Each service begins with singing at 7:30 p.m. and normally ends by 9:30 p.m. Please contact Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 448-4709 for more information or a schedule. We would enjoy your visit to our Purdue group services or our regular church services.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Ethelyn Schlatter**

"...though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies."

*Lamentations 3:32*

Our sisters, Maudie Grueter, Thelma Schlatter and Helen Zimmer, are improving but progress is slow. Sis. Thelma returned to the home of her daughter and son-in-

law in South Carolina, and Sis. Helen returned home from her daughter's home. We thank Jesus for His mercies.

We rejoice with two of our brothers as God has directed them to a life-long helpmate. Bro. Jaret Wieland (Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda) is engaged to Sis. Sharlin Huber (Francesville, IN). Her parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Jackie Huber.

Bro. Scott Klopfenstein (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris) is engaged to Sis. Abby Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie, Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) shared the topic of "Hope" at this month's Topical Bible Study. He talked on no hope and compared false hope with true hope. It was a very impressive evening. His closing remarks were, "Never underestimate the power of God and His Holy Spirit. ...the ultimate no hope is one who understands the contrast between false hope and the true hope, but rejects truth. The greatest hope is to see each other in Heaven."

Other visiting ministers and their families were Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), David Graf (Akron, OH), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you" (Col. 1:3)

An olive tree in Gethsemane and the cross at Calvary witness to the agony and death of the Son of God. He arose; Jesus is alive and He will return.

*A Springtime Meditation*

Long, long ago  
in a land far away,  
There came the dawn  
of the first Easter Day,  
And each year we see  
that promise reborn  
That God gave the world  
on that first Easter morn...

For in each waking flower  
and each singing bird,  
The promise of Easter  
is witnessed and heard,  
And spring is God's way  
of speaking to men  
And renewing the promise  
of Easter again.

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

Had it not been for a place called  
Mount Calvary,  
Had it not been for the old rugged  
cross;  
Had it not been for a Man called  
Jesus,  
Then forever my soul would be lost.  
—R. Goodman

God has blessed the home of Kevin and Gina Smith (Angola, IN) with a daughter, Molly. She has a big sister, Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol Hurd and Henry and Karen Smith.

Mike Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) and Christi Cole (John and Peg) have announced their engagement and plan to be married in April. We wish them God's many blessings as they join their lives into one.

We thank Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) for ministering to us. May God's wisdom fill him and bless him for sharing.

Many of our loved ones have been suffering with illness and pain. Those who have had surgery or been hospitalized are Bro. John (Sis. Pam) Lehman, Bro. Elmer Hartter, Sis. Kathryn (Bro. Glen) Price and Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Art) Haab. We know at times it is very difficult for some of these loved ones. God's Word assures us not the slightest thing touches us without first receiving God's nod. All happens to us for the working out of His mysterious and wonderfully strange plan. We surely want to be in God's will even though it may not be what we would choose. There is no safer or

better place to be than in His will! May these loved ones feel courage from God.

Christ in the garden of Gethsemane said, "...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death;" (Matthew 26:39). Christ was very discouraged. What an example for us that He got up and walked to the cross with much courage. He loved us and wanted to do His Father's will. May we with God's grace also have that strength to hold fast through the trials He asks us to suffer for Him.

It will be worth it all  
When we see Jesus,  
Life's trials will seem so small  
When we see Christ.  
One glimpse of His dear face,  
All sorrow will erase,  
So bravely run the race—  
Till we see Christ.

—*Esther Rusthoi*

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Patti Bahler**

When we consider Easter, we think of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This separates Christianity from all other religions of the world. Many religions are based on moral codes. Certainly these systems could benefit their adherents in many ways. But their fault lies in their deficiency. They have never conquered death and therefore can never give eternal life.

If we take the resurrection of Jesus Christ from Christianity, we have only another ethical system to live by...one that extends only to the end of this life. In I Corinthians 15:14, Paul wrote, "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope today. It is our assurance that we have a loving Saviour to help us live as we should. And when the Lord himself descends from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of

God (I Thess. 4:16), we shall be forever with the Lord.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Rich Leman (Sis. Edna, Eureka, IL), but yet rejoice he is with the Lord. We remember the many years they lived in Remington and extend our sympathy to each one in the family.

We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) with us this month. We are so grateful for their willingness to faithfully share God's Word.

March 8 was the wedding day for Bro. Jason Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charleen) and Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb, Latty, OH) in Latty, OH. We pray God will bless their union with peace and His continued presence. We also extend a warm welcome to Sis. Sara as they establish their home in Remington.

## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Jennifer Mangold**

**Sue Beebe**

"A vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

*II Timothy 2:21*

Martin Wells Knapp was once undergoing a severe trial, and in his secret devotions he asked God to remove his trial. As he waited before the Lord, the vision of a rough piece of marble rose before him with a sculptor grinding and chiseling. Watching the dust and chips fill the air, he noticed a beautiful image begin to appear in the marble. The Lord spoke to him and said, "Son, you are that block of marble. I have an image in my mind, and I desire to produce it in your character, and will do so if you will stand the grinding; but I will stop now if you so desire." Mr. Knapp broke down and said, "Lord, continue the chiseling

and grinding."

I recently read this and felt moved to share. How many of us at one time or another have been Martin Wells Knapp? Did we have the faith to say "Let the chiseling and grinding continue", or did we ask that it cease? Without trials, how far do we move from the Sculptor's side? Do we feel His nearness or do we need to ask for the chiseling and grinding to start up again? Each once rough area that is now smooth should be a stepping stone for us to have faith and strength when the next chiseling tool comes near.

God's traveling mercies were with those from our congregation that were part of the February work teams that went to Haiti. We trust God's nearness is with those who are currently in Mexico on projects.

Visiting ministers, along with their wives, were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). It is encouraging to hear the unchanging Word from those servants we've met and those we haven't, no matter how great the distance traveled.

## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler**

We were blessed to have Bro. Dan Stoller from our neighboring congregation at Remington with us to share the Holy Word of God on the afternoon of March 1. Our sincere thanks to Bro. Dan for his willingness to serve us on that day. Oftentimes our thanks are left unsaid, but we do appreciate their efforts in doing the Lord's work.

We are so thankful that Chad Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne) has found the precious pearl of peace that comes only from our Almighty God in Heaven. May God continue to bless him as he walks the narrow path of life that leads to our eternal Home.

On a hill far away stood an old  
rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the  
dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a  
crown. (chorus)  
*Hymns of Zion #168*

As the Easter season approaches,  
may we keep our eyes focused on  
that old rugged cross, and the glo-  
ries that await us if we can remain  
true and faithful so that we can ob-  
tain that good and blessed end.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Judy Gehring - Karla Gerst**

Farewell, farewell, my morning  
dawns,  
Farewell, my rest I see.  
The strife is o'er, my morning  
dawns,  
The Master calleth me.

Farewell, farewell, I waited long  
For this glad hour and bright,  
When through earth's night  
victoriously  
Breaks heaven's morning light.

Farewell, farewell, let me go on  
That endless rest to share;  
Be faithful till the Saviour calls,  
Farewell, till we meet there!  
*Hymns of Zion #194*

We were saddened to bid farewell  
to a dear sister recently. Sis. Edith  
Massner was released from earthly  
pain and care when she was called  
Home on February 23. Our  
thoughts and prayers are with her  
husband, Bro. Lloyd Massner, and  
their children, Sis. Carolyn Wulf  
(Bro. Leroy), Sis. Deyona Streitmat-  
ter (Bro. Wayne, Princeville, IL),  
Sis. Jana Metzger (Bro. Jerome,  
Lester, IA), and Sis. Karla Eber-  
hardt (Bro. Dave, Oakville, IA). We

know that Sis. Edith's grandchil-  
dren and many other close relatives  
and friends will also miss her  
greatly. We're thankful to have Sis.  
Edith's example and faithfulness to  
remember in our congregation. May  
we all strive to meet in Heaven some  
day.

There have been several of the  
brethren from our area who have  
been in the hospital during the past  
month. We pray that God would be  
near them and grant them the  
physical healing that they need.

It seems that we've been re-  
minded so often recently of the end  
times and of the brevity of life. May  
we each strive to be ready when we  
are called Home. We always need to  
keep in mind the goal for which we  
are preparing and the purpose of our  
journey here. May we each keep  
these thoughts in our hearts.

How shall it be when we shall hear  
Him calling:  
"Come now, ye blessed of My  
Father's grace!"  
And worshipping, upon His  
footstool falling,  
We look into that kind and smiling  
face?  
The eyes which shed those bitter  
tears, well knowing  
Man's wretchedness and hardness  
of his heart;  
The wounds, with that pure,  
precious blood o'erflowing  
Which saved us from death's dread  
and poisoned dart!

How shall it be? Oh, what this  
mortal vision  
Can neither see, nor hear, nor  
understand,  
Of happiness and glory shall be  
given  
To those who pass into that  
promised land!  
Then onward, brethren! Let us  
hasten thither,  
'Tis worth the hardship and the  
pain we bear  
To climb this path, for there shall  
never wither  
The blest inheritance which we  
shall share!  
*Zion's Harp #146*

We're thankful that two dear  
souls have come in faith to begin  
their repentance this month. We  
pray that the Lord will grant His  
abundant grace to them in their new  
walk with Him.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Heidi Butikofer**  
**Gloria Frieden**

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

*St. John 12:24*

As Easter time approaches, may  
we remember what Christ has done  
for mankind. As the grain of wheat,  
may we bear in mind what fruit  
(salvation) Christ's death bought  
for us. May we heed the warning to  
die off to our sins daily, not only at  
Easter, but all year around.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

We would like to remember our  
Bro. Elmer Butikofer (Lydia) with  
love and sympathy in the loss of his  
sister, Tillie Heim.

While death comes slowly for  
some, it seems to come quickly for  
others. Mildred Schupbach spent  
the 20th of March doing her normal  
daily activities unaware that it was  
her last day here on earth. Early on  
the 21st she was called out of this  
life into eternity. Our love and sym-  
pathy is extended to her husband,  
George, and their children, Carol  
Gage (Leo, Waterloo), Sharon Shaf-  
fer (Stan, Elgin), Bro. John (Sis.  
Janet, Elgin), Mick (Barb, Fair-  
bank) and Chuck (Janet, Waterloo);  
also, her many grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Delores Reinhard**

If we in faith show weakness,  
Like doves we call in meekness;  
It soon attracts His eye;  
He never stands asunder,  
But in His love so tender  
He hears when children to Him cry.  
*Zion's Harp #234*

We have had a lot of sickness this winter. We are thankful Bro. Wayne Snodgrass is well once again and has returned to work after a time of pneumonia. Some of his children along with many others have also been sick. Joel, infant son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk, spent a few days in the hospital with a bronchial congestion. We welcome everyone back to church again.

On March 1, we were privileged to have the Princeville Choir come on a charter bus. We enjoyed a very blessed day of fellowship and beautiful hymns. May God continue to work in their hearts and give them the inspiration that gives honor and glory to God.

We just thought spring was right around the corner with trees budding and flowers coming up. To our great surprise, we woke up Sunday morning, March 8, to a snowstorm. Church was canceled. The winds picked up to blizzard conditions. Dan and I decided to bundle up and walk to the timber. So hardly able to see, we wandered out into the storm. When we got into the woods, it was simply beautiful! To see God's creation and then to look out into the storm and watch the drifts get higher. It was awesome and to think it's not being done by man, but of God Almighty. After returning to the house, walking through 12 inches of snow, we listened to a tape and sang songs together for our Sabbath Day. We felt so thankful, rejoic-

ing how God has been so good to us.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS), Jim Plattner and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). We want to thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

As the Easter season approaches, it makes us aware once again of our Lord's love for us, that He, so willingly, suffered and gave His own blood as the ransom price for our souls. How He must have loved us, to die, so we can be saved! We pray that all who have not availed themselves of His gift of salvation will be moved to do so before it is forever too late!

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Sharon Gerst**

We were encouraged and instructed to walk more closely with our Lord as we listened to the conclusions of last year's Conference this month. We appreciate Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) coming to help Bro. Joe Gerst with the Conference Letter. May God be their rich rewarder.

Our friends, Dave and Jennifer Maul, were blessed with a little bundle of joy on February 5. Ethan Andrew Maul is the grandson of Bro. Lester and Sis. Marilyn Maul (Cissna Park, IL).

As the weather turns a little warmer and the sun appears more often, we know that spring is coming. With the coming of spring, our hearts should sing the songs of joyfulness and praise as do the merry birds in the trees. The most important thing we should praise God for, and especially at this time of year, is the sacrifice He gave to us—Jesus. Let us give thanks daily to our Saviour for His willingness to die and shed His blood for us that we might have eternal life.

Upward soar, my soul and spirit,  
This great miracle behold;  
See the King of highest merit  
On the cross so bare and cold!  
His compassion brought salvation  
While He died in love untold.

That your Saviour loves you dearly  
He upon the cross has proved,  
Where in torments most severely  
He from God was far removed.  
In His anguish He must languish  
For the sinful men He loved.

Thus for me, a sinful creature,  
Jesus, Thou hast suffered death,  
Giving for Thy foe's redemption  
Thy heart's precious blood and  
breath!  
Hushed I tremble, Meek and humble  
For the gift Thou didst bequeath.  
*Hymns of Zion #236*

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

On Sunday, February 22, we witnessed the baptisms of five dear souls. Sis. Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean), Sis. Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth), Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl), and Sis. Lori Nester and Bro. Willis Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) are welcomed into the fold of Jesus Christ. We are truly grateful that Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) could be with us for the occasion. We also appreciate the support given from other visiting ministers who labored with us that weekend. They were Bros. Paul Butikofer and Floyd Freiden (Elgin, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN).

Earlier in the same week, funeral services were held for Otto Knobloch. He leaves to mourn, his wife, Anna (Leuthold), and two daughters, Emma (Paul) Banwart and Alice (Jay) Jacobsen. Other survivors include his siblings, Bro. Clarence, Bro. Ezra, Sis. Freida Gerber, Clara Knobloch, Nettie Banwart, and Elsie Leuthold, along with

grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to the dear family.

Likewise, we wish to remember the family of Sis. Edith Massner who passed away in Burlington, IA; especially Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger and their children who will truly miss their mother and grandmother.

We offer best wishes to Bro. Dean Feucht (Sis. Emma and the late Bro. Carl) and Sis. Diana Elsasser (Sis. Violet and the late Bro. Bill) of Bradford, IL on their engagement announcement. Also, we rejoice with the engagement of Bro. Derek Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma) to Sis. Connie Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) of Sabetha, KS. We know that as they take this second most important step in their lives, that they will look to God for His wise direction.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) could be with us for the reading of the Memorandum on February 14. He assisted our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner in lovingly exhorting us to hold fast to the sound doctrine of faith.

Several loved ones have been in the hospital for either surgery or for medical reasons this past month. We pray for God's healing hand for Anna Knobloch, Bro. Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill), Bro. Dwight Mogler (Sis. Donna), Jeff Knobloch (Bro. Delbert and Sis. June), Ruby Feucht (Emil), Bro. Ed Roemen (Sis. Amelia), Bro. Paul Metzger (Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice), Bob Molitor (Carol), and Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona).

It brings sadness to our hearts to report that Bro. Leo Moser has asked that his retirement from the Eldership and his ministering duties be announced to our congregation. We recognize that God deserves all praise and honor for His work here on earth, but an offering of appreciation is extended to Bro.

Leo for all of his work and labor in the church. He has spent 45 years in the ministry and over 34 years in the Eldership. We think of all the hours spent serving here in Lester, as well as time in Morris, West Bend, Winthrop, Pulaski, Zapata, Denver, Silverton, and Portland, along with Elgin, IA, Minneapolis, and Garden Grove. He served on the Elder Committee for ten years working with issues and concerns of the church. We think of all the hours he has given to the Lester church working with converts, weddings, funerals, and counseling brethren and friends.

Bro. Leo shared with this reporter that one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences made in his tenure, was when dear souls, caught in the clutches of sin, repented. The Lord heard their despairing cry and rescued them from the deep and gave peace and pardon to their undying soul. Through the years, there was a very substantial number of converts, the most at any one time was 97. Bro. Leo's heart's longing and desire is to commit all to the Lord with a prayer on his heart that the Heavenly Father will continue to bless the church and that every soldier of the Cross will share in the bliss of the Father's mansion. In conclusion, he hopes there will be pardon and forgiveness for his failings in the churches he served and labored in.

We are also grateful for his ministry of sharing the truth with us—never holding that back. He was a watchman on the wall and a father of the faith for us, too. Our appreciation is also extended to Sis. Leona for the countless hours she had given us, whether it be by traveling many miles with her husband or spending time alone; we are grateful. While we are sad, we are also glad that they can hopefully experience years of joy and blessings for their labors—the blessings that

He alone can grant from on high.

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Karla (Bro. Dave) Eberhardt and her family in the passing of her mother, Sis. Edith (Bro. Lloyd) Massner. Sis. Edith was a great blessing to our congregation. Her meek, encouraging ways and willing hands will be sorely missed. We're just so thankful that her suffering days are over, and we can strive for that day we can meet her on Heaven's shores.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) here to assist Bro. Ed in the reading of the Memorandum. What an uplifting and encouraging evening we were able to share with the Burlington congregation. Our dear Elder brothers have so much care and concern for our precious Faith. May we continue to heed their guidance and direction as they strive to uphold the "Faith of our Fathers".

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Lisa Knecht**

We sincerely wish to thank Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for visiting Pulaski and sharing God's Word with us. May His Spirit continue to provide for you and your family.

Take the name of Jesus with you...  
 It will joy and comfort give you,  
 Take it, then where'er you go.

Our prayers are with Bro. Doug Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) as he has relocated to Sarasota, FL. May you feel the Lord's nearness and comfort, Bro. Doug, in your new home.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Harold Knapp (Sis. Mary Jane) during the illness and death of his sis-

ter-in-law, Carol Knapp (Frank, Fayette, MO).

A special thanks to Bro. Leslie and Sis. Wilma Pulfer for sharing their trip to the "Holy Land" with our congregation. It surely brought to life the Easter story as we saw the places where our Lord lived and then was crucified. May we more fully comprehend all the love of our Heavenly Father, and have an overwhelming gratitude for all our Lord Jesus has endured for us, this Easter season.

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

**Eunice Fehr**

**Berniece Banwart**

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Paul and Emy Banwart on the death of her father, Otto Knobloch (Lester, IA). Otto also leaves to mourn his sister, Nettie (Ervin) Banwart, from our congregation. We also include the families of Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber as they have experienced the loss of a great-grandchild, Clark David Steiner. Little Clark was the son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel of Tremont, IL. May all these families feel God's loving arms around them and help fill their lonely days.

Hospital patients this month have been Bro. Walter Banwart (Sis. Esther), Lydia Edwards, and Bro. Arnold Metzger (Sis. Alice). We are thankful that all have been released from the hospital and can be back in their homes.

Eli and Margaret Grimm and Marvin Origer (Rutland, IA) and Wilma Tiernan (Burrick, IA) welcome a new granddaughter born on February 20 to Ed and Patty (Grimm) Origer of Ankeny, IA. She has a brother, Jeremy, and sister, Carissa. Sis. Lena Grimm is great-grandmother of these children.

Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt are happy first-time grandparents of Dylan Michael Schmidt born Feb-

ruary 14 to Clayton and Wendy of Park City, IL. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Norman Ward (Ames, IA).

Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) gave her testimony of faith on March 14 and the next day we welcomed her as our sister in faith. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in this important work. The brothers lovingly exhorted us in preparing for Communion, which we anticipate in the near future. Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) also brought forth the Word on this blessed weekend.

### *The Promise of Easter*

"Because He Lives We Too Shall Live"

We need these seven words above to help us to endure

The changing world around us that is dark and insecure,

To help us view the present

as a passing episode,

A troubled, brief encounter on life's short and troubled road—

For knowing life's eternal

because our Saviour died

And arose again at Easter

after He was crucified

Makes this uncertain present,

in a world of sin and strife,

Nothing but a stepping-stone

to a new and better life!

—Helen Steiner Rice

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

**Willis Ehnle**

On March 15, it was announced in church that our brothers and sisters should prepare their hearts and minds for Holy Communion in the afternoon of March 29. Scripture pertaining to self-examination was read from I Corinthians, chapter 11. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue will be with us for that service, God willing.

On April 5, Bro. Akito and I plan to exchange churches, as we usually do every two months. If the roads are not crowded, it is about a one

hour and fifteen minute drive between the two churches, on the expressway.

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

**Andy and Chris Aberle**

The past month has been an uplifting time for Tokyo Church, as we were privileged to welcome many visitors. Bro. Phil Bauer (Princeville, IL) came for business and worshipped with us on one Sunday. Hisato Inoue and Jason Albritton (Bloomington, IL) also came to Japan for business and shared a Sunday service with us. Sis. Jana Klaus' mother, Sis. Shirley Kieser, is here with her as Jana is getting ready for a new baby. My parents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Marvel Knobloch (Morton, IL), are here and enjoying the sights of Japan. What a blessing to feel the closeness in heart that comes with the common belief in Christ!

In the history of Japan, "new beginnings" have long been recognized as an important part of their culture. Not only does nature reveal it's new beginning with its many buds and blossoms in April, but also the new Japanese school year begins in April. In addition, all Japanese companies begin their new fiscal year on April 1. Indeed, April is the month of new beginnings.

What an opportune time to meditate on the new beginning made possible in Christ and what He accomplished for us in this upcoming Easter season.

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## KANSAS, BERN

**Holly Meyer**

**Lori Baumgartner**

Greetings of love from snowy northeast Kansas! Why is it that we tend to take the blessed privilege of assembling ourselves together for granted until it is taken from us? Such was the case on Sunday, March 8, when a late winter blizzard



dumped about a foot of blowing snow in our area. Two days later, our road was opened and we were able to drive to town. As we drove by a deserted farmstead in our neighborhood, the comment was made that even an old dilapidated farmstead looks beautiful under its blanket of pure white snow. The thought struck me that this is exactly what our Lord can do for a heart that is crumbling under a load of ugly sin. When the Lord is allowed into such a heart, it becomes one of peace, serenity, and beauty. It doesn't matter what our age is or what the severity of our sin is. Jesus' blood is sufficient to cover it all.

"Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

*Isaiah 1:18*

During this Easter season, as we remember our Lord's death and His resurrection, may we fervently thank Him for dying and shedding His blood on the cross so that our sins could be washed away.

Bro. Wilhelm Metzger and Bro. Rueben Moser (Sis. Stella) have spent time in the hospital during the past month. We are thankful to have Sis. Louise Menold (Bro. James) assembling with us again following her recent foot surgery.

For many years, Arlene Bauman has volunteered much of her time and talents in spreading cheer to those confined to a nursing home. Because of her recent stroke, she is no longer able to care for herself and is now a resident at our Apostolic Christian Care Home in Sabetha. May we remember her in prayer as she has to adjust to "being cared for" rather than "caring for" others.

Services were held on March 10 for Lollie Wenger Pope who passed from this life on March 5 at our

Apostolic Christian Care Home. We extend our sympathy to all of her nieces and nephews.

There is much cause for rejoicing for Bro. Paul and Sis. Katie Grimm as they have been blessed with a little grandson. Jonah Paul was born on March 11 to Ross and Martha Montgomery, Sabetha. He is welcomed home by two sisters, Emma and Ellie.

#### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

##### Joleen Sinn

We were blessed to have Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and wife, Sis. Sharon, visit us while on vacation. Thank you for visiting us and for being God's messenger. May God bless you for your works of love.

Doug Sinn (Darci) is doing well after surgery and an overnight stay at the hospital. We thank God for His faithfulness.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

##### Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim  
For the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ the King of glory,  
Now is risen from the dead.

*Gospel Hymns #545*

We are so blessed to have the hope of salvation! May we as Christians never take this for granted and always encourage one another in our walk of faith.

We are ever thankful for our ministering brothers and their efforts to bring forth the Word. May the Lord bless visiting Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and his family for sharing with us this month.

We have had several who were hospitalized this month. Sis. Matilda Schupbach and Sis. Marie Schurter are recovering in the rest

home. Sis. Edna Reed continues her therapy in the hospital as she recovers from a broken hip. Erline Farney required surgery and is now recuperating at home. May the Lord comfort and strengthen each according to their needs.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY

##### Julie Bahr

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Samuel (Sis. Clara) Anliker in the loss of two of his family recently. A sister, Sis. Mabel Anliker (Elgin, IL), and a brother, Bro. Eli (Sis. Pricilla) Anliker (Francesville, IN), both of whom passed away within about one week. Our prayers and concerns are also with Bro. Roy (Betty) Wernli and his dear family in the loss of his brother, Harold Wernli, and a tiny new granddaughter, a daughter of Tom and Barbara (Wernli) Huddleston. May each heart be comforted and precious memories be preserved. Our prayers are extended in their behalf.

Many concerns and words of encouragement are prayed about and discussed when our Elder brethren gather together from time to time. A letter is written and taken back to the various churches to share and expound upon. I was asked by a dear friend, "What is the reading of the Memorandum?" I explained, "Like the Apostle Paul, who sent back many letters to the various early churches, our Elder brothers bring back to their churches, their messages of exhortation, concerns and encouragement through the reading of the Memorandum letter."

What loving thanks and appreciation we feel towards Elder Bros. Jay Luthi, Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for their efforts in bringing forth these messages to us. We are also thankful for the many teachings brought forth by several other visiting min-

isters. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and James Kaeb (Bern, KS).

Hospitalized patients were Bro. Samuel (Sis. Clara) Anliker for knee surgery and Sis. Doris (Bro. Roy) Bahr for a third round of chemotherapy. Our sincere prayers are offered in their behalf. For none shall be desolate, as the avenue to peace and safety is in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Romans 10:10*

We are so thankful Brandon Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan) has chosen to serve our Almighty God. Our prayers go with him.

We have opportunity to rejoice with dear ones, Junior and Wilma Young, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's richest blessings and pray for continued boundless love in Him.

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Mary Kay Wenger  
Brenda Grimm**

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Calvin and Sis. Dena Weiss who observed their 50th wedding anniversary on February 21.

We rejoiced to hear the Word brought forth by Bros. Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO).

Sis. Elsie Lambert and Bro. John Plattner are presently residing at the Apostolic Christian Home. We ask God to provide for their every need.

The engagement of Bro. Scott Ab-

erle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) and Sis. Dorene Kurkowski (Detroit, MI) came to us via the phone line on March 8 when church was canceled due to snow. The following Sunday we were pleased to hear two more announcements. Bro. Kent Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Molly Wulf (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce), Morris, MN; and Sis. Connie Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Derek Knobloch (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma), Lester, IA. We rejoice with all of them and wish them God's further direction in the days that lie ahead.

It is time for us to be reminded our annual Silver Lining collection will be held in April. Your contribution should be put in the collection boxes at church with a note that it is for the Silver Lining. May God bless the work that is put forth in this endeavor.

*Note of Thanks:*

We sincerely thank every one who sent beautiful cards, gifts, memory pages and best wishes for our 50th anniversary celebration on February 21, 1988. It made our special day a very happy and memorable one to remember. May God richly bless all of you for your kindness.

*Bro. Calvin and Sis. Dena Weiss*

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### **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Marla Stoller**

Once again, we have been blessed to have these ministering brethren among us for our mid-week services: Bros. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). We were also encouraged on overcoming disappointments in a Bible Study that Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) was willing to share with us. We are so thankful for each one who has taken the time to travel and fellowship with us.

Many of us traveled to West Bend, IA to witness the testimony and bap-

tism of our new sister in Christ, Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen). It is so encouraging to see the joy and peace that can be found in serving our Lord.

As the new spring season brings about a refreshing excitement within each of us, may we stop and ponder the quiet lessons that nature can share with us. I had to think as I contemplated the many frozen flowering trees and bulbs that will not be blooming across campus this year (due to the blizzard conditions that hit unexpectedly), how important it is to wait upon the Lord and not try to get ahead of His will. Because of warm, sunny conditions that appeared to be promising to the early flowering spring buds, they began swelling and opening, leaving their source of protection unseasonably early. The cold, bitter, winter winds inevitably came back, desiccating and killing the buds that were trying to bloom before their time was right. May each of us remember the importance of patience in waiting on our Creator, for only He knows what is ahead.

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### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk's daughters have both announced their engagements. Kathleen is engaged to Christopher Setser, the son of Linda and the late Keith Setser. Kathleen and Chris are planning an April 25 wedding. Glenna is engaged to Joshua Kelly, the son of Floyd and Vonnie Kelly. Their wedding date is July 4.

Another wedding is also set for July 4. Liza Carnahan (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Pauline) is engaged to marry Chris Scanland. Our prayer is that we as a congregation can offer our support and encouragement to these young people as they embark on their matrimonial journeys. May their unions be bound

with a "threefold cord, Not lightly rent apart."

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Doug and Rebecca Germann**

Once again we had the privilege of many visitors this past month. We sincerely thank Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) for sharing a beautiful weekend of fellowship with us. We enjoyed a church potluck on Saturday evening and then a singing afterwards. Later in the month, Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) came and we enjoyed a potluck and singing once again.

Spring is here and we are enjoying the beauty of the robins and other beautiful songbirds as they build their nests. We even have a pair of Mallards that are looking for a nesting sight on our property. I was reminded of the verse that said, "the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." What a wonderful example for we believers to not worry and fret about this life or to get caught up in the "fast lane" with materialism. If we have a humble abode and food and raiment, we should be content.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Kristen Plattner**  
**Michelle Oesch**

"So what should I do with Jesus?" Pilate asked it first, but we've all asked it since. It's a fair question. A necessary question. What do you do with such a man? He called himself God, but wore the clothes of a man. He called Himself the Messiah, but never marshaled an army. He was regarded as king, but His only robe was stitched with mockery. How do you explain such a man?

One way is to take a walk. His walk. His final walk. Jesus' final walk from Jericho to Jerusalem, for it was this walk that promised you

freedom.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

With Easter coming, it is once again a time to pause and reflect on God's love for us. "...God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8). I recently heard this story (that I will try to retell accurately) that sums up the price paid on Calvary.

A young woman passed away at an early age and, in trying to understand and work through all the questions of such tragedy, her young daughter asked, "Daddy, if Jesus died on the cross for us, why did Mommy still have to die?" Her father replied that this was a good question and that he would think about it and get back with her. The next day, while following the hearse to the funeral, the father said to his little girl "Honey, do you see the way the sunlight shining on that semi is creating a shadow of that semi on the sidewalk?" The child replied "Yes, Daddy." "Well," asked the father, "would you rather be run over by the shadow or the truck?" "The shadow, Daddy, because the truck would hurt an awful lot." Her father smiled and said, "Honey, when Jesus died on the cross for us, the semi of death goes by us and only the shadow is allowed to pass over us. Jesus took away death's sting."

Aren't you thankful today that we only have to pass through death's shadow, as believers? Remember to look to the Cross, because without it, death would have triumphed and we would have taken it's full wrath instead of only a mere shadow. "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." (II Cor. 9:15).

We don't have a lot of news to pass along to you this month, but there are a couple of items.

Bro. Wally Wackerle (Sis. Alvina) and Bro. Al Wackerle both spent some time under the care of physicians this month. Bro. Wally had eye surgery and Bro. Al had knee surgery. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them.

Remember in this month to spend time in contemplation about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His triumph over death and the grave. "O death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:55-56)

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

Michigan is one of the states known for unpredictable weather and we have surely seen proof of that. It was only a few weeks ago that we had spring like weather and the next thing we know it is some of the coldest days we had this winter. Now the weather is warming up again and we can only hope it stays normal temperatures. It reminds me of how unpredictable weather and life is, but we can count on God to be never changing in that He is always there for us no matter what.

We extend our prayers on behalf of Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz, Sis. Ann Tachar, and Bro. Frank Denes during their time of illness.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Kaywin and Sis. Karen Martin and family as Bro. Kaywin's mother, Sis. Priscilla Martin (Roanoke, IL) has passed away. Also, Bro. Steve (Sis. Julie) Dawson has experienced a loss, as his grandmother, Donna Pigeon, of Brooklyn, MI has finished her walk on earth.

On the other hand, a new life has just begun on February 12, as Jack Douglas was brought into this

world. Bro. Doug and Carole Maibach are the parents. Big sister, Katherine, welcomes him to the family. Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach are the grandparents.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein (Sis. Billie, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) as visiting minister this month.

Brandon Bahr has begun a new walk with Christ, as he willingly wants to serve the Lord. May God grant him the grace to grow and serve Him as we all need it to walk the narrow way.

We rejoice with Bro. Scott Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Dorine Kurkowski on their engagement, as a July 19 wedding is planned.

Ann Marie Allen (Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanie) will be graduating from college in April and is busy planning her wedding to Carl Mason, which will take place in September. May God be with these two couples as they begin their walk together.

The weekend of March 14-15, the Detroit High School Sunday School were privileged to be host to the Sabetha, KS High School Class. They were kept very busy and well fed and I am sure by the time they went back to Sabetha, they were ready to relax. I only hope that they cherish the friendships they made, as I can also remember the relationships I formed through different church get-togethers.

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### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We have been blessed with a very mild winter. There has not been a 6-inch snowfall in a 24-hour period. Because of this, the weather has not hindered traveling.

Many of us enjoyed a blessed weekend in Lester, IA on February 21-22 as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Jerilyn Knobloch (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sher-

ryl). She is attending college here and we enjoy her fellowship during the school year.

We have had the privilege of visitors, including Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) and Leroy Messner (Sis. Joann, Winthrop, MN). Bro. Dale ministered to us on a Wednesday evening and Bro. Leroy was here on a Sunday and reminded us to prepare ourselves for partaking of Communion.

With Spring here, this poem seemed so appropriate.

#### *Eternal Spring*

Easter comes with cheeks a-glowing,  
flowers bloom and streams are  
flowing,  
And the earth in glad surprise  
opens wide its Springtime eyes...  
All nature heeds the call of Spring  
as God awakens everything,  
And all that seemed so dead and still  
experiences a sudden thrill  
As Springtime lays a magic hand  
across God's vast and fertile land...  
Oh, how can anyone stand by  
and watch a sapphire, Springtime  
sky,  
Or see a fragile flower break through  
what just a day ago or two  
Seemed barren ground still hard  
with frost,  
but in God's world no life is lost...  
And flowers sleep beneath the  
ground  
but when they hear Spring's  
wakening sound  
They push themselves through  
layers of clay  
to reach the sunlight of God's day...  
And man, like flowers, too, must  
sleep  
until he is called from the  
"darkened deep"...  
To live in that place where angels  
sing  
And where there is Eternal Spring!  
—Helen Steiner Rice

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS Linda Schmidgall Nancy Wulf

Spring is just around the corner, and many of us are busy cleaning our neglected corners of our houses

or businesses. It is also the time we do some spiritual cleaning, as Communion for many of us is in the Spring. I would just like to share a verse that so often helps me keep my spiritual perspective focused on Christ.

Can we have our hearts in heaven  
And yet earthly-minded live?  
Can we, who have been forgiven,  
Not forget and not forgive?  
Can we hate an erring brother,  
Only love when we are loved,  
And not bear with one another,  
By Christ's Holy Spirit moved?  
*Zion's Harp #198*

We would like to thank Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) for spending a Sunday with us recently. May God bless him and his family.

We rejoice with Sis. Molly Wulf and Bro. Kent Grimm (Sabetha, KS) as God directs their paths to become as one, that together they may live for Him. Their parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf and Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm.

Bro. Alvin Nohl (Sis. Minnie) suffered a broken arm. We are thankful God provides healing in His time.

Note: April is Silver Lining collection for Morris. The donation boxes will be out the last two Sundays of April.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Becky Braulick - Jan Messner Greetings!

With the Easter season here, we have close at heart thoughts of our dear Saviour hanging on the cross and shedding His blood for our sins. When we partake of Holy Communion this spring, we want to remember how precious He is and to be thankful for the most wonderful gift we could ever receive.

We would like to announce the engagement of Jodi Messner (Sis. Carol Ann and the late Bro. Dennis) to Jamie Pelzel (Jerry and Marcia Pelzel, Fairfax, MN). May they look

to the Lord in their new lives together.

We would like to welcome Bro. Jeff Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki, Lester, IA) to our congregation. He has employment in our area and will be worshipping with us. We are so thankful for Bro. Jeff and each and every one who is here and pray that we don't take each other for granted.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Rose Alice Howk (Bro. Roy) and Sis. Delores Messerli (the late Bro. Cornelius). May God continue to restore strength unto them and help them through this trying time.

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Brent Kellenberger**

On March 1, Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk (Wichita, KS) assembled with us. We are very thankful that Bro. Glen was willing to be used in ministering from the Word. We had a variety of visitors with us, including college students from Iowa State, Central Missouri State, Wichita State and Kansas State. The fellowship was truly a blessing to our small church.

On March 8, we were once again thankful to have many visitors. Elder Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and ministering Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Al Langhofer (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS) all came to worship with us. We are thankful that these ministers and their wives made the effort to come and be used in the service of God.

On Saturday evening, we gathered together for a church supper followed by Memorandum. Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman were with us, and we were glad to have other visitors as well. It is so important for us to be informed about some of the ways Satan is

working to spot and wrinkle the church. Sometimes we simply don't realize the danger and deceit in things that try to pervade our lives. It is a blessing that our Elders continue to carry out their duties of admonishment and exhortation. We hope and pray God will continually bless and strengthen them.

We are rejoicing with Brandon Emch who has made the most important decision of his life—to repent and serve the Lord! We share the joy with his parents, ministering Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch. We continue to fervently pray for those who haven't yet found hope and salvation.

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

*Nailed to the Cross*

There was One who was willing to  
die in my stead,  
That a soul so unworthy might live;  
And the path to the cross He was  
willing to tread,  
All the sins of my life to forgive.  
They are nailed to the cross,  
They are nailed to the cross,  
O how much He was willing to bear!  
With what anguish and loss Jesus  
went to the cross!  
But He carried my sins with Him  
there.

*Gospel Hymns #783*

As Easter approaches, may we be truly appreciative of the ultimate sacrifice paid on our behalf.

Bro. Leonard Braker (Sis. Bonnie) was hospitalized. However, we are happy to report he has recovered and is again attending church.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). We want to thank him for his willingness to serve us. It is our prayer that God will reward him and his family.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

“To get to Heaven, turn right at the cross, and then go straight.” We enjoyed this message posted on a sign in front of a church that we pass regularly. Little gems like this are refreshing amid the many other “signs of the times” with which we are bombarded daily.

We have been blessed with many visitors recently. Children from large churches are amazed at our little table of Sunday School students. We generally have only two classes: those up through fourth grade, and fifth grade on up. These age spans can make it challenging for the teachers.

Ministering brothers this past month are as follows: Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). God bless each of you and your families for your love and willingness to serve our small congregation.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Tina Sutter**

Someone told me this story and it has been such a bright light that I just have to share it with all of you.

Once a mother decided she would devote the whole day to her children whom she cherished. So she took them to an amusement park. She rode only the rides they could ride; in fact, all of the rides they could ride. She provided everything they could point at that day for them to eat. All the trinkets that they desired were theirs to possess. It was a fun-filled day for them indeed. They drug themselves to the van to leave to go home. Not far down the road, what do you suppose the children would spy, but McDonald's. The mother decided not to stop as she was ready to get home. The children cried and complained that she was unreasonable and unfair all the way home. As a mother, I have felt what

that mother felt that day. Pure disgust! Sadness and tears, in fact, because she tried so hard to please them. How our Heavenly Father must feel when we are so unthankful and discontent at times.

Lately, this verse has come alive for me. "Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

We are so grateful to Almighty God that He has been with us through the appointing of a new minister at Taylor. Bro. David and Sis. Lori Marquart have been handed the opportunity to take on the responsibility to minister the Word of God. We want to be mindful to remember them and their sons, Bradley and Joe, in the new endeavor. It will be an exciting journey!

We want to extend thanks to the visiting ministers that were here lately. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bros. Erik Givens and Craig Martin (both of Princeville, IL) were all willing to be used for His glory. Thanks!

Galen Haab and December English were united in marriage on March 13. Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab are thankful for this union of their son and new daughter-in-law.

Sis. Diane Sutter's mother, Verine Scott, has undergone surgery and is recuperating in the hospital. We want to remember Verine and her family in prayer.

Also in our prayers we want to include Sis. Vonette and Bro. Kim Sutter as her mother, Carol Lienweber (Palmyra, MO), will be missed by them. It will be a time of adjustment and your prayers will be appreciated.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of Carol Knapp of Lafayette, MO. She is the sister-in-law of Bro. Mike Knapp.

We are thankful that Bro. Brent and Sis. Charlotte Hoerr's little angel arrived perfectly. Jennifer Rose was born on March 20. Her brother, David, will be excited to have a new little playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Hoerr.

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Anna Mellnitz**

"For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

*Luke 22:18-20*

Easter season is almost here. We should be mindful of the pain and suffering of our Lord Jesus and the price that He paid for our salvation. We look forward to our Sunday School children bringing us the story of Jesus' death on the cross.

The Elder brothers gathered at Bluffton North, IN on February 18-20 for the mid-winter Conference. May God bestow guidance and Heavenly wisdom in their seeking to preserve our precious faith.

We had World Relief work night on March 13.

The syrup season is here and they say they are having a good season so far. It always seems like spring when they tap the trees.

Sis. Berdena Widrick's family had open house for her 90th birthday on March 15.

**OHIO, AKRON  
Joyce Gasser**

Mother's Day is coming for a tribute to our precious Mothers. We are thankful for the Godly Mothers in the Bible that gave us good examples, and today we are grateful for our Godly Mothers that have set good examples for us.

We are sorry that Bro. Joe Miller (Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller) was hospitalized, but he was released and we are thankful he is feeling better and assembling with us again.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS  
Nancy Banks**

On a recent Saturday evening, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) with us for the reading of the Memorandum of the Conference. May we take prayerful consideration of the many helpful exhortations that were read that evening. We were also pleased that other visiting ministers came to speak to us, including Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We appreciate these brothers' efforts.

A small farewell reception was held after mid-week services to say good-bye to our dear friend, Matt Rufener, who has been transferred to South Carolina. Matt has been in the Columbus area for some time, first attending college and then working after graduation. We wish him God's richest blessings and much success in his new work. He will be missed.

February 28 was World Relief night and members and friends gathered to make pre-natal kits and package clothes for the World Relief efforts.

"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*

Recently, this writer has been working as an aide on a bus with blind and visually-impaired students. One little girl has especially won my heart and admiration. Not quite seven, this little child, whose vision is totally gone, is an inspiration to all who know her. There is always a smile on her face and a song on her lips, and I have yet to hear one word of complaint from her. Even when a school friend forgets to tell her of the concrete curb they are approaching and she falls forward and skins a knee. She is usually so excited to tell us of her day in school and show us her grades, that she runs to the bus with her cane dragging behind her. It is such an inspiration to see this little girl's excitement for what life has to offer and the lack of fear for what lies ahead. I am so thankful for this little girl's presence in my life. It's amazing how someone can be such a light when they live in total darkness.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Sandra Manz

This month was made more special by visits from ministering brethren, including Bros. Glenn Riggerbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL), John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT). We appreciate their willingness to serve and pray that the blessings they receive will outweigh any burden they may feel in their duty as special messengers of God.

March 1 was a special day for us in Junction, but especially for Jill

and Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) as they were baptized after giving their testimonies. We welcome these young sisters and know they will have many opportunities to let their light shine for Jesus. Two of the ministering brethren listed above, Elder Bro. Kevin and Bro. John, shared the day with us and we thank them.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Wilma Sauder from Mansfield. We extend our loving sympathy to her daughter, Sis. Sharon Gherian (Bro. Paul) and family of our congregation. We will surely miss Sis. Wilma's visits to Junction.

While meditating on Communion and Easter, one of our ministering brothers mentioned a local episode in which a loving grandfather made his way into a burning building to rescue his grandson. The grandfather eventually succumbed to his injuries, but the grandson lived. Our brother likened this to the love of our Saviour as He willingly went to the cross and gave His life that we might live. May this be the focus of our thoughts in the coming Easter season.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Kathy Sinn

### Heidi Hackenjoes

Again this month our congregation has experienced loss. However, it has been many years since we have had a double funeral. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Schlatter, husband and wife, were called into eternal life on Wednesday, February 18, and Monday, February 16, respectively. We extend sympathy to their sons, Jack, Rick and Ben (Cindy), and to their daughter, Marlene. Other family members of Bro. Ben who also will feel the loss include: Bro. Joe (Sis. Elsie) Schlatter, Bro. Herman (Sis. Viola) Schlatter, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Clem) Wieland, Sis. Laura (Bro. Charles) Dunham, Sis.

Esther Schlatter, and Sis. Josephine (Bro. Don) Wenninger. Sis. Helen's family includes: Harlan (Sis. Delores) Riggerbach and Lucille Treece. May these and all of the brethren who have suffered loss already in this new year feel our prayers, love, and support. May the Lord's presence be ever near during the coming months.

We have been blessed by the Word spoken through Bros. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

On Sunday, March 8, Sis. Sara Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barbara) and Bro. Jason Getz (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene) were united in marriage. They are trusting their future to the Lord as they continue to serve Him together in the Remington, IN community. The wedding brought several visiting ministers into our congregation. They are Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), and Bros. Dan Kilgus and Dan Stoller (both of Remington, IN), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH).

We rejoice with Chad Keysor (Jennifer, Bro. George and Sis. Sharon) as he begins his walk of repentance and conversion. May he ever trust in the Lord to guide and direct him on life's pathway.

We also rejoice with Sis. Lori Laukhuf (Bro. Rod and Sis. Ede) and Bro. Jason Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen) as their engagement was announced. As they plan their future lives together, may they rely on the Lord and do His will.

We are so thankful that prayers for healing have been answered for brethren who were hospitalized or experienced poor health. Sis. Dolly Laukhuf (Bro. Merrill), Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne), Sis. Diane Sinn (Bro. Mark), Sis. Lillian Eisenmann, and Bro. Dwight Stol-

ler (Sis. Lori) were of those who felt the healing of the physical body. As they continue to be strengthened physically, may they feel the prayers to lift them up in this time of need.

The Lord has once again granted peace unto two who have zealously asked of the Lord. Eric and Sherri Rager have confessed this peace and now await an opportunity to give a testimony in April. May the Lord continue to guide and direct them always.

## OHIO, MANSFIELD

Cari Mann

There was One who was willing to  
die in my stead,  
That a soul so unworthy might live;  
And the path to the cross He was  
willing to tread,  
All the sins of my life to forgive.  
He is tender and loving and patient  
with me,  
While He cleanses my heart of the  
dross;  
But "there's no condemnation" - I  
know I am free,  
For my sins are all nailed to the  
cross.  
I will cling to my Saviour and never  
depart  
I will joyfully journey each day.  
With a song on my lips and a song  
in my heart,  
That my sins have been taken away.  
They are nailed to the cross,  
They are nailed to the cross,  
O how much He was willing to bear!  
With what anguish and loss  
Jesus went to the cross!  
But He carried my sins with Him  
there.

*Gospel Hymns #783*

Once again, the Easter season is coming upon us. As we observe this season where we focus on Christ's death and resurrection, let us strive to remember just how much He did for each one of us. May the joy of the resurrection fill each of our hearts on a daily basis as we ever strive to be worthy of the Heavenly Home He is preparing for us. Remember,

without Jesus there would be absolutely no reason for this season.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

*II Timothy 2:2*

There were many witnesses present when Elder Bros. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) joined us this month for services. May each of us strive to be the faithful brethren, who by our example are willing to teach those around us. May these brothers feel our constant support and prayers as they continue in the Lord's service.

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

*Col. 2:12*

On March 1, we were privileged once again to witness burial by baptism and then greet our newest brother in faith, Jared Keever (Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev). As Bro. Jared has now risen to a new life in Christ, may he continue to grow in the faith that he is learning. May he ever feel the prayers of the many brethren who came to share in this joyous occasion.

Our hearts are filled with prayerful thought for Sam Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue) and Angel Prince (Rick and Debbie) who have announced their engagement. As they plan their lives together, may they feel the leading of the Lord in all things.

When a Christian dies  
Precious is the prize!  
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,  
Rest from conflict on the morrow  
Follows when he dies,

Follows when he dies.  
When a Christian dies  
His grief buried lies.  
All distress and tribulation  
In death's slumber find cessation.  
When a Christian dies  
His grief buried lies.

*Hymns of Zion #248*

How sad the time when we must say goodbye to a loved one here on earth. But yet, if the soul is ready, how great the rejoicing can also be. While we are saddened by the passing of Sis. Wilma Sauder who left this life behind on March 13, we can also rejoice that she has been prepared these many years to go "Home" to her Saviour. She will be mourned by all of us, but especially by her family. Her surviving children are: Joanne (Chuck) Tingley, Lois (Ken) Jones, Sis. Judy Sauder, Sis. Sharon (Bro. Paul) Gherian, Robert (Carolyn) Sauder, Larry (Joyce) Sauder and Dick Sauder. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Robert Sauder; a son, Ramon; and a grandson, Charles Tingley. It is our hope and prayer that the loved ones who remain here on earth will constantly feel the love and prayerful support that their church family has to give. We extend our deepest sympathy to all of them.

Recently, I was going through a very difficult time. One of my co-workers compared me to a Weeбол. You know, the children's toy "that wobbles but doesn't fall down." As I thought on that statement, it came to me that he was exactly right—I may wobble but I won't fall down. How can I fall when I have my Lord and the prayers of the few close friends who know what was going on to lean on. How thankful we should be for the prayers of those who love us, for they support us more than we will ever know. May we each strive to be ever fervent in our prayers for those we know are facing trials and tribulations.



Reminder: The Silver Lining collection will be taken in May. The suggested donation is \$11.00.

### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Carla Stoller - Lucy Gasser

We are rejoicing with Laurel Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) who has answered the call to repentance and a new way of life in Christ.

As in the time of Christ's life on earth, we have those among us who are in need of healing. We bring petitions to God on their behalf. Hospital patients recently have been Twila Robinson, Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Jim Rupp (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Pauline Hartzler (Bro. Ernest) and Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Bro. Dale). We are thankful for those who have been able to worship with us again. Others need our continued prayer. There are always folks with physical problems who have to spend time at home. We are not always aware, but know that they benefit from our Heavenly Father's all-knowing care and providence.

Jeremy Michael was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Miller and big sisters, Amanda and Brittney. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler welcomed their first child, Amos Gregory. His grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Mike and Robin Miller are the happy parents of Hannah Rochelle, their new daughter. Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner are her grandparents.

Jacob Andrew, firstborn of Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner (Alto, MI), has two sets of grandparents from our congregation. Bob and Martha Maag and Bro. David and Sis. Carole

Steiner are happy for his safe arrival. Brent has decided to seek his salvation in Christ Jesus. May God bless them and each family as they plant the Truth in the young and tender hearts of the precious children God has given them.

Bro. Joe Ramsier (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri) and Sis. Kendra Steffen (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice, Forrest, IL) are planning a June wedding. Sis. Kendra has been teaching in our area this school year and has been worshipping with us.

Also planning a June wedding are Bro. Nathan Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Anita Maletich (Bro. David and Sis. Connie, Smithville, OH).

The engagement of Bro. Rick Steiner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol, Latty, OH) is the third engagement that we have had this month.

Many members of our congregation went to the Smithville church on March 15 to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Aaron Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Debra Hartzler (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane, Smithville). May these couples continue to experience the leading and the blessing of the Lord all their lives.

Our Elder brothers are back from the winter Conference. As we supported them in prayer for guidance, may we continue that support by obedience and continued prayer for their daily strength and wisdom.

Ministering Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam) visited recently. Our thanks to him for sharing the Word with us.

### OHIO, SARDIS Joy Indermuhle

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."

### Luke 15:7

We rejoice with Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. May she find grace sufficient as she seeks to walk the narrow way and live for the Lord. Our prayers are with her.

We continue to pray for Sis. Karen Indermuhle (Bro. Bob) as she has been ill for some time with pain in her neck and back. Sis. Karen is able to assemble with us again and we are thankful to have her in our midst. We pray the Lord will continue to help her and grant her healing, as He wills.

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller - Ruth Gasser

Heavenward, e'er heavenward  
Let us wend our way!  
What the righteous seek is there  
Found without delay,  
But not on earth,  
Joy here alternates with woe;  
Lift on high from earth below  
Thy heart and mind!  
*Zion's Harp #91*

Our life scenes change so quickly and we often experience times of joy and times of sadness very close together.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Bonnie Maibach experienced joy with the arrival of their daughter, Lindsey Joy. Grandparents, Sis. Helen Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Alden and Marion Reutter (Rockville, CT) rejoiced to welcome this precious little one. A few days later, Bro. Dean and Sis. Bonnie were called to say farewell to Sis. Bonnie's father, Bro. Alden, who passed away suddenly in Texas. Our prayers are for God's comfort to this family, and also for His grace as the roles of family are changed.

Two young souls have set their sights heavenward. We wish the Lord's blessings to our converts,

Beth Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) and Kathy Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie). May they find joy and peace in serving Him.

Many visitors came to share in the joy of Bro. Aaron Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Debra Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) as they became one in the Lord. We wish them many blessings as they walk this pathway together. We thank the visiting ministers who came to share the Word with us that day: Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bros. Merle Hartzler and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH).

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

#### Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter

The miracle of the birth of a child is always a wonderful reminder of God's power and love. Bob and Dorothy Stevens are happy for a new grandson, John Stevens Kihm. He is welcomed by his parents, Dr. John and Barbara Kihm, and sisters, Julia, Anna, and Elizabeth, of Durham, NC. We wish their family much joy and God's blessings.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND

#### Mary Berg - Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

We recently assembled with the Silverton congregation to hear the reading of the Memorandum. These annual reminders are so important, especially in today's world. It does help to keep focused on servitude to the Lord and not let worldly things creep into our lives. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

We appreciate the work that the Elder brethren have done for us. Our special thanks to visiting Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS) and our own Elder Bro. Art Metz.

Sis. Margaret Banwart fell and

broke her hip in early March. She was hospitalized and had surgery (which went well) to repair damage. Unfortunately though, she became ill with pneumonia while still in the hospital. She is now staying at the Adventist Rehabilitation & Extended Care Facility in Portland. At the time of this writing, she is not doing too well and does need our prayers. May the Lord lift her spirits and comfort her.

We thank all our visitors who made the extra effort to come to Portland this past month, especially Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR. God's blessings to you all.

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### OREGON, SILVERTON

#### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Hymns of Zion #188). And how shall we accomplish dwelling together in unity? And how shall we be "like-minded in faith"? One wonderful way is to follow the "conclusions of the Elder Body" that they have prayerfully and carefully deemed worthy of our attention. Through listening to the tapes of the summer Conference and the reading of the Memorandum of their twice yearly meetings, we can be greatly helped to attain this precious unity that we desire. The Silverton church was blessed by the opportunity to listen to our Elder Bros. Art Metz and Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS) present the Memorandum recently. May God give us the needed grace to willingly follow.

Sunday, March 15, was the wedding day for our Sis. Peggy Schulz and Bro. Victor Jevromov (San Diego, CA). Sis. Peggy will be missed by the Oregon churches but we are sure she will be a welcomed and valued addition to the San Diego congregation. Our love and prayers for God's blessing to go with them.

Special thanks to Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bros. Peter Petrovic and Doug Wagenbach (both of San Diego, CA) who were willing to serve us while here for the wedding.

Just a reminder: March is Silver Lining month for Silverton.

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### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

*I Timothy 3:12-13*

On Sunday, March 8, we enjoyed a blessed day together when Bro. Ben Wiegand was ordained as Deacon. Among a church full of visitors who came for the occasion, we were blessed with the presence of Elder Bros. David Wiegand (Champaign, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) who participated in the ordination ceremony. We also appreciate ministering Bro. Warren Zahner's (Rockville, CT) willingness to lend himself in the Lord's service. Many prayers are offered to our Heavenly Father to grant much grace, wisdom, patience and courage to Bro. Ben and his dear wife, Sis. Michele, and their young family in the time ahead.

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### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

*Why Should He Die  
For Such As I*

In everything both great and small  
We see the Hand of God in all,  
And in the miracles of Spring  
When EVERYWHERE in  
EVERYTHING  
His handiwork is all around

And every lovely sight and sound  
Proclaims the GOD of earth and sky  
I ask myself "JUST WHO AM I"  
That God should send His only Son  
That my salvation would be won  
Upon a CROSS by a sinless man  
To bring fulfillment to God's Plan—  
For Jesus suffered, bled and died  
That sinners might be sanctified,  
And to grant God's children

SUCH AS I

Eternal life in that HOME on HIGH.  
—*Lovingly by Helen Steiner Rice*

Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have hope of a Home on High. Aren't we thankful? We should sing our praise to God each and every day but let's especially praise Him as we celebrate the Easter season.

On March 15, we welcomed ministering Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN). Traveling with Bro. Dan was his wife, Sis. Jenna, as well as others from Remington, Francesville, Wolcott, and La-Crosse, IN. Fellowship was enjoyed through dinner and a singing at the church on Saturday evening and worship services on Sunday. We also enjoyed meeting and worshipping with other visitors this month from Forrest, IL; Francesville, IN; and Sabetha, KS. May the Lord richly bless all of you for your efforts in traveling to worship and fellowship with us.

Upcoming services are scheduled as follows: May 3 (Champaign, IL); May 17 (Sarasota, FL); May 24 (Smithville, OH); June 7 (Morton, IL); and June 21 (Elgin, IL). If you are interested in joining us for worship services on these Sundays or are traveling in the Nashville area on other weekends, please contact one of the following numbers: 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 area).

### TEXAS, CENTRAL Dorothy Martin - Pam Sauder

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

*I Cor. 11:26*

We were privileged to have with us Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) who served us Communion on March 15. Our other visiting ministers this month include: Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA).

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

This past month has been rather exciting. Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN) brought the family down for services, and all of their children except one got chicken pox on the way. Fortunately, all of the other church-goers had already been infected earlier. Nonetheless, it will be a weekend we won't quickly forget. Most recently, Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and his son came down to hold services for us. Thank you for your efforts.

Services will be held on the first

and third Sunday of every month. If you are in the area, and would like to stop by, contacts are Bro. Howard and Sis. Dee Rapp (972) 867-4074, Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102, or Bro. Eric Strassheim (903) 454-4643, (903) 457-6819.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Henry Dotterer (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Edward Lanz (Sis. JoAnn, Oakville, IA), Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). May these brothers be richly blessed for their untiring service to God's people. We were happy to have a visit from retired minister, Bro. Alpha Strahm, Jr., and his wife, Sis. Mamie (Bern, KS).

Again, we were saddened by the sudden death of a fellow pilgrim. While visiting in Zapata, Bro. Alden Reutter (Rockville, CT) was walking across the bridge with his wife, Marion, and he collapsed. The Reuters have been coming to Zapata for short vacations almost every winter since about 1976. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family.

We are happy to have Sis. Delores Messerli assemble with us again. She had been a hospital patient since the car accident on January 21. Sis. Rose Alice Hawk (Winthrop, MN) was hospitalized for observation. We are thankful she is home again.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

Then he was zealous. He took all these that were trying to undermine the authority of the Pharisees, and he was going to see that they were in prison. He was going to see that they were put away. Did that bring him hope? Did that bring him salvation? No. It took repentance on the part of Paul.

Certainly we look at Paul's experience at not only being blind, not only being stopped in his way, but spending those days in blindness in Damascus. Then having to humble himself before the other brethren and going there to live in Arabia for up to two years to be taught and have his mind prepared for the work that he was going to have to do, that is repentance, isn't it? I guess, you might say, it took Paul a long time to repent, didn't it?

Some go through it in a two, three, four or six month period. It took Paul maybe almost like two years before he was really ready to do God's work. It kind of scares us, doesn't it, and humbles us? It scares us and makes us really want to do what God would have us to do.

We are so used to looking at, sometimes, such a big picture that we forget to see that He just wants us to take a step, Today just take one step. One step and then another, then another, then another and pretty soon we have a life of faith committed to Him. It comes by just taking the step that He wants us to take each day.

That certainly was what Paul was sharing with Agrippa and Festus that the first step we need to do is to repent. We need to be broken. We need to be humble. We must be willing to shed tears for what we have done to hurt God, and what we have done to hurt Jesus Christ. We really hurt Him, didn't we? We hurt Him badly. We hurt Him so bad that He died. Our sins nailed Him to that Cross.

I have heard it said that when you go to Heaven, we are going to have

glorified bodies and we are going to have no scars. The only scars that we will see in Heaven are the scars upon Jesus Christ.

That is going to humble us even there to think that because of those scars in His hands, His feet and His side, because of those scars, we are there. Because of those scars, we are permitted to be there in His presence...to be there in the choir and sing with the angels and do whatever we want to do or we are going to do in Heaven. Because, of the scars, we have a hope that we will be there. We hurt Him. We need to repent. We need to picture Him and we need to visualize all that we have done.

The Apostle Paul had a lot to remind him of how sinful he was. He was even willing and able to tell those there that day, Agrippa and Festus, what he had done. It really had to hurt, would it not, to say, "I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme;" (Acts 26:11). Can you imagine Paul saying that? Imagine us saying what we have done wrong to our elder. We have to do it if we want to be cleansed and we want to be free.

"I...compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities." (Acts 26:11). Before that, he said, "...when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them." (Acts 26:10). He was able to say that even though it hurt. It hurt deeply because he knew that Jesus had forgiven him. Jesus and the Almighty God had forgiven him for all he had done.

The same forgiveness is available today. How do we receive the forgiveness for all we have done...no matter what it is...no matter how extensive our sin has been...no matter how wrong we've been...no matter how it hurts us and how it embarrasses us...no matter how it just causes such an uncomfortable

feeling that we don't want to think about it?

We know that God loves us so much that He will forgive us all of our sins if we come and confess them and say we are sorry and repent. Repentance is this very bed rock of our conversion experience. That is to say we are sorry. That repentance and that confession is so vital! It has to be! Anybody in any church in any faith that would try to say that we can't and we don't have to do it, is going to lead that soul and lead those souls to sin and to hell.

Because if Satan's power is not broken in an individual life, there cannot be a hope. There cannot be freedom or liberty. The Apostle Paul was at liberty, yet in chains. He was at liberty because he had confessed, because he repented, and because he had been converted.

Oh, we would like to make it easier and make it different. We would like to do it our way, but it doesn't bring the freedom and repentance. It doesn't bring the liberty of God's way for us.

How thankful we are that if we follow God's plan, we will be blessed by God. If we follow man's plan, we are blessed by man, and look what kind of blessings we have in this life. If we call them blessings, we almost wonder how can it work out so poorly?

Last night we talked about Haiti. This morning there was an article in the paper about Haiti. I was kind of shocked because as I read it, I found out that Haiti is worse today than it was three years ago. Our government, the United Nations, went in and said, "We are going to try to make things a little better. We are going to bring back a democracy." Today there is more unemployment, there is more starvation, and the roads are worse. Our country has pumped in one billion dollars into that nation; but the people are worse.

Just another token and another

example. A man does it man's way and it isn't going to work out. Individually, if men do it men's way, it is not going to work out. It is not.

If we do it God's way and if we do it according to God's Word and we do it according to the Spirit of God leading us, it will be that all our efforts will be blessed of God. That certainly does humble us, does it not, because how many of us think that we are doing God's way? "Well, I am going to do it a little bit my way because I think He is leading me this way."

How many times have we heard, "God told me this. God has told me that." You say that to somebody and they might say, "Tell me how did God speak to you. How did you know that was God's way? How did you sense that was God's leading?" Listen to the answer of those people and dwell upon it and weigh it according to God's Word. Weigh it according to God's Spirit leading you. How blessed we are, each and every one of us, brothers and sisters, that we have God's Holy Spirit to help us to discern the spirits and help us to discern all that is going about us.

If we really realize what a blessing we have and really realize what a talent God has given to us to discern the spirits, we would use that Spirit more and listen to that Spirit more. We would rely on that Spirit more and we would be blessed more of God.

I can't help but think that as Paul is speaking here to Agrippa and Festus, God's Holy Spirit is leading him to share how he had been wrong and how he had done that which was wrong and it had led to madness. Now here they are telling him that he is mad because he learned so much.

Agrippa couldn't discern. Agrippa didn't have that discernment of the Holy Spirit, did he? Paul is telling him earlier that he was exceedingly mad against the believers of the gospel. Later on as he is

sharing the gospel and of Jesus Christ coming and of all that Christ had to suffer and that there is salvation through Christ, Festus turned to Paul and said, "Paul, thou art beside thyself, much learning doth make thee mad." (Acts 26:24).

That just shows to us how we cannot rely upon the discernment of others about us that have not been converted. We would often like to have people give us their claim and give us their comments and give us their acknowledgments, but let us be very, very careful if it is people who have not been converted. Their discernment is very likely to be very, very wrong.

Certainly we see that as nations are trying to come to grips with all kinds of problems in other nations. We see the world is in such a turmoil and we see our leaders and other leaders trying to solve these turmoils. Does it work out usually? No.

I just remember a few years ago when these two leaders in the Middle East were shaking hands and our president was right there and we thought maybe this was going to be the start of the end of the age when there is going to be this peace in the Middle East, in Israel. But we see it is not working out because man is doing it.

In so many of our domestic situations and problems, when man tries to solve it, it doesn't work out. You would think by now with our minds, with our abilities and with our technology, what can we do? Just think of what we can do! In science, medicine, and space exploration, we can't solve the very basic problems of life. In fact, it seems that we are going the wrong way, and we are if we don't have the Spirit of God to lead us.

So let us even realize and learn from this and be encouraged that we have, if we have been redeemed, the Spirit of God within us to help us to discern the spirits and help us be the kind of person we should be. When

we are confronted with others that have differences with us, how do we handle it? How do others handle it? We can sense there is so much we have to grow into, don't we? We have to learn to be able to discern. We need to pray for discernment. We need to pray for the spirit of Elijah.

Certainly the Apostle Paul as he was preaching and talking, I probably wouldn't consider it a sermon here, but he was talking to Agrippa and Festus. It got to the point where this King Agrippa was under such conviction that he turns to Paul and said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28).

Certainly those are very sad words, aren't they, to be convicted but not act upon the conviction? We look at this and think, "Yes, isn't that the way the world is? Isn't that the way the world has been so many times for so many people?" There are people here today. There are those of you, ladies and gentlemen, that are like this. You are convicted. You know that you have sin and you know that you need to confess it. You know that you need peace of heart and mind. You know you need to break through and you know you need to let go and let God.

You are almost there. Maybe next week. Maybe this week sometime I will talk to the elder. Maybe next week. Maybe after school is done. Maybe when my children are raised. Maybe whatever. Yet, if you don't, you are lost. If something happens today, none of us know even in the future of a second from now, you would be lost in eternity. You would be lost into hell. It was designed for Satan and not for you. Not for mankind, but for Satan. You think about what kind of a person Satan is, and the kind of personality Satan has.

Look back at the first chapter in Job and doesn't it just make you so upset to think of what a personality he has. Just think how he is sneak-

*Sermon continued on page 46*

ing in there when God and His angels are there. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them." (Job 1:6).

So God said, "Where did you come from?" "Oh, I am just walking around on earth." Can't you just picture that is what is happening today? First Satan says, "I am going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." (Job 1:7). Can't you just imagine that is what is happening today? We can just picture it so clearly. It is so evident that Satan is going to and fro and up and down and he is going to see whom he can tempt and destroy.

Just think what type of personality he has. We need to consider Satan. When we are thinking of these messages and this chapter, we see the love of God. We see the plan of salvation. We see the steps we need to take. We also need to see the enemy of our souls. We certainly see him going to and fro. God said the same thing, "Have you considered Job how good he is?"

When we think of Job as being perfect and upright and he fears God and eschews evil, we think, "My, that is not me. So maybe God would not tempt me like He did Job." Well, the lesson is for us to realize what Satan has done.

Here he is and says, "Oh, yes, Job is good because You have built a hedge about him and You have honored all his efforts and You have given him all kinds of substances.

He would curse You. If You took that away, he would curse You to Your face." Just think of the evils of Satan to say that. He said, "Job isn't any better than anyone else. He is just good because You have given him so many things."

God said, "That is not really so. You can test him if you want, but it is not so." Just think of Satan willing to test him. Think of all he did then to Job through the book of all the things that Satan did to Job.

Let us stop and think of what Satan is doing today to you and me. If you haven't been redeemed, you are a servant of Satan. If you haven't been redeemed or repented, you are a slave and a servant to that personality, to that being, to that power. You might think, "Oh, no, I don't have that kind of personality to control me." Yes, you do.

He is the prince of the power of the air and you don't recognize him as being all this evil that we read in the book of Job. He is going to be showing you all kinds of things that seem good. It will seem right. We have shared in the Word of God that he is like an angel of light. He is like a wolf in sheep's clothing, but he goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour.

At the conference this year, one of the elders shared how if there was a lion out in the parking lot, if there was a roaring lion out there, we would not just walk out to our cars. We would find out where he is and make sure we were away from him and try to get him captured. We would be afraid. We would have a

reason for adrenaline and for fear. Satan is out there and he is just like that roaring lion; he is going to devour you. He is going to destroy. He wants to.

That is the kind of personality and power that Satan has. How could any of us want to live under his power? How could any of us want to live in that danger of being destroyed and being tormented in hell because of him? Yet, we go about doing it if we don't repent now, if you don't repent today, if you don't turn to God, if we just say, "Almost I am convinced. Almost I am afraid of Satan. Almost I want to turn to God." That is not going to do it.

It has to be that we completely do it. That is what God honors. God honored that in Paul. God honored the ability to humble Himself to Job. God has honored that in so many thousands and hundred thousands of millions of people, and He can do it for you. Anyone that will repent and turn to God with a humble and a contrite heart, God will not turn away from you because God loves you, each and every one of us.

Certainly we see in this chapter the love of God and the mercy of God. How could we not want to come to Him? Run to Him and be thankful to Him because we are not going to find any help or any hope in this world, in man's devices and man's ways. It has to be according to God's plan.



## Faith of our Fathers

*I asked Jesus, "How much do you love me?" And Jesus answered, "This much —" and He stretched out His arms — and died.*

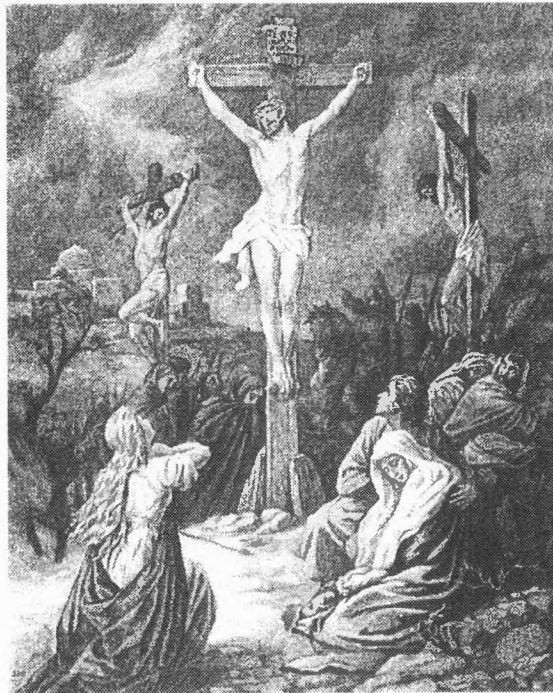
### Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani

Two strangers stood on a hillside outside the gates of Jerusalem, a little after six in the morning, looking upon a strange sight to them. They had heard that the Roman Government had developed a new form of punishment for the most severe crimes, but they had never witnessed anything like this before. Coming up the hill, called Golgotha, was a man carrying a wooden cross. At one point he fell under the burden of His cross and was helped by one of the bystanders. The man had obviously been beaten and his forehead was cut and gashed. As the man passed the strangers, they gasped as they looked upon His back, all bloody and torn from what they did not know. "Ah", said one to the other, "I believe he was scourged." "But why would they both scourge Him and crucify Him?" said the other. The stranger replied with a tear of pity for the beaten man who could hardly walk, "Whatever his crime, he does not deserve this kind of treatment!" Said the first to the other, "Let us see if we can get closer and maybe we can ask that elder of the land what is happening."

As they stood maybe a hundred yards away, they could hardly believe their eyes. Two other criminals were already on the hill and were tied to their crosses, lying flat on the ground. The strangers to the area had heard that the cruel Romans had devised a form of punishment called crucifixion. This punishment was reserved for the worst criminals. The purpose of the wooden cross, they had learned, was

to bring about a slow and agonizing death.

A hole was being dug in the ground and the wooden cross, which was brought up the hill for the beaten man, was laid down so that the base was right by the hole. The poor soul was laid down with His torn back against the rough hewn wood. To their astonishment they seen the soldiers bring forth three



long, rusty old spikes, and begin to pound them into His hands, which were stretched out on the arms of the cross. How the man could endure the pain was unbelievable, however the man did not even cry out once. There was no condemning rhetoric coming forth. And then they heard these words, "*He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is*

*dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.*"

What terrible crime could He have committed to deserve this agony? The strangers could hardly believe their eyes as the soldiers pounded the last nail into His crossed feet, which rested on a step. Next the three crosses were raised and then lowered into the holes in the ground with a thud. Two or three cubits was a long way to drop with the bodies tied to the crosses, however for the poor soul who was nailed to His cross, it was evident that the pain was excruciating. As the crosses were held in place, dirt was thrown back into the holes to keep the crosses upright. Now they could see the superscription of accusation and it read, THE KING OF THE JEWS. These strangers looked at each other in wonder. "Who would ever treat their King in such a manner?" "Let us move over and ask that elder what is the crime and what is going on," said one to the other.

As they approached the old man they could see a smile on his face. "Sir, would you please tell us what is this poor man's crime, this King of the Jews?" The old man introduced himself as a member of the Council. "What was His crimes you say, Well let me tell you what He told us last night. First there were some witnesses who came forth and accused that man, however He held His peace and answered nothing. We knew He was guilty, because we heard Him say things like He could give people who

*Sermon continued on page 48*

would believe, "Living Water," so they would never thirst again and that He would destroy our beautiful temple and in three days build it back again. However we did not know for sure that He was guilty until the High Priest asked Him, 'Art thou the Christ, the son of the Blessed?' He then answered, 'I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.'

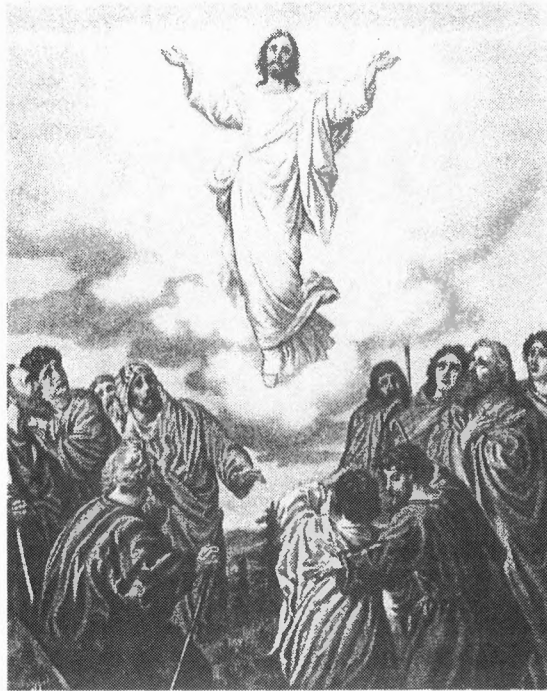
Then the High Priest rent his clothes, and saith, 'What need we any further witnesses?' The High Priest asked us what we thought, and all but two of us condemned him to be put to death for blasphemy."

One of the strangers asked the old elder, "Was He really the King of the Jews?" The old elder replied, "We wanted to have the superscription read he said he was the King of the Jews, but Pilot would not have any part of it." The strangers slowly turned and looked upon the man in the center as He was in such agony. Hours had passed and the three men just hung there. They were surprised when they heard the man who was so severely beaten speak to the thief. The three had been discussing their guilt. One thief railed on the Man hanging in the center, while the other in a very repentant voice said, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?"

"And we indeed justly: for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man has done nothing amiss." And then the repentant thief said to the man of agony, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Then the strangers heard the man of agony say in such a loving tone, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

As the strangers stood and lis-

tened, they began to doubt if this kindly man was guilty of anything. He did not struggle at the cross, which was slowly crushing the breath from His lungs. That man of agony hung from the cross for a greater purpose than punishment it was sure, they thought. And then their hearts were crushed as they seen Him look down upon His mother. There was someone about His age standing by her with a great love for the one who hung upon the cross and the man of agony said, "Woman, behold thy son!" Then He said to the young man beside her, "Behold thy mother!" In that day and time it was not known to those



who did not know the Son of God, that John, who stood by the Lord's mother, should take care of her until she should pass on.

It was almost noon when something strange started to happen. It was getting dark! Everyone was fearful and all the railing upon the man called Jesus stopped. He was so weak and slowly dying. But for what did He die the two strangers thought as they watched the man of agony stand for a while with the

pressure of the spike sending excruciating pain through His body. He would stand as long as His weakened body could and then collapse into a hanging position that was designed to stretch the lungs in such a way that the person on the cross could not breathe.

After the man called Jesus spoke to the disciple John, He knew that all was accomplished, and that the scripture was fulfilled. Then He spoke and said, "I thirst." Again He cried out, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" One of the strangers asked, "What is He saying?" One who stood by said, "He saith, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" And the stranger said, "Is God forsaking Him?" "No," said the bystander, "it is the fulfillment of the Holy Scriptures that all of this had to take place." By this time the strangers were weeping and felt so sorrowful for the Christ of Calvary. And then Jesus spoke one last time, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," bowed His head, and gave up the Ghost.

The next thing that happened, in the darkness of the mid afternoon, was almost more than the strangers could withstand. Since the next day was the Sabbath, the Jews did not want the bodies hanging, so the soldiers were ordered to break the legs of those hanging on the cross, which in turn brought about their quick death, since they could not raise themselves to breathe. But when they came to Jesus, He was already dead. To make sure, they pierced His side and out flowed blood and water. This blood that flowed from the body of Christ was for the healing of the nations and the remission of sin for all mankind.

The strangers watched as a rich young man who also was an honourable counsellor, Joseph of Ari-



mathæa by name, come and receive the Lord's body and walked slowly away to the burial place where never was man lain.

Who were these two strangers who looked on as the events of Good Friday unfolded and found themselves believing in a Saviour who was willing to leave the splendor of Heaven, take upon Himself flesh and blood, preach the doctrine of salvation, die upon the cross, enter into the bosom of the earth, preach to the captives of time past, and rise to Glory and Majesty on the right hand of God. Yes, those two strangers were you and me as we strive to take our heart and mind to the Cross of Calvary.

To finish this story, could we join with the two men, who traveled on the road to their home in Emmaus, and imagine that we are walking beside them. And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass

there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:

Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

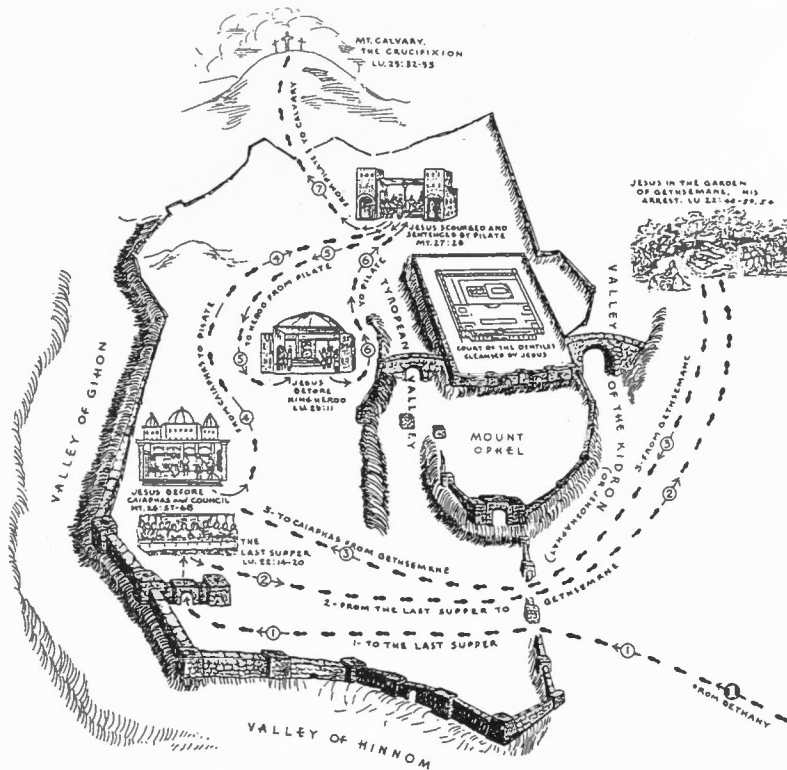
And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered to-

gether, and them that were with them, Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

Today yet He cries out even as He did in that day and time, "He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but Him that sent me." And again He calls to all mankind, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel."

#### FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS DURING HIS LAST DAYS



JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF THE CRUCIFIXION

and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not



# REMEMBERING

## Our Spiritual Heritage

*Excerpts from the diary of Elder Henry Geistlich, Milan, Switzerland, continue. He visited all the American churches in 1866.*

*Monday, June 11: New Bremen, NY.* Today we had a conversation. Several brothers and I visited about the order of our church. We also talked about Matthew 18:5-7. Of these things I cannot write here.

*Tuesday, June 12: Naumburg, NY.* Yesterday there was a burial of a person who did not belong to church. Here in America people who do not belong to church are buried in the cemetery of the faithful which is either beside or nearby the church house. Both members and unbelievers attended the funeral. The church house was filled. The brothers told me that the unbelievers came mostly out of curiosity because they know there is a preacher here from Switzerland. There are many settlers who are German. There was a church service before the burial and as I preached the sermon, I opened for my text to I Peter 1:24-25. "All flesh is as grass and all the glory of man as the flower of grass, but the Word of the Lord endureth forever." The Lord inspired me to speak. After the sermon was the burial, along with singing and praying.

*Wednesday, June 13: Croghan, NY.* I was surprised at the eagerness which the brethren showed, the church house always being filled. In this manner the brethren here have it much nicer than we in Europe. They are able to assemble through the week, as they are less pressed with timely things. For the most part, they have lived here for a long time and are now nearly all well to do, having made good, as in earlier times the land was as low as \$5 an acre and now it is about \$20 or more. They also have a good market and get a high price for their produce.

*Thursday, June 14: Croghan, NY.* Today at noon a sister was taken up.

There were many brethren present, as well as others who have made a beginning in working out their soul's salvation. It pleased me very much that one could accomplish such a thing in broad daylight, which we in Europe cannot do. The brothers demanded of me that I execute the baptism, so I baptized the sister in a nearby stream, praying over her in the water. Something I had not done for a long time, it being a special blessing for me. How wonderful it would be if we in Europe could enjoy this blessing. The sister who was taken up had to go through very much, first belonging to the English Baptist Church in New York, later to the Jean Ashman Church in New York and now at last the Lord brought her to the right church, because she was sincere. Those that are sincere, the Lord will let succeed.

*Friday, June 15: Croghan, NY.* This morning at Croghan, I left for Mansfield, OH accompanied by two brothers and a sister. At 4 a.m. the brethren took us a short way, until we came to a river, where we boarded a steamship. We went through an unsettled region. I had to think of what a wilderness this is compared to Switzerland, one seeing only timber and brush, much swamp land and many log houses. After leaving the steamboat, we took a stagecoach to Bonville, where we boarded a train (on the New York Central RR) going through the State of New York to Buffalo and then on to Cleveland, OH; Erie, PA; and Mansfield. These were the most important places through which we went. The entire trip took us through a rather wild country. I thought that I would not care to live here. In Cleveland, there was alot of noise.

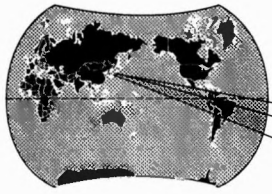
*Sunday, June 17: Mansfield, OH.* Today I am in Mansfield. Dear Bro. Joseph Bella was here in Mansfield. He met us Saturday evening at the depot. I had to weep as I saw him; I was so stricken. There was church in the forenoon and

again in the afternoon. For my text, I read St. John 4th chapter. We stayed by brethren Muller and Sorg, from Sunday until Tuesday. These were blessed days. How precious it is if the hearts find themselves in the love of Christ, especially in a strange land as this is. Here I met several brethren from Bern and other places in Switzerland. I was able to enjoy myself very much. Bro. Land reminded me of the time when the church in Bern was first established. We also talked about Bro. Hine, who at that time had to go through much suffering in Bern. O, how one can enjoy himself in the midst of brotherly love. It does not extinguish the love one has for his earthly land of birth for we all love to talk of our old earthly fatherland, as America is America and not Switzerland.

*Monday, June 18: Mansfield, OH.* Weather rainy and cold. Today I wrote a letter home to my dear wife and brethren. I must think, how long must I wait until I receive one from them. Mansfield is a city which is just being built up. The brethren here have their own nice church house. The world people here call them the "stupid Swiss" and their church house the "Swiss church". There is a rather small congregation here with plenty of room in the church house. I had for my text this afternoon Isaiah 61, which saith, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor."

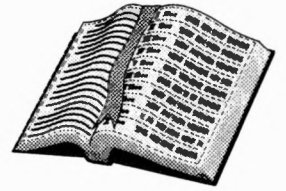
*By Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**Next Issue:**  
*The Geistlich Diary continues*



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

### “The Resurrection and Wealth”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

Every year the richest person in the world is announced. It used to be a Japanese person, but all that has changed and it is now Americans who top the list. I don't expect to be a candidate to be named the richest person in the world because they mistakenly figure in dollars. If they were figuring spiritual treasure, I would announce my candidacy. You, too, should be a candidate.

No doubt about it, we are rich. The Bible says so. “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” (II Cor. 8:9)

Buildings need maintenance, land needs to be protected from erosion, and money may decrease in value, but our treasure cannot be stolen, nor does it rust, nor does it disappear in a recession. I'm interested in those kinds of assets. Jesus said, “But lay up for yourselves treasures in

heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” (Matthew 6:20)

We can only imagine the treasures of Heaven, we cannot see them nor touch them at this time. But we have faith to believe in them. Now, whose treasures are those? They undoubtedly belong to God, the Father, who is over all, the Creator of all. Yet, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, are joint owners, as they are each a likeness of the Father in a special way. However, the Bible teaches that we are joint heirs of the heavenly treasures. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (Romans 8:16-17)

It is not only in Heaven that we will have treasures and wealth. If

we have all the fruit of the spirit, “Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance,” Galatians 5:22, we are wealthy beyond words. These treasures cannot be purchased with dollars and they are ours, if we really want them and are willing to abide in the vine, the Lord Jesus Christ, to have them. Let's claim our wealth and rejoice.

The reason we have this wealth is because the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead. No resurrection, no wealth. The early disciples emphasized the resurrection, “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

We are really the wealthiest people in the world, all because of Christ's resurrection.

# 希望の光



## Wichita, KS - 1938

In keeping with the general movement West, a few brethren found themselves meeting in the Wichita area because of the bad roads to Harper and Burlington Churches. In 1938 a white wood Edifice was constructed and served the Wichita Church until 1974 when they built their present Church.

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