

# *The Silver Lining*

A black and white photograph of a single rose in bloom, surrounded by leaves and a dark, textured background. The rose is the central focus, with its petals clearly defined. The background is a dense, dark foliage, possibly a rose bush, which provides a high-contrast backdrop for the flower.

*I am the Rose of Sharon*

May 1998

## “JESUS CAME TO GIVE US VICTORY”

*Sermon by Bro. Douglas Wagenbach, San Diego, CA*

**Joshua 2:1-21 and Luke 4:1-22**

This portion of Scripture that we read is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This, being just after the holidays, we have read and thought about Jesus' birth, and His parents from Nazareth who made that journey to Bethlehem. Nazareth was perhaps not the seat of religion and for Him to come back to this hometown of His and to open up the Word, as He was given opportunity, to read that prophesy in Isaiah and then sit down, we can only imagine what the reaction was, as we read it here.

“Is not this Joseph's son?” (Luke 4:22). “Isn't this the kid we went to school with? Isn't this the kid that played in our back yards? Isn't this the kid that worked in the carpenter's shop? How could this be what He has just said?”

“We can't look back and have some hind-sight because we are not there and we are not part of that community, and we can say, “Why didn't you accept? Why didn't you recognize the miracles? Why didn't you recognize the great things He has done and the prophecies that were fulfilled? If you would have gone back and read Micah, you would have seen that He was born in Bethlehem, as was told.”

He didn't get it, and we are no different than this community of Nazareth and our response to Jesus. We often make excuses and come to conclusions that are not based on the truth.

We heard this morning: the truth is absolutely critical. Even the chapter we read this morning, my first reaction as we opened it was, “Is that the chapter we really want to read in church?” The truth, the whole gamut of God's instructions, is contained between the covers of this Book.

God has graciously shared it with

you and me so that we might understand, we might learn and that we might not walk without hope, we might not walk without purpose in our life, we might not walk without direction and that we would walk in faith so we can understand that Jesus came for you and for me. He went to the cross and shed His blood to fulfill the requirements of a Lamb to bear the sins of the world upon Him.

We can believe it with our heart and put our faith, trust and confidence in Him. If we can be as Rahab when we come to the point in our lives, there really is no other place to turn. She drew that conclusion because she saw the result of this group of people marching on. She saw the victories that they were experiencing and she saw her hopeless condition.

She saw it—in the only way she saw it—and hopefully that would be the same conclusion that we could draw as we read the Scripture where it says, “There is none righteous, no, not one:” (Romans 3:10). We are all sinners and if we ever have a hope—want to entertain a hope—of going to the Promised Land, we need to be reconciled to God. The only way is through Christ Jesus and His shed blood.

We can put our faith, confidence and trust in Him and look up to the cross and without doubt believe. Then live our lives based on that belief, and not do as these people from Nazareth did. The Word tells, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;” (I Corinthians 1:18). It is foolishness to a lot of people, and that it seems foolish to think that two thousand years ago Someone died and that it is a defining moment in history and a defining moment in our lives. But as we come to know the Word, we

come to know more about Jesus.

We all had the opportunity this morning, and perhaps many times in the past, that as we come to know Him, we realize what He has to offer. We should not make excuses, but that we would do as Rahab, hear the Word, respond in faith, and take those steps of faith.

We read here of the temptation of Jesus. It is Scripture that we can take comfort in because who was it that tempted us, God's children? Satan. From the Book of Genesis we can read, he came to Eve and said, “Well, is this really so?” He is a master of deception. Jesus is teaching us how to respond when we are tempted.

First of all, He said, “It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” (Luke 4:4). “The Word has to be important to us. The Word should be our guide, the doctrine of Christ Jesus, and not something we want to lightly discard, or be casual about it. John wrote it this morning.

*Sermon continued on page 46*

The Silver Lining (Vol. 52, #5)  
RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561  
**USPS 496780**

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

*Counselors:*

*Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht  
David Bertsch*

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

The Silver Lining  
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL, 61561  
309-923-7513 (phone) 309-923-7359 (fax)

Periodical postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining  
RR2 Box 50, Roanoke, IL 61561

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

May 1998

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

## Confession of Sin

From the beginning of time, it has been the nature of man to try to hide sin. When man does things that he knows he should not do, he wants to be sure others do not know what he has done. Unconfessed sin brings guilty feelings and causes us to feel separated from God. Separation from God makes us more vulnerable to Satan's attacks. If this vicious cycle is not broken, we will spend eternity separated from God.

Although we can hide sin from man, we cannot hide it from God. After Adam and Eve sinned, they initially tried to hide their sin by sewing fig leaves together to make themselves aprons. When they heard the Lord walking in the garden they "...hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God...". When the Lord called unto Adam and asked where he was, Adam replied "I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself" (Gen. 3:7-10).

Achan, also tried to hide his sin and was told to give "...glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou has done; hide it not from me." He replied "I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel...when I saw...a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them;..." (Joshua 7:19-21).

Solomon understood the seriousness of hidden sin. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Pr. 28:13). Isaiah also warned of the results of hidden sin. "Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:" (Isaiah 30:1).

God has made it abundantly clear that sin will be exposed to the light. Man's efforts to hide sin will be of no avail. "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out" (Nu. 32:23). "For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known" (Lu. 12:2). "Therefore judge nothing before the time,

until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness" (I Co. 4:5).

It is important that we understand that sin cannot be hidden from God. It is also important that we understand that Satan would like us to believe that sin can be hidden from God and from man. Satan tried to convince Eve that not only was it acceptable to sin but that it was a good thing. He told Eve "...ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Gen. 3:4-5).

Early messengers of the gospel of Jesus Christ preached repentance and confession of sin. "Then went out to him (John the Baptist) Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins" (Mt. 3:5-6). When the apostle Paul was preaching at Ephesus and the evil spirits tried to overcome the power of God, the faithfulness of the Saints was such that "...the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds" (Acts 19:17-18).

We may ask the questions - "Why should I confess my sins? What good will it do to make a confession of sin?"

James wrote of the benefits of confession of sin. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed" (Ja. 5:16). James was certainly referring to more than simply a physical healing.

Confession of sin is helpful to assure that the truth is in us and to obtain forgiveness. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:8-9).

Confession of sin, if undertaken in an appropriate manner, brings relief to the sinner. It is important to recognize that a humble confession of sin is more than a simple admission of having committed a certain act. It requires admission, with regrets, of having done the deed and an

attitude of submission to God with a commitment to not repeat it. To bring a cleansing, purified, forgiven heart, confession must be done in a repentant state of mind.

From time to time we hear of acts of terrorism or other sins for which some group "claims responsibility". Although these groups certainly have "confessed" their sins, there is no cleansing nor forgiveness. The confession is not done as individuals nor is it done with an attitude of sorrow nor humility. Thus, we can see that confession with an improper attitude is really boasting, not confession.

Humble confession of sin brings relief in a number of ways. The heavy burden of the sin is lifted. We no longer need to worry about having someone find out about our sin because we have removed that fear by making it known. If we have sinned in a manner that is harmful to another, we have the opportunity to gain peace of mind by going to that individual and confessing the sin and seeking forgiveness.

Confession of sin breaks the power of Satan. It brings to light those deeds that keep us in his bondage. Many times a soul will simply try to do better without acknowledging past sins. Rarely does this have long term benefits because, in the unconfessed state, sin is still our master. We must break the grip that Satan, through our sins, has on us.

Confession of sins also puts Satan to shame, revealing him to be "...the prince of this world..." (John 12:31). Our goal is to escape the cares and constraints of this life that we might spend eternity with our Lord. Since we "...cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24), we must completely separate ourselves from Satan.

Confession of sin brings a cleansing of the soul, helping us to remove the vessels of dishonor from our lives and making us fit for the Master's use. "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Tim. 2:21). Only those with a cleansed and purified heart, freed from the burden of sin, can have peace with our Heavenly Father.





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

## Planning for Future Work Teams in Jamaica

**W**orld Relief has worked for many years in the island of Jamaica. This work falls under the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Board. Work teams go to the island nation throughout each year.

### Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD)

Most of the work we do is assisting in building trade schools for CCCD, which has four Jamaican locations. Their focus is providing opportunities for deaf children to learn skills which will enable them to earn their living and function in society. Our brethren have learned to appreciate this organization, and we support the work they do.

### Evaluation teams visit the area each year to assess needs

For the purpose of evaluating past efforts of our work teams, as well as to plan for future work, representatives of the Caribbean Board travel to Jamaica on a regular basis. It is important that our funds are used wisely and that we are demonstrating good stewardship before the Lord in meeting needs. A team of four brothers visited there in March of this year.

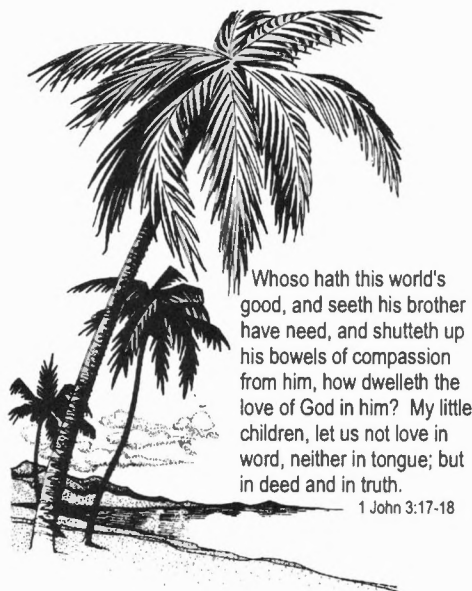
### Arrival in Montego Bay

Team members flew from their various locations into the Montego Bay International Airport. Going through customs in developing nations is always interesting, and often a challenge. As is usual, the team rented a car since they travel long distances to the various locations. Traffic runs on the left side of the road, not the right as here in the U.S., so our brothers have learned how to cope with driving on the opposite side as well as with traffic conditions which can become very difficult.

### Expediting a container

Several times each year, we ship sea containers from our distribution centers to CCCD. Many faithful sisters, brothers, and friends work hard to provide consumer items which are not available locally.

Gordon's Agency, a local freight expediting firm, does the paper work necessary to get these containers cleared through customs. One often wonders why there is so much bureaucracy, which seems to hinder instead of help. But it exists in every nation in which we work.



### Final approval from Kingston

Most of the time our evaluation teams fly into Montego Bay because it is close to the docks where the ships unload our containers. However, they must make a four hour trip across the island to the capital city, Kingston. Approval comes from several agencies, and this can take a long time.

The team left at 5:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. First stop in Kingston was at the Coconut Industry Board, where permits were waiting at the desk. When the brothers went to the Tax Compliance

Office, there was a mix-up with some documents, but when the officials found the container listed in their computers, things cleared.

By 11:30 they had what they needed, and then visited the CCCD school in Kingston. After taking a few pictures, they returned to Montego Bay.

### Additional delays are no surprise

Although it appeared that everything was in order on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, it was not possible to unload the container until Monday due to typical delays. Even though it seems to happen each time, it still is frustrating. Another problem was that the truck needed for delivery to the various locations was broken down. It finally reached the docks about 9:30 on Monday.

### Visited various locations

The team used the rest of the week to visit the locations in which we work. This includes not only the CCCD campuses, but also Falmouth Hospital, their infirmary, and a school for troubled girls. There are several projects in the planning stages which the brothers evaluated during this time. It appears that there will be plenty of work for our volunteers in the coming months.

### Mission accomplished!

At 10:30 A.M. on Monday, the officials finally approved the shipment and the race to deliver the goods was on. Supplies for Montego Bay and another location went in a Gordon truck. Other goods were loaded onto and delivered by the truck which was repaired over the weekend. By this time it was past 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday was spent in delivering goods and settling up with the local people hired to do the work. The brothers were thankful, and had a little time to relax before the trip home on Tuesday. Thanks be to God for His care and direction!





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

### More Letters from Romania



**T**he primary work of the Mission Committee is directed toward spiritual assistance. However, we do work closely with the World Relief Committee, especially where our own brethren are involved. A sea container of material aid is shipped each month from our Bluffton Distribution Center to Romania. Many of the poor in this area pray, "Give us this day our daily bread", without knowing where their next meal is coming from. In appreciation for your gifts, we receive many letters from these needy brethren and wish to share some of them with our supportive brotherhood. Without your help, none of this would be possible.

#### The daily life of believers

*We have no words to fully express our thanks to God and you, beloved in America, for the gifts of food and clothing you send us month after month.*

*It is difficult to describe the conditions that exist in our country today. The cost of everything is rising fast and the wages and pensions are the same as long ago. Many factories are closed, and people are out of work. Our money loses value all the time. We just pray that God gives us grace and strength to carry the weight of our cross.*

N and the Children

#### Every item is useful

*Our sincere thanks to all the dear ones who so faithfully labor in our behalf and send the gift packages. Really, it is a very great help for us. Here everything is expensive, and the pensions are so small that it is impossible to buy some of the very essentials. Instead of improving, our economy is worse each month.*

*Every item in the packages is good and useful, especially the medications, rice, oil, and all else. Again we thank you for all you do for us. KM*

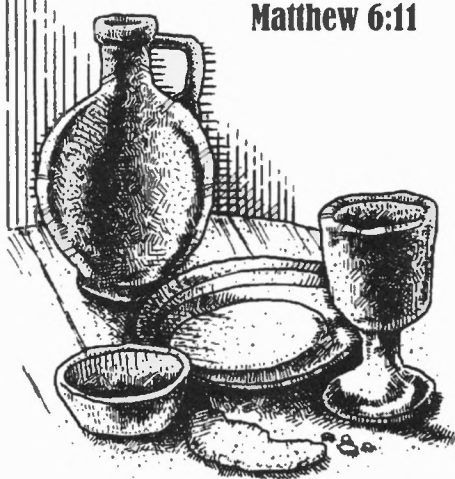
#### Soap is valuable

*I live with my brother and his family. I have no income nor pension because I had to take care of our mother while she was invalid for many years. When she was living, we shared her small pension. Other brethren also helped us, especially your gift packages.*

*I thank God and the dear brothers and sisters in America for their love and continued support. Our greatest need is black pepper, soap, and laundry detergent. It is very hard to find and too expensive to buy. JM*

### Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11



#### Conditions are worsening

*I want you to know that since you visited us, my cancer is in remission, and I just thank the good Lord for it. I am still under doctor's care.*

*We are grateful for everything you send us. Here we cannot find black pepper, laundry soap, facial soap, cooking oil, and many other things.*

*Sad to report that the conditions are not getting any better. Factories are slowing down and many are closed. Lots of people are out of work. Pensions for the elderly are not enough to live on. My son and daughter-in-law are out of work. It is hard to support their family. MJ*

#### Letters in packages appreciated

*I was very surprised to receive your letter in the care package. It made me very pleased to read your kind words.*

*You asked about our life. I want to be true in my response. Our family is in a very critical situation. Living conditions are very difficult. For example, my parents are old, in poor health, and helpless. My wife spent some time in the hospital. We have 2 children. The house we live in is very old and hard to keep warm. We could use some bedding.*

*Everything is very expensive because our money has lost its value. We thank God for putting in your heart to help us. We pray to the Lord that you can visit us again and be convinced of our situations. NS*

#### Medications are needed

*May the good Lord reward and recompense you for your love. I am a handicapped person, paralyzed on my left side since 1981, when I had an operation. I have difficulty keeping my balance.*

*In the past, I received a medication called "Dristan". It was good to help me when I suffered congestion of the nose. Could you send me some medication?*

*Also, we could use some black pepper, cocoa, and chocolate. JG*

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO:  
Apostolic Christian Mission Committee  
European Board  
P.O. Box 23356  
Overland Park, KS 66283

## - 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>
April	5,295	15,481	427,679

\* 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

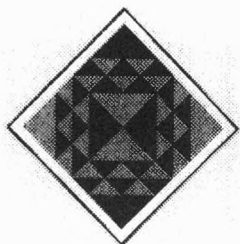
A very effective way of giving the pocket Testaments/Psalms/Proverbs (boxed), is to place the plastic box with label in hospitals, rest homes, motels, filling stations, stores, doctor, dentist, and eye doctor offices.

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!

### HUMAN SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1998.

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

### 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 Eng-  
lish manuscript by Perry A. Klopfen-  
stein*

#### 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.

### 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

At our larger facility, we have experienced a significant change in residents within the past five years. A fairly large group of residents have moved to one of our five homes in the Morton Community. Many residents who have taken the place of those who moved from the larger facility have been individuals with greater challenges and needs. Also, back in the early 1970's we had some residents who came to live at ACHH that were between 40 and 60

years old. Because of these factors at ACHH, we have recently been confronted with resident aging issues and individuals who have become terminally ill. We are learning some new concepts about our developmentally challenged residents and death and dying, particularly at our larger home. For most of our people, we see the love of Jesus communicated in a variety of ways. We know that Jesus sees into the hearts of our residents as well as into all of our hearts. We are thankful to be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Cor. 15:55). We try to let our hearts not be troubled and know that there are mansions prepared for all of us who love Him with all of our heart. (John 14:14). Thanks be to God that Heaven is prepared for all, not only those who can fluently communicate their spiritual relationship with Jesus.

Interestingly, however, we are finding that many of our people go through a variety of levels of acceptance with death, just as the cognitively normal population does. The manner in which individuals communicate their fear of dying, the emotional and physical pain they are feeling, and their insecurities expressed at these times run a wide range. We also notice our lovely Jesus is totally involved in each step of this process. It is so true that every hair of our head is known by Him and not even a sparrow falls without His knowledge (Luke 12:7). We see His hand with interactions we see around a bedside, just as we would with someone without challenges who is dying. Tender words, families pulling together, a vision past earthly concerns to eternal and spiritual plains, and camaraderie with staff involved often show His love to those of us who observe these moments. We are grateful for a God who is involved in all aspects of our lives.

In light of these aging issues, we

## 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

do have a resident at Oakwood Estate who is celebrating a mile marker birthday. Herb Stieglitz will have his 80th birthday on May 11 of this year. He may appreciate a card. His address is: Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550.

Birthdays for June are: ACHH - Dale Plattner (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger (15), Rodney Blaum (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23), Lyle Steffen (24). OAKWOOD - Doris Hutchison (18).



LINDEN - Chip Johann (2). 241 MINNESOTA - Sharilyn Rowell (19).

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

**Arlo and Lisa Kipfer**

What do we expect from God? Do we really believe that He can do the impossible? Recently, we heard a talk on allowing God to do the impossible. Sometimes things in our lives seem terrible. We are going through a trial that we don't think will ever end or end in a good way. If we trust in God, these are the times that God can show himself powerfully.

Actually, it is when our resources are exhausted and there is nothing more we ourselves can do, that God often chooses to work in a mighty way. When Elijah was prophet in Israel, God showed Himself powerfully when He caused fire to come down on an altar that Elijah had soaked with water. God showed that He can do what men think is impossible. Be encouraged! God is working in our lives. Are we willing to put aside our own ways of trying to do things, and to allow God to work in a mighty way that only He can? He is our all-powerful God. Let us be willing vessels for God to show Himself through our lives!!

This challenge and reminder above came from a training session the GW staff received at our annual Staff Retreat. Our training included these topics: the importance of fasting, allowing God to work in impossible situations, working with ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder) children, reminding us each child represents a future family, and going through trials with God. We were challenged and encouraged as a staff. We also had some time to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and being with the rest of our staff.

Gateway Woods is now on the World Wide Web. You can find us at: <http://www.gatewaywoods.org>. There are several purposes for this site. One is to provide a source of information to anyone who would want to know more about Gateway Woods. Caseworkers and families who wish to place children at Gateway Woods can find out about current openings in our programs, as well as information on how to place a child with us. Our church members and friends who wish to donate items to our Annual Auction (August 15 this year) can find out how to do that, as well as print out the important labeling tags on their printer. Our many volunteers who generously help us throughout the year can find opportunities at the site as well. Volunteer applications and reference forms are available for downloading, as well as a calendar that shows available dates to volunteer.

Speaking of volunteering, summer draws closer every day. We are looking forward, as always, to the many volunteers who help us in so many ways during the course of the summer. Please contact us for applications and to inform us of possible dates. Alternate Houseparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand, had an exciting month. Sebastian Nathaniel was born on March 19 and joined big brother, Demetrius, at home. We are happy for them and wish them many blessings as they have two young children to raise here, along with their responsibilities of substituting for Houseparents and maintenance.

We currently have job openings for a female counselor and a secretary. See the notices in this issue. Please pray that the Spirit will lead just the right ones to be a part of our ministry team.

### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Molly Stickling**

April has been a busy month for our preschoolers. They have been spending time learning about plants and the color green. The children have enjoyed our Spring weather, and were able to do some planting. Most of the children were very patient waiting for their seeds to grow, watching and waiting day after day. So you can imagine the excitement when those first plants popped through the soil.

The beginning of this month we took a field trip to a local zoo. We had beautiful weather, and a fun day for the children, parents, and teachers. There were lions, bears, birds, monkeys, and many other wonderful animals to look at, but a dog and a cat running freely around the zoo is what won the children's attention!

We were thankful to have a special week in April devoted to telling the Easter story. Every morning, during circle time, we would read a part of the Easter story. One parent said her child asked her, "Did you know they put nails in Jesus' hands?" The children definitely had attentive ears while listening to this special story. May Easter never be just a story we take for granted, but instead cause us to be thankful every day that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and is in Heaven interceding for us. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:34)

We were thankful to have Sis. Jan Rocke (Bro. Robyn, Eureka, IL) spend a day with us at the preschool, while her husband was here on business. Your efforts in working and the time you spent with the children was greatly appreciated. Thank you!

April 18 was also the day set aside

for our preschool board meeting. We want to especially thank all our board members, both who traveled long distances, and those from Athens, for all the time, thoughts, and prayer they put forth in making decisions for the preschool. May God bless each one of you.

The month of May will start to bring some change to the preschool. Sis. Margo Stettner will be moving back to Bluffton, IN and Sis. Molly Stickling will be moving to Chicago, IL. Both feel God's leading to move in these new directions, but above all, are very thankful for the time and memories they have had at the preschool. To teach at the preschool is a wonderful and growing experience. With two sisters leaving, we will have a need for teachers. Please be prayerful about our need, and anyone interested and willing to come, contact Bro. Lavoyd Moore at 205-232-2035.

#### ALABAMA, ATHENS

##### Joan Reinhard

We enjoyed a very blessed day on April 5 as we shared Communion with our church family here in Athens. This was a special time of self-examination and closeness with each other and we truly appreciated the privilege of having this reminder of the Lord's Supper.

Fellowship is such a valuable part of our church, and we are so thankful for those who make the effort to be with us for services. We had visitors from Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest and Peoria, IL and from Bluffton, IN; Detroit, MI; and Mansfield, OH. May God bless each one.

We are saddened with the leaving of Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker and their daughter, Timber. As they make their home back in Bluffton, IN, we pray the Lord will bless them for all they have given to us in Athens and that He will continue to guide and direct them each step of

the way.

Our prayers are with Tim Hall (Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise) as he has spent some time in the hospital this past month. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

With Mother's Day here, we want to remember our Mothers and to give them the respect due. We also think of those who have lost their Mothers, especially in this past year, and pray God's comfort upon them.

We also want to extend an invitation to one and all for our Memorial Day Sing that is scheduled for May 24. We have really enjoyed this event in the past and are looking forward to another tremendous weekend. We hope to have another record crowd and we invite anyone who would like to come to call Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (205) 232-2035.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

##### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"...If God be for us, who can be against us?"

*Romans 8:31*

On March 21, we met to hear the testimonies of two dear ones, Jessica Tooley and Angie Klopfenstein. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Loren Knapp presided on March 21 and 22 when they were baptized and became our sisters in faith. May you both continually build on His leading.

Sis. Jessica's parents are Jerry and Sis. June Tooley. Sis. Angie's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein. Relatives came from out of state for both sisters to rejoice with us.

On April 4-5, many from Phoenix traveled to Gridley, IL to be with George Gramm, as he gave his testimony and was baptized. Bro. George resides in Phoenix and is welcomed back home. With God's love, you will never be alone; trust in Him.

We heard the engagement an-

nouncement of Bro. Gabe Hill and Sis. Kristen Lehman on March 22. Their parents are Susan Knochel Suever and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). We pray for God's direction as they plan a June wedding in Bern.

On March 23, a group of brothers and helpers traveled to Gallup, NM on a World Relief project.

On April 4, there was a 50th wedding anniversary reception for Bro. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine (Gerry) Beyer at the congregational room at church. Many Beyer and Fankhauser relatives came from out of town. A family dinner was served in the evening. Our Phoenix choir sang in the afternoon. May God continue to bless Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry now and the years ahead; also, your "extended" family for their caring and love.

April 5 was our Sunday School Easter program, a yearly blessing of singing and Scripture recitations of our Lord's crucifixion.

God's blessings on each brother and sister for serving the Lord in this time that "He is risen".

In the evening, Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and John Klotzle served Communion. Good Friday services and Easter sunrise services at Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's garden gave our Holy Week time to get us to the Cross for Easter Day services. Our Phoenix choir sang at sunrise service and during fellowship hour. Praising the Lord in song is God's gift. He only made man and birds to sing.

Visiting ministers we are grateful to are Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bros. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN — who came for niece's baptism), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly Maurer welcomed their second son, Matthew John, on March 17. His

brother, Nicholas, and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson and Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer, are happy for a new baby to love.

Our sympathy to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart on the death of her brother, Joe Herbst, of St. Louis. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara could not attend the funeral because Bro. Floyd had fallen.

Sis. Shirley Mohrman and Tricia Lawson had surgery. Toddler Lance Kieser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena) was hospitalized due to a viral infection.

We are happy to have Karoline Niemeyer (Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois) back home in Phoenix after six years in the Navy. Kary started repenting while stationed in Joshua Tree, CA.

Our dear Lord wants us to be content in our situation, so as a loved one returns, our dear Sis. Barb Ringger has moved to Washington, IL. Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger moved to Eureka, IL after several years in Phoenix. We pray for God's blessings on these three as they settle into His will.

Phoenix has received more rain in three months of '98 than in all of '97.

"...he careth for you."

*1 Peter 5:7*

Our 1998 high school graduates are Steven Dotterer, Kory Langhofer, and John Woodruff; and our 8th grade graduates are Rod Banks, Adam Ebert, Olivia Gramm, Amber Greenbank, Kimberly Hill, Morgan Langhofer, Jayme Richardson, BJ Roth and Rachal Woodruff.

#### *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. Clarence and Sis. Geraldine Beyer*

## **ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**

### **Jane Hodges**

Our hearts were all filled with joy when it was announced that Bethany and April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) through repentance, have now found peace. We pray for God's continued grace and blessings on their lives as they await baptism.

Three members of the Mission Committee's building committee, including Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), visited and met with our trustees and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich to offer their guidance and expertise in planning our new church. In the next couple months the church floor plans will be finalized and submitted for a permit. Hopefully, we can break ground by late summer or early fall.

The same weekend the building committee visited, we were also blessed to partake in Holy Communion. Approximately seventy were assembled for worship on Sunday and some stayed for our fellowship dinner. We all felt God's wonderful blessings!

We wish once again to thank all the ministers who came to serve us this last month. They were Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL). We are so thankful to God for giving us such willing servants and pray that they also received a blessing in visiting us.

## **ARIZONA, TUCSON**

### **Lisa Knapp**

Sis. Martha Blessman was in church for Sunday services recently. It has been a long time since Sis. Martha was able to come to church. Praise God for giving her a chance

to fellowship with us once again. It was good to have her with us.

We are so happy to be enjoying an extended spring here in Tucson. Our temperatures have been 10 to 15 degrees below normal well into April. There have been times when our temperatures have been close to the 100 degree mark in April so we are enjoying these cool, sunny days.

Our winter visitors are all gone now, another sure sign that warmer weather will soon be upon us. We thank all of our winter visitors for their efforts towards the Tucson church during their time here each winter. We look forward to greeting you all next year, Lord willing.

## **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**

### **Joshua Martinez**

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

*Psalms 51:10*

We are enjoying the evidence of the return of spring. May the warmth and love of our Father bloom in our hearts in preparation for Communion on April 26. We look forward to that precious occasion. What a wonderful gift it is to be among His children! The Memorandum was shared with us in late March for which we are thankful, as it stirs us in the spirit to ever draw closer to God through His Holy Spirit and follow the kindly teachings of the church.

Early on Easter Sunday morning, we gathered at a hilltop above Altadena overlooking the whole city. There was a chill in the air, but our hearts were warmed as we lifted our voices heavenward in praise of our Heavenly Father. We were reminded of the beautiful gift and promise we received on an Easter Sunday so long ago through our Saviour's resurrection. We have such a beautiful and precious faith



and legacy! We feel so thankful for our Father's love and His wonderful promise.

This month our hospital patients were Bro. Bill Witzig and our friend, Peter Neri. Our prayers continue to be that God's healing hand will be upon them. Following is a note from Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig: "We wish to thank you and wish you God's blessing for the cards, gifts and prayers for us during Bill's surgery and recuperation." Our friend, Steve Bailey, was able to return to work after his serious heart operation. We pray for his continued improved health.

Our "farewells" include: Kari Niemeyer who has completed her active service in the U.S. Navy. We'll miss her and pray for God's continued illumination in her life as she seeks salvation through our Saviour Jesus Christ. She is returning to civilian life in the Phoenix area. We have been thankful to have had Bro. Ruben and Sis. Krystol Luthi (Morris, MN) and Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edith Wieland (Bay City, MI) with us this winter and early spring. We thank them for the great love and added warmth they shared with us. May God bless them and keep them as they return to their home congregations.

We thank the mothers in our congregation and throughout the land for their precious daily gifts of love. May God continually and richly bless them for making our lives bright and beautiful.

We're thankful for every visitor this month and extend a warm invitation to come see us should your travels bring you to our area. May God bless and keep each one of you. Have a happy month!

A thought: A smile takes a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in

Him will I trust."

*Psalm 91:2*

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Rose Huette

To me is given boundless mercy,  
A gift that I did not deserve;  
Such wondrous love, it is so  
marvelous,  
That such for me should be reserved.  
But since I know, I will rejoice,  
And praise Thy mercy with my voice.  
*Zion's Harp #220*

Our congregation rejoiced as we had the privilege to hear the testimony and witness the baptism March 28-29 of Bro. Phillip Petrovic (Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian). May God continue to be by Bro. Phillip's side with every step he takes in his life and may God richly bless him. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Art Metz (Silverton, OR) assisted Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) in this beautiful and blessed event. Our church was filled with visitors, family and friends. We truly appreciate the Elders' labors of love and wish them God's richest blessings.

Good Friday and then on Sunday, April 12, we heard the story of how Jesus suffered so much for us and was crucified on the cross and then rose again. Even though we as believers can never repay Him for His love and sacrifice, may we strive to please Him by an obedient walk.

Hymns of Zion #270 (verse 3) was included in the services:

I love with sweet affection  
Him who first gave His love;  
Who, with divine attraction  
Draws me to Him above.  
So then I'll journey onward  
To my eternal home;  
The hand of Jesus leads me  
To rest, no more to roam.

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

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

*Proverbs 31:10,25-28*

### ONTARIO, KITCHENER CANADA Laura Baxter

"Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

*Isaiah 49:13-16*

It is so comforting to know that the Lord has us and our problems continually before Him and that we are important enough to Him that He has engraved us upon the palms of His hands. Therefore, we can sing and rejoice in the midst of conflict, because He has not forsaken or forgotten us.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that were with us this past month. Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) were here to minister God's Word. We are also thankful for all those that came with them to support us.

We are thankful to have Bro. Tim Tomic back in Kitchener after a few months in Haiti. It's good to see his smile and feel his zeal among us again.

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.

### COLORADO, DENVER

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,

Jesus I come, Jesus I come;  
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,

Jesus, I come to Thee;  
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,  
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,  
Out of my sin and into Thyself,  
Jesus, I come to Thee.

*Tabernacle Hymns #203*

We rejoice to report that Mike Katanic is seeking the Lord in repentance. We pray that he'll feel God's strength and grace as he takes this most important step in life.

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

*Psalms 133:1*

We could see and feel this unity as quite a number of brethren gathered for a work day and painted our Sunday School rooms. This is truly another way we could feel God's blessings!

"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise."

*Matthew 21:16*

It was a joy and a blessing to listen to the Sunday School children speak and sing of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. May they ever remember

these teachings when they reach that age of accountability. May we be more thankful for what God has done for us.

*Note: May is the month for Silver Lining dues.*

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

*II Timothy 1:5*

With both Mother's Day and Memorial Day falling in this month, let us remember to thank those dear ones who have done so much for us in the faith to help us walk a more spiritual life.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

*I Corinthians 3:6*

This is the time of year that the seed is planted in the ground. We also thank dear brothers who labor to plant the seed of faith through preaching of the Word. Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) imparted to us many teachings out of God's Holy Word.

Our hearts rejoice along with the angels in Heaven as more souls seek God in repentance. May He give Duane Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally), Arthur Foote Jr. (Silvia) and Nathan Hoffman (Bro. Michael and Luann) grace and direction during this most important step of their lives.

Two families have been blessed with bundles of joy. Ron and Sheila Gerber along with daughters, Leah and Emily, welcome Evan Arthur into their hearts. He was born on April 4. Grandparents are Bro. Ed

and Sis. Bev Gerber and Arthur and Ann Rowe. Dave and Heather Mangold welcome little Leah Kristine who was born on April 5. Grandparents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Terry Mangold and Robert and Audrey Monti. Our prayer is that each couple look unto God for direction in teaching these dear children to love and serve Him.

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

The engagement of Bro. Owen Bahler and Sis. Donna Webb was announced in March.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Leonard Luginbuhl after the news of his passing. May his wife, Sis. Irma; sons and spouses, Bro. Richard and Sis. Susan Luginbuhl, Joe and Wendy Luginbuhl; daughters and spouses, Sis. Joan and Bro. Steve Hoffman and Amy and Ray Bateman; and other family members be comforted by the mighty hand of God.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Last month I reported that Ken Belsley had surgery. This month I report his wife, Roberta, had the same operation. We are thankful she is back home and hope to see her back in church soon.

On Sunday, March 29, we joined with the Philadelphia congregation to share the Lord's Supper. What a special and solemn day.

We are thankful many of you make the Washington, DC area part of your vacation plans. On Sunday, July 26, we will be unable to have the hotel. Many of us will be attending services in Philadelphia that day. If you will be in the area and need directions or a ride, please give

one of us a call.

We are so thankful ministers give of themselves to come to minister to us. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We are so thankful for brothers and their families' willingness to serve us. Other visitors this month were from Eureka, IL; Rockville, CT; and Philadelphia, PA.

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.

---

### **FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE** **Nancy Rocke**

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

*John 6:54-58*

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) was here to assist

Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein in Holy Communion. May we daily remember what the Lord did for us so we might have a hope of life eternal if we're faithful. Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) also ministered to us. May God bless them for their labors of love on our behalf.

Sis. Delores (Bro. Roy) Van Norman had surgery and is slowly recovering. We hope to see her assemble with us soon.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Vi (Bro. Ed) Gerber on the passing of her brother, Bro. Ervin Isch (Bluffton, IN).

---

### **FLORIDA** **NORTH FT. MYERS** **Anjie Baum**

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters across the many miles.

We were privileged to come together as the Body of Christ to share in Holy Communion. Communion is a humbling time to examine our walk in the Lord. It is also so humbling to reflect on Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus made it clear that He wants to be remembered. Luke 22:19 "...this do in remembrance of me." How could we possibly forget our Saviour lovingly and willingly suffering and dying for us, taking upon Himself the agony of rejection, physical pain, and the weight of all of our sins! But we do forget sometimes, do we not? Every time we sink into our selfish nature, every time we fail to pray and try to do things on our own, every time we are ruled by our pride, we forget what Christ has done for us. Communion is a special time of remembrance, and it is such a blessing to share Communion with our fellow believers. We thank our Elder Bros. Darrell Klopfenstein (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL)

for leading us in our Communion service.

Also visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). We so appreciate your willingness to serve and the fellowship with you and your families.

Our dear Elder Bro. Darrell Klopfenstein announced, with tear-filled eyes, that he is retiring as Elder of our church. We love and appreciate Bro. Darrell and his wife, Sis. Billie, beyond words. How can we begin to thank you for your many years of shepherding and your tremendous example? Truly your reward shall be in Heaven (I Peter 5:1-4).

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) will be taking over Bro. Darrell's responsibilities as our Elder. May the Lord continually bless you, guide you and fill you with His infinite wisdom, Bro. Doug, as you serve Him by ministering to your brothers and sisters in Sarasota and Ft. Myers.

Beginning May 6, we will not be having Wednesday evening services. We will begin our Wednesday evening services again in the autumn.

---

### **FLORIDA, SARASOTA** **Rachel Sabo - Melissa Sabo**

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Irv Martin, Bro. George Reardon, Bro. Gene Bruellman, and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. We want to continue to keep Bros. George Reardon and Irv Martin in our prayers that the Lord may heal them according to His will.

This month we had two dear sisters pass away; both were 94 years of age. Sis. Minnie Nuest was called Home to meet her Heavenly Father on March 27. Our Sarasota congregation will miss her dearly. When we think of Sis. Minnie, many memories come to mind such as when your birthday came around, one card you could always count on



was one from Aunt Minnie. She also did our church directory for many years. Sis. Minnie left us with lots of special memories, but the most important thing we should remember her for is her testimony in Christ.

Sis. Kathryn Schroeder was also called Home March 31. She spent her last years living at Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo's home. We want to thank the Sabos for the time and care they gave to Sis. Kathryn. We know it was the Lord's time to take her Home. It is comforting to know she is with her Heavenly Father.

Visiting ministers this month were as follows: Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We want to thank them for their efforts.

We want to welcome Bro. Doug Wiegand from Pulaski, IA. He has decided to make Sarasota his home. We are always excited to add another addition to our small congregation.

On Good Friday, we were served Communion by Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo.

Then on Sunday, we had our Easter sunrise service at Lake View Park, followed by a continental breakfast. We want to thank everyone who helped put this service together; it was a lovely morning.

As summer is nearing, we are beginning to see many of our winter residents return home. We pray for their safe return and hope to see them next winter.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for the many cards, gifts, and flowers and especially the prayers since my accident and stay in the hospital in Sarasota. A special

thanks to the Sarasota Sunshine Club for the beautiful flowers. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Clarence Koehl*

### **GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman**

Our country sets aside the second Sunday of May to honor their mothers. As children of God, we are commanded, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Deut. 5:16). Let us prayerfully consider how we might obey, that we may receive the promise.

Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly;  
Call aloud and spare them not!  
Jesus wants a faithful witness;  
Teachers not confessing Jesus  
Have stern judgment as their lot.  
Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly:  
Call aloud and spare them not.  
Therefore rise, all ye, His servants;  
For Elijah's spirit pray!  
If as Lord ye would address Him,  
Faithfully ye must confess Him,  
And His holy will obey!  
Therefore rise, all ye, His servants;  
For Elijah's spirit pray!  
*Zion's Harp #112*

We are so thankful for each brother who is willing to come and speak God's Word to us. Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) traveled here this past month to minister to us. May God richly bless you and your families.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

There is joyful anticipation in our hearts as we look forward to Sunday. Thanks to all who are willing to stop in for a Sunday. From Atlanta, take I-85 south to Exit 13 (Rt. 138). Go west four miles. The church is a ranch style building and will be on the left side of the road.

Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629.

We are very thankful that God's protecting hand has been over His children here throughout the storms. May we remember that our earthly possessions can't be taken into eternity, but our soul will. Are we preparing for eternity?

### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

#### **Carlene Jepson**

On Palm Sunday we had our Easter program. Our congregation enjoyed hearing the children tell us how Christ shed His blood for our sins on the cross and conquered death by arising from the dead on that first Easter morning. The songs and recitations seemed to be asking one question - "Have you been to Calvary?"

One class sang:  
Have you been to Calvary?  
Have you knelt there by the tree?  
Have you looked upon the cross  
and felt His agony?  
Is your spirit sinking down?  
Do you want to be set free?  
Lift up your eyes unto the Lamb  
of Calvary...

Our prayers go out to all who are struggling with their soul's salvation. May they heed the Lord's calling.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gary Anliker and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve us.

With spring here and summer just around the corner, we would like to extend a welcome to all. If you

are vacationing or just passing through, we love to have visitors. Our morning service and Sunday School (3 years to 8th grade) starts with singing at 10:15 a.m. The afternoon service and Sunday School (grades 9-12) starts with singing at 12:30 p.m. We hope to see many of you this summer!

---

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

"In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me."

*Psalm 86:17*

It certainly is encouraging to know that God will respond to each one of us according to His will.

We foremost want to enlist our entire brotherhood to pray for Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Bev) as he recovers from a small stroke. Let us pray that the Lord will heal Elder Bro. Everett so he can be fully restored to perform his church duties. The teamwork of our church family has been inspirational, yet trying, as we seek to stretch to cover the workload and incorporate Elder Bro. Everett Hari's responsibilities in a God-pleasing way. We pray for patience, guidance, help and understanding.

Sincere condolences are offered to Sis. Bev Hari upon the passing of her sister, Wilma Williams, of Watseka on March 26.

We also offer our sympathy to Sis. Shirley Dennick on the passing of her mother, Wilma Bachtold, of Fairbury.

Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp are first-time grandparents! Lexi Jean was born March 26 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp of Chicago, IL. Sis. Dana's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart (Fairbury, IL).

Jacob William was born April 4 to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amy Masters. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters and Bill and Judy Custer are thankful grandparents.

On April 4, the Bible class held a pancake and sausage supper to raise money for their mission trip they plan to take next summer. Thanks to all who participated and donated to this worthy cause.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Larry Fischer (Sis. Wilma Fischer and the late Bro. Fred Fischer) and Sis. Pam Vail was announced on April 5. Pam's parents are the late Roger and Elizabeth Vail of Tiskilwa, IL. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our Sunday School Easter program was held March 5.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dave Oberfeldt (Peoria, IL) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We appreciate them preaching God's Word to us.

---

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

*The Dash*

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered the most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth... and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own; the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend the dash.

So think about this long and hard... are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left.

(You could be at "dash mid-range").

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real, and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read with your life's actions to rehash... would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

Greetings Brethren! With Memorial Day drawing nearer and we remember those who have gone on before us, let us also pause to consider our own life and how we will be remembered when our time on earth is through.

Three Bradford couples were blessed with the arrival of new babies in the month of March. Heather Joy was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Kupferschmid on March 18. She joins a sister, Kayla, and a brother, Clint, at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen Ringger.

On March 25, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress were blessed with a son, Matthew Robert. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ehnle were also blessed with the birth of a son a few days later. Keith Edward



was born on March 28. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle and Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer (Tremont, IL). May God continue to bless each of these couples and give them much wisdom to raise their children to love and fear Him.

We pray that the Lord will grant Bro. Nate Young (Sis. Stephanie) a complete and swift recovery from his recent injury.

We would like to thank all the visiting ministers who were with us this month, especially Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) who helped out with Communion on April 1. Other ministering brothers who visited us were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Don Manz (Junction, OH).

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all of our mothers for the many loads of laundry done, the mounds of dishes washed, and many meals cooked. Also for healing scrapes and bruises with kisses, making sure our coats are on when it's cold out, and getting up at night to soothe our bad dreams away. But most of all, we thank you for teaching us right from wrong, taking us to church, praying with us by our beds at night, and telling us how much Jesus loves us. Happy Mother's Day!

*Love,*

*Your children*

---

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

#### *A Mother*

God sought to give the sweetest thing  
in His almighty power  
To earth; and deeply pondering  
what it should be, one hour  
In fondest joy and love of heart  
Outweighing every other,  
He moved the gates of heaven apart  
And gave to earth a mother.

—author unknown

Without regard to our present ages, each of us has been profoundly influenced by our mother. Whether our mother is still alive or has gone to eternity, or whether we were raised by someone other than our natural mother, the person in the mother role has likely had the greatest impact on who we have become as older children. Many of us have been blessed with both a mother and a wonderful grandmother and in some lives, even a great-grandmother. My own maternal grandmother has been a very special person in my life, serving as a wonderful Christian example and source of seasoned wisdom. Recently, she observed her 90th birthday and an open house was held. As a great number of people attended, it was obvious the impact that one mother has had on the lives of not only her own family, but on others as well. The little neighbor boys of many years ago who had lost their mothers but still remember the cookies my grandma made for them, the nieces and nephews who lost parents and are thankful for "mothering" from Granny, and many others from both the church and community who view her with motherly respect and value.

For me, and I believe for the whole family, this was an affirmation that this woman we've loved and respected for all of our lives is indeed a treasure whose value is without measure. It was also a testament to how much impact one woman can have on the lives of others. Our world could use a few more of these grandmothers. They are a blessing to us all and an example to be used as a model.

Bro. Matt Ginzel and Sis. Christine Romersberger were married in Gridley, IL on March 22. Matt is a graduate student here at U of I and they have established

their home at 912 Pamona Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. We are pleased to have them with us as a new couple and wish them the blessings of many joyful years.

On an evening just preceding Palm Sunday, we had the opportunity to see Bro. Les Pulfer's slides from the Holy Lands. That evening was very interesting and informative as we saw the many places we have read about. Actually seeing and having someone describe these sites made the season more meaningful to us, and we thank the Pulfers for sharing their time with us.

Our Sunday School classes presented their re-telling of the Easter account "In the Garden". We were reminded how sin came to us when man yielded to Satan in the Garden of Eden and how that sin made it necessary for Christ to come. His time in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Cross and the Garden of the Tomb gives us hope for eternity. Finally, we know that there will be a beautiful Upper Garden for us if we bring forth good fruit pleasing to God. The seeds are sown in the Garden of our Heart; it is up to us whether they are cast aside or nurtured for growth. We thank our teachers and children for the great efforts they put into the program.

During the past month, Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) have ministered to us. We thank these brothers and their families for being with us and ask for a blessing on their continued work.

---

### **ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Jill Rager**

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."



*Proverbs 4:7*

Solomon's instructions in the Proverbs are many, but the theme of wisdom seems to be a common thread throughout the book. I was challenged this month to read a proverb each day and have tried to implement the challenge. This particular verse spoke so plainly to me, I decided to tuck it into my mental scripture "briefcase".

This month our congregation had many opportunities to "get wisdom". We were blessed to have Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) speak to us on the topic of "Renewing Our Minds" at our Wednesday evening Topical Bible Study. Saturday, March 21, our parents were instructed and encouraged to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord during an afternoon/evening seminar by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). On Sunday, April 5, Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) shared the Word of God with us. We want to express many thanks to each of these brothers for allowing the Spirit of the Lord to speak through them.

Pondering the message of Easter is another means by which we can gain wisdom. Each Easter I learn some new insight about the Great Story. This year at the close of the Good Friday service we attended, we were directed to think about how pleasing it must be to Christ to have a brother lead the church in a prayer of thanksgiving on Good Friday. What a perspective for Good Friday! Although I have thanked Christ many times for what He did on Good Friday, I had never thought about how Christ must view our observation of Good Friday. I tried to think of a time when I had experienced suffering that brought good in the end. The experience that fit most closely was the birth of my children. I look back on those days as a time I did not enjoy, but also as a time for

which the suffering was worthwhile. Wouldn't it be a special treat to a mother to have a child say on his or her birthday, "Thank you, Mom, for the pain you went through in order for me to have life." How much more Christ went through for us to have life eternal!

Sis. Dana Knapp now knows firsthand this experience of giving birth to a child. Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp are the thankful first-time parents of a precious baby girl, Lexi Jean, born March 26. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp (Bloomington, IL). We wish for Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana much parental wisdom as they strive to raise little Lexi in the ways of the Lord.

---

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

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning, and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."

*Hosea 6:3*

Just as we are experiencing the blessings of spring rains, we can be assured if we follow the Lord, He will respond to us just as surely as He makes the morning and sends the rains.

Now that the spring season is here, many of our "snowbirds" who we miss during the winter are returning. We welcome them back home to assemble with us once again.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

This verse comes to mind as I reflect back on all that has transpired this past month here in Cissna Park.

"A time to plant..." We thank God for faithful brothers who are willing to plant the Word of God in the hearts of men. We appreciated the comments of our Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) as they shared with us the Memorandum.

A time for serving Holy Communion... We are grateful for our Elder Bros. Dave Wiegand, Wayne Anliker, and Alfred Bahler for reminding us so vividly of the great price that was paid for each of us at Calvary.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee  
 Through Thy blest sacrament,  
 which we  
 Partook, that joined in heart and  
 hand;  
 To Zion's realm and holy land  
 We journey on.  
*Zion's Harp #200*

Other brothers planting seeds through the ministering of the Gospel were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL).

We enjoyed two topical Bible studies by our local brothers. Bro. Tom Stock talked on our first love, its source, how we can express, quench, and rekindle it. Bro. Sid Kaufmann encouraged us by reminding us of the assurance of Heaven for every true believer.

"A time to be born..." Welcoming precious little Caroline Marguerite are Doug and Stephanie Drayer of Geneva, IL. Paternal grandparents are Bill and Judy Drayer. Sis. Virginia Ehman became grandmother March 20 as her daughter and son-

in-law, Kathy and Mike Hardison, became parents to a sweet little girl, Sharon Lee. We pray God's blessings on these families as they raise the children God has loaned to them.

There is a time to be born again...We rejoice that Jerry Hari (Sis. Ila June), formerly of here, has saw his need for a Saviour. We just pray God will seem extra close to you, Jerry, as you experience this re-birth. We are thankful God is still calling souls.

"A time to die..." Sis. Fannie Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL), originally of Cissna Park, passed away March 16. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Fannie's family. Our dear Sis. Ellen Hofbauer went on Home April 2 after battling cancer. Sis. Ellen left this world a better place as she always brightened the corner where she was. Sis. Ellen didn't have a lot of things, but she was "rich" because she had a loving family, many friends, and most of all, a caring Saviour whom she loved. Our prayers are with her family along with Sis. Marjorie and Bro. Ed Alt, Bro. Bill and Sis. Marg Rinkenberger and Sis. Caroline Gudeman and Bro. Joel Hofbauer of our Cissna Park congregation. There is a time to weep and mourn but when all this is past, may the precious memories linger on to comfort your hearts.

"A time to heal..." We pray for God's healing, according to His will, for our loved ones who are experiencing health problems. Among them are Sis. Naomi Knapp, Sis. Lou Jacob, and Bob Hofer. There may be souls we are not even aware of going through difficult times; we pray for them as well and trust God will answer all our prayers as He sees best.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

As we look back over this past month, we can see God has a time for everything. We need to wait on the Lord, for He can turn what we sometimes call burdens into blessings. As it says in Eccles. 3:11, "He hath made everything beautiful in his time..."

In observance of Mother's Day, I would like to conclude with this poem by Lorraine Hall:

"Today I read a book, listened to a secret, looked at a bug, squeezed a hand, wiped a nose. And I settled an argument, kissed a hurt, cleaned a milk spill, drilled a spelling lesson, mended a rip. Oh, yes, I also heard a secret, zipped a jacket, smiled away a tear, explained a problem, shared in a prayer; for I'm just a mother."

May God continue to help us as mothers to be all that He would want us to be.

### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Sandy Steiner**

**Missy Banwart**

We want to thank the following visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (both of Goodfield, IL). May God bless them.

On March 22, we were happy to hear the engagement of our Sis. Beth Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) to Bro. Dean Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz) of Eureka, IL. Brian Wettstein (Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy) and Shannon Orr (Brian and Diane) of Washington, IL have also announced their engagement. We pray each couple will feel God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for marriage.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Charlie and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger and family on the death of Bro.

Charlie's sister, Sis. Ellen Hofbauer (Cissna Park, IL). May God comfort you.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger**

**Norma Schambach**

March 21-18, thirty brethren and friends from our congregation traveled to Juarez Mexico as part of the Word Relief work team. It was a week of hard work and the wonderful opportunity of getting to know each other better. May God bless these efforts.

Our annual Ladies Luncheon was April 4. Each year we enjoy visiting with family and friends, some of whom we only see at this event.

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School children presented the Easter program. As they bring us the message of Christ's death and suffering through verse and song, we realize the many hours they spend preparing for this special event. Remember to pray for your young people; they are our future church.

Ministering Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) was with us Good Friday evening. Our thanks to him for taking us to the foot of the cross, and reminding us of the anguish our Saviour endured because He loved us.

Joni Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) confesses peace with God and man and awaits baptism. April 25-26 has been set aside for this. May God continue to guide and direct her.

We rejoice with Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ruth Schurter, who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with all their children and grandchildren. May God continue to walk with them as He has so faithfully in the past. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth who just lost her sister, Sis. Marie Schurter, of Kiowa, KS. May He comfort her and all of the family.

*Before It Is Too Late*

If you have a gray-haired mother  
In the old home far away,  
Sit you down and write the letter  
You put off from day to day.  
Don't wait until her weary steps  
Reach Heaven's pearly gate.  
But show her that you think of her,  
Before it is too late.

If you have a tender message,  
Or a loving word to say,  
Don't wait till you forget it,  
But whisper it today.  
Who knows what bitter memories  
May haunt you if you wait?  
So make your loved one happy  
Before it is too late.

The tender word unspoken,  
The letters never sent,  
The long forgotten messages,  
The wealth of love unspent;  
For these some hearts are breaking,  
For these some loved ones wait;  
Show them that you care for them  
Before it is too late.

—George Bancroft Griffith

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

*II Timothy 1:5*

As we recently celebrated Mother's Day, we want to thank our mothers for their prayers, faith, and for teaching us of the way of salvation. Aren't we thankful for our God-fearing mothers and our Christian homes that God has blessed us with?

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

*Luke 15:7*

We rejoice with the angels in

Heaven that our two friends, Rachel Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna) and Helen Fisher (Bro. Eli), have surrendered their hearts unto God in repentance. May He grant them grace to take up the cross and follow Him.

On April 4, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Ervin was Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN). We pray God's blessings upon Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla for spending the weekend with us and being spent on our behalf. May we continue to strive to live each day for our Lord who died and shed His precious, innocent blood for each of us.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), and Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia) who had surgery recently.

We are happy to report a new baby this month. On March 22, Susanna Elizabeth was born to thankful parents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Getz. Thrilled to have a new baby sister to love and help take care of are big brothers, Robert and Stephen. Happy grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz. May God grant them grace and wisdom from above as they love and raise their children.

On Sunday, March 22, we heard the engagement announcement of our Bro. Dean Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz) to Sis. Beth Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) of Congerville, IL. May God be with them as they plan for their wedding.

Our prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones this past month. We extend our sympathy to

Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie) and family on the death of his mother, Sis. Fannie Zimmerman, of Roanoke. She died March 16. Also to Sis. Laura Kupferschmid on the death of her sister, Sis. Lillian Bachtold, of Forrest, IL. She died March 16. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Walter Zimmerman, Sis. Evie Gudeman (Bro. Don), Sis. Gladys Schmidgall (Bro. Sam), Sis. Dorothy and Sis. Elizabeth Zimmerman on the sudden death of their sister, Sis. Alma Baum, of Roanoke, IL. We also sympathize with Sis. Fannie Wiegand at the death of her sister, Sis. Ellen Hofbauer, of Cissna Park, IL. May God comfort these loved ones with their losses.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all the love, prayers, cards, memorials and other deeds of kindness shown during our sorrow at the sudden passing of our husband and father, Bro. Richard Leman. May God richly bless all of you.

*Sis. Edna Leman and family*

I wish to thank all for prayers, cards, gifts, food brought in and all who gave me rides to my appointments. God bless one and all.

*Sis. Frieda Gerber*

The family of Sis. Alma Baum, who died unexpectedly on March 31, offers heartfelt thanks for the many gestures of love and sympathy we have received. The kindness and support of all our friends and relatives has helped us through this difficult time. We also want to express our gratitude for the donations made in Sis. Alma's name to the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home. They will be added to a memorial fund for the planting and maintenance of the Roanoke Home's courtyard garden, Alma's last of many gardens.

*Bro. Gus Baum and children,*



*Lois, John and Lynnea*

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr - Thelma Slagel

I never can forget the hour  
I felt the Saviour's cleansing pow'r;  
My sin and guilt He canceled there,  
'Twas there He answered mother's  
prayer.

*Gospel Hymns #808*

Thank God for praying, God-fearing mothers! If you have been blessed with one, be sure to tell her how much you appreciate her this Mother's Day.

Prayers have been answered as Jodi Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) recently started on the narrow path in repentance. We wish her an abundance of God's grace.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest..." (Zion's Harp #37). Three couples have announced their intentions to be married soon. Engaged are Angela Fehr (Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley) and Brian Veatch of Peoria. His parents are Richard Veatch and Barbara Veatch. They are planning a June 6 wedding.

Also on June 6 will be the wedding of Kim Steidinger (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene) and Andy Travis of Fairbury (Martin Travis and Cheryl Travis).

Cheryl Slagel (Ron and Sis. June) and Rick Hoffman of Elliott (Clyde and Donna) plan to exchange vows on November 28. We pray for all these new couples that their marriages may be blessed with that greatest gift...the love of God.

"Have mercy upon me, O Lord;  
for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for  
my bones are vexed."

*Psalm 6:2*

Our prayers are with Keith Moser (Nita) who was hospitalized for emergency surgery.

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy  
statutes; and I shall keep it unto the  
end."

*Psalm 19:33*

Visiting ministers who labored in the Lord's service to teach us His statutes this month were Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

Having recently commemorated the suffering and death of our Lord on the cross, I was especially touched by the following poem. How true it is that we, having the benefit of hindsight, might censure those in that time who fled from His side when He was suffering. "And they all forsook him, and fled." (Mark 14:50). But how often we, who have been spiritually healed by Him, may neglect to claim Him as our Master in our walk of life and conversation.

#### *New Calvary*

So one by one they turned away  
from Him,  
Until He stood alone on Pilate's  
floor;  
A tired young Man, yet stalwart,  
straight and slim,  
Whose heart was broken, yet whose  
visage bore  
Such depths of peace the rulers  
paused, afraid,  
And murmured, "Tell the sin this  
Man has done."  
(In all Jerusalem none came to aid.)  
The cry rang back, "He says He is  
God's Son!"

He says He is God's Son...Oh, where  
were they,  
The halt, the deaf, the blind He had  
made well?  
Why did they not come running  
swift to say,  
"We are His proof!" They had so  
much to tell!  
I censure them — and yet...because  
of me  
Christ kneels alone sometimes in  
Calvary.

—Helen Welshimer

### ILLINOIS, FORREST Mary Bachtold - Jean Knapp

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

*I Corinthians 11:26*

On March 28, we gathered together to solemnly remember the Lord's suffering and death as we partook of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in serving us this spiritual feast.

Visiting and bringing us God's Word this past month were Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We always appreciate the willingness of ministering brothers who so faithfully lend themselves in the service of the Lord.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

*Acts 3:19*

Our hearts rejoiced to hear Michael Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) has turned his back to the world and is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God's grace enable him to anchor firmly to the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

Trusting in the Lord, Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman exchanged wedding vows on April 18, 1948. As they reflect over the memories of the past 50 years, may they continue to feel the Lord's blessings and nearness.

Joe Livingston (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum) and Courtney Trautman (Mark and Debbie Trautman, Melvin, IL) were united in

marriage March 21. May they look to the Lord for guidance while walking through this life as husband and wife.

We shall sleep, but not forever  
In the lone and silent grave;  
Blessed be the Lord that taketh,  
Blessed be the Lord that gave.

*Hymns of Zion #125*

We are thankful that Sis. Lil Bachtold could be relieved of her suffering and is now at rest. She is survived by three brothers, Bro. Willis (Sis. Elsie) of Fairbury, IL, Carl (Sis. Dorothy), and Bro. Elmer; and three sisters, Sis. Laura Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL), Sis. Nettie Kyburz and Sis. Janita (Bro. Leroy) Koehl. We extend our sympathy to this family who so lovingly cared for their sister during her declining health.

Our love and prayers of sympathy go out to Jay and Jolene Mueller in the loss of their stillborn son, Tyler Joseph. May they put their trust in our loving God who has never forsaken those who trust Him.

*Note of Thanks:*

We sincerely want to thank everyone for the kind expression of sympathy, love, prayers, cards, telephone calls and memorials since the death of our loved one. May God richly bless you.

*In Christian love,*

*The family of Sis. Wilma Bachtold*

## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

### Jan Beer

Spring is in the air and love is in bloom! Sis. Lindsey DesCarpentrie and Bro. Kevin Wiegand announced their engagement to the church on March 22. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand, all of the Goodfield congregation. Their wed-

ding is planned for July 19.

On April 8, 1933, Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Hohulin pledged their love to each other. Their devotion to each other after 65 years of marriage is an inspiration to us. May God continue to bless your lives, Ben and Esther!

Bro. Jason Lantz (Bluffton, IN) and our Sis. Anna Hohulin were married on April 19. Our love and prayers follow this dear couple as they make their home in the Bluffton area.

Five more weddings are planned for loved ones associated with the Goodfield congregation! They are: Sis. Missy Bauman and Bro. Greg Post (Tremont, IL) on May 17; our son, Jonathan Beer, and Julia Ingram on June 6; Sis. Jill Zimmerman and Bro. Luke Rocke on June 14; Cathy Chrisman and Paul Martin on July 18; Sis. Mindy Knapp and Bro. Branden Rinkenberger (Chicago, IL) on August 16. Each special couple has our best wishes as they serve God by establishing solid, Christ-centered homes.

Little Jamie Kristine Schwenk came from Heaven on March 4 to join the family of Tim and Michelle Schwenk. God's rich blessings on this growing family. Grandparents in the Goodfield fellowship are Bro. Doug and Sis. Myrna Schwenk.

Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) ministered to us on March 29 when we had several visiting Sunday Schools present. On Palm Sunday, Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) was able to see his grandchildren participate in the Easter program, and he served on the pulpit. Easter Sunday, Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) filled the pulpit. Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) attended the Hohulin-Lantz wedding on April 19 and served us from the pulpit for morning services. Thank you, brothers, for your tireless service of extending God's Word to us.

Again, the sting of death was

sharply felt by several in our congregation as they laid loved ones to rest. Bro. Norm Musselman and Bro. Bill Hart each lost their stepmother. Bro. Joe Rinkenberger lost a sister in Cissna Park. May God's love and ours bring you comfort.

Sis. Nancy Whitaker and Sis. Sandy Hohulin are both nursing broken bones (Sis. Sandy a fractured leg and Sis. Nancy two broken arms!). Several among us are dealing with illness and pain; may you find God's grace to be sufficient.

Easter—a sober reminder and a joyous celebration for the believer! Observance of my most favorite holiday began when a few of us met on Maundy Thursday to remember that long ago night of the Last Supper. On Good Friday, after regular services, Communion was served to us by Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Wes Knapp. At 6:00 Easter morning, many of us gathered at the fellowship hall to celebrate the fact that the tomb is empty and Jesus lives! This year's Easter observance seemed more meaningful to me than ever, and I wondered, "Could this have been the last Easter we will spend on planet Earth?" For the born-again believer, that is a blissful thought. For those who have not taken Jesus' blood as atonement for sin, what kind of a thought is it? Come while He waits for you.

## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

### Perry A. Klopfenstein

Today in church (April 19) we sang a song that never fails to stir my soul. It was "The Love of God" (page 289 in the Hymns of Zion). This description of the magnificence of God's love is overwhelming. It almost always causes a lump in my throat when we sing it.

I can remember back 30 years or more, when I was unconverted and

in a hardened state, that that song tended to melt my heart, especially verse three:

"Can we with ink the ocean fill.  
And were the skies of parchment  
made;  
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade.  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the  
whole  
Tho' stretched from sky to sky."

Our hymnal heritage is outstanding, and something of which we should be very appreciative. The verses and phrases in our hymns are so apt—and they easily inspire us. Sometimes we can be prone to being stagnant when we begin worship. Yet, the Word and Spirit draws us into a state of uplift and inspiration. Today, we sang a song that describes such a development.

It was found in "Our Conversation Is In Heaven" (page 198 in the Zion's Harp). Verse three was so applicable:

"Jesus, like a magnet raises  
Our faint spirit to the skies;  
And we seem in prayer and  
praises  
As on eagle's wings to rise."

Sis. Jessica Zimmerman was announced to be married to Bro. Joel Gramm. She is the daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. We are very happy for them, and may God bless them in this endeavor.

Likewise, the engagement of Sis. Kate Baner and Bro. David Ringger was announced. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner. His parents are Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger. May God be with them in this important step.

It is a joy to note that the important step of engagement and marriage is committed to God. It is His will that is sought and then prayer-

fully accepted, rather than resorting to dating, etc.

A son, Samuel David, was born to Dave and Sis. Peggy Poppen on March 17. He has a sister, Amanda, 6, and a brother, Alex, 4. Grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss, and Al and Ruby Poppen, Bloomington. May God give them direction in training up this precious child.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Joan Yoder. On March 26, they became the parents of Alyssa Layne Yoder. She has a sister, Alexis Lanae, 2. Grandparents are Devon and Sis. Laveille Yoder, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville, IL). May God help them in training dear Alyssa.

On April 4, four souls were added to the fold. They are Bros. George Gramm (who lives in Phoenix), Benji Zeller, Nathan Romersberger and James Tate. This was a wonderful weekend, and we thank God that His call is still being heard. Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) was here for this work.

On April 1, our congregation took the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was here for the occasion. It was a blessed time, and we thank God for His plan of salvation. May we remember it daily!

We had several visiting ministers. They were Bros. Gregg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), John Stoller (Leo, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

On April 18, we had many visitors who attended a couples' potluck here in Gridley. Visiting ministers on that day were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Emmy Steffen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A host of family and friends were here on Sunday, April 19.

Sis. Vi Hany was hospitalized

with a heart attack. Sis. Twyla (Bro. Art) Schlipf was in the hospital for surgery.

Bro. Pete Meiss broke his foot in mid-April.

---

## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

Wayne Tuffentsamer died March 19. May the Lord comfort his wife, Willa Mae; his daughter, Cathy Norton; his sister, Ruth Mary Greene; his brother, Gerald, and his other relatives and friends.

Edward Binkele died March 25. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his daughter, Kathryn Link; his sister, Lillian Bridgeman; his brother, Raymond; his two grandsons and his other relatives and friends.

We celebrated Easter Sunday with reminders of Christ's death and resurrection. We began the day with a sunrise service and breakfast at the Fellowship Hall. On Sunday afternoon we were again reminded of Christ's love for us with an Easter Program. All ages participated in songs of worship.

We wish to thank Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and his family for visiting us this month. We also thank Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) who brought us a message on the topic of Fasting for our Family Night Worship Service.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone for their visits and prayers during the illness and passing of our loved one. May God bless all who were so kind.

*The family of Bro. Sam Staker*

---

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

The Passion Week - Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at Passover/Palm Sunday, His Last Supper, trial, crucifixion, death, burial and



resurrection in shekinah glory - is the most important period of the year. In preparation of Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer exhorted the congregation that it is God's command to partake of it as a time of cleansing and coming together after we have searched our hearts for anything we have done wrong. We cannot give a kiss of love with a resentful feeling. We, as God's children, are invited to His table with a wedding garment, same as when we stood in the baptismal water, and not only sit at His table, but live in His house.

We thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for his ministry and assisting with Communion. A beautiful day with blue skies and blooming flowers and forsythias ushered in Palm Sunday. He mentioned that we must expect clouds to gather from time to time and it then becomes our privilege to remove them and enjoy God's warmth and love regardless of the outdoors. Bro. Mike Rieker referenced the prophetic "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: riding upon a colt" (Zech. 9:9) to "They brought him unto Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they sat Jesus thereon" which was recorded 550 years later in Luke 19:35. In addition to this text, there are over 100 direct prophecies in the Old Testament which were fulfilled in the New Covenant.

We enjoyed another cloudless day for Easter Sunrise services at the Fellowship Hall with breakfast, congregational and group singing and an inspirational message by Bro. David Obergfel. Jesus fed 5,000, turned water into wine, healed many and did so many other good deeds...and now He is dead in the grave! But this is not the end of the story and we are not without hope, as He is risen. Our faith is not in vain as the resurrection proved that Jesus is true. Christ arose on the

Feast of the First Fruits and is called the First Fruit by arising from the dead, which has now given us the opportunity to be in Heaven some day. John ends his Gospel with the documentation that everything is true and only a fraction has been recorded. Amen. Bro. Rick Plattner based his Easter meditation on Luke 24. God never left His people without hope and a new beginning, and the first day of the week was this new beginning. Don't let Jesus pass by but constrain Him to stay with you as did the two men on the road to Emmaus. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer added that there is a life after death...with two destinations.

Our thanks go to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter (Taylor, MO) for their visit on March 29 and Bro. Gerald's meditation on Ephesians 2. Man has no hope to enter into life eternal in his carnal state. He must be saved by faith through our Lord and His atoning blood. The greatest gift we have is being at peace with God and man and experiencing that great joy of walking with Him. Without hope, man perishes. We have the blessed hope to meet the Lord in the air at the rapture of the Church...shall you? shall I?

The topic for our family night service on April 1 was "Knowing God's will by knowing Him" by Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). We must understand God's purpose for our lives, have a greater desire to know God and His will and once He gives it to us, respond to it. Satan tries to destroy God's purpose by intensifying the mistakes we make, but the basic plan of God for our lives is to walk with Him in obedience and keep ourselves usable (Jesus using Peter's boat to preach to the multitude). He values the process of our growth, asks for patience and that we follow His heavenly wisdom. We need a relationship with those who are wise, be at peace with Him and have a teachable spirit,

humble ourselves when we are out of His will and attain to the many attributes of God. He will accept us with the talents He has given us. Knowing God better will bring meaning and purpose to life. The environment should not control us. Let's not doubt but go forward and respond to His will and ask whether it is going to move us closer to God, or away from Him. Thanks, Bro. Craig, for your visit and message.

Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Gertrude Sauder were married on March 20, 1938, by Elder Bro. Emil Schubert in Peoria and we congratulate them on their 60th anniversary and wish them continued happiness and good health. Their harmonious and exemplary life shows they understood their vows (in German) and followed them.

Bro. Matt Ginzel and Sis. Christine Romersberger were united in marriage on March 22 at Gridley, IL and we wish them the rich blessings of God in their walk together.

Megan Rose was stillborn on April 6 to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Janet Kieser and we express our sincere sympathy to them. May the assurance that their child is in Heaven comfort their hearts.

On March 27, Troy Andrew was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan Hohulin and welcomed home by Tate and Tyler. His grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Sis. Joyce Domnick (Morton, IL). Sophia Jane was born on April 11 to Bro. Breck and Sis. Jane (Hoerr) Nelson and joined Zachary, Rose, Brooke and Gabrielle. How wonderful that they will be reared in Christian homes and we sincerely congratulate both families on these blessed events.

Hospital patients were Henry and Edna Binkele, Neil Ritter (Nancy Haefli), infant Wyll Teubel, Bros. Todd Hoerr and Les Wagenbach and Sis. Karen Dunbar and Lillian



Koehl. Bro. Ed Meister, now recuperating comfortably at home, was hospitalized three times recently and wishes to thank all who remembered him in prayer and with many tokens of love and affection.

The first five months of our annual earnings go for direct taxation. With another tax season just ended, we may feel like "He that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes (Haggai 1:6). When Rehoboam took over Israel from Solomon, the people said: "Make the grievous service of thy father and his heavy yoke lighter", to which he replied: "My father made your yoke heavy and I will add to your yoke, he chastised you with whips but I will chastise you with scorpions" (I Kings 12:4,14). Comparing that time to today, when Jesus says, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light", are we thankful for the present, even under prevailing conditions?

---

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

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

*Proverbs 31:28*

On this Mother's Day, let us take the time to remember all the things that our mothers have done for us.

Matthew William was born on March 26 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann Stahl. His brothers and sister, Joshua, Sarah, and Caleb, welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder (Tremont, IL).

On April 9, Blake Douglas was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy Streitmatter. Rachel, Chelsea, and Whitney welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Ginny Streitmatter and Bro. Ken and Sis. Edith

Plattner (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Scholl are thankful grandparents of Ethan Robert who was born to first-time parents, Kevin and Joyce Scholl, on April 5. May these families look to God for His guidance and direction in raising their children.

Our friend, Kari Feucht, has announced her engagement to Steven Beutel of Tremont. Kari is the daughter of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kathy Feucht and Steven is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel (Tremont, IL).

May Bro. Kyle Scholl, Sis. Bertie Kieser and Sis. Leila Elsasser feel God's nearness during the time of their illness.

Many of us will miss our dear Sis. Ruth Ricketts who passed away from life to eternity on March 30. We wish to express our sympathy to her family, Sis. Miriam Hinshaw, Roy (Peoria), and Bro. Levi (Morton). Sis. Ruth touched many of our lives which will remain in our hearts forever.

Sis. Mildred Endress moved from our congregation to the Washington, IL area. May Mildred feel God's peace and contentment as she makes her new home in Washington.

On March 20, Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. May God bless them as they continue their lives together.

"And he said, the Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer: The God of my rock; in him will I trust; he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."

*II Samuel 22:2-3*

---

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Valerie Wuthrich - Lisa Leman

We are always thankful to have

visiting ministers with us. Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) were here. Bro. Ed Schwartz was here for our monthly Bible Study.

Hospital patients this month were Bros. Bob Hohulin, Steve Leman, Jim Mueller, and Steven Fischer (son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb). May each of them feel God's healing power.

On March 31 the Lord called Home Sis. Alma Baum who lived at the Apostolic Christian Home with her husband, Bro. Gus. We extend our sympathy to him and their two daughters, Lois (Chicago) and Lynnea Rosner (Vermont), and their son, John (California).

We rejoice with Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol Rumbold as their daughter, Mindy, has put the Lord first in her life. We also want to wish Nate and Kris Fehr God's blessings as they have turned to the Lord in repentance.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Byron Gerber and Sis. Lisa Leman was announced on March 29. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber and Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. We wish them God's blessings.

Four families have been blessed with new additions to their homes. We wish each one God's richest blessings.

Twin boys were born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel on April 1. Their names are Maxwell Glen and Jacob Andrew. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).

April 1 was also the date for Malik David Peterson who was born to Brian and Lorna Peterson. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp and Harold and Linda Peterson.

On April 2, Cy William was born to Darrick and Holly Knapp. He was

welcomed home by big brother, Cole. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Jim and Sandy Meismer of Benson.

David Samuel was born on April 11 to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman. He was welcomed home by Joseph, Mary, Fredrick, Daniel and Elisabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp (Congerville, IL).

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, gifts, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital and since returning home. They are greatly appreciated.

*Bro. Larry Aeschleman*

We sincerely thank each one of you for all your acts of love and expressions of sympathy in the passing of our dear mother, Sis. Priscilla (Jackie) Martin. Your prayers and support is greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

In Christian love,

*The family of Priscilla Martin*

#### **ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Barb Dill - Barb Kaeb**

March 27 was a blessed event for Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner with the arrival of their third son, Daniel Glen. Mahlon and Joseph welcome their new brother. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA).

Steven Beutel and Kari Feucht have announced their engagement. He is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel. Her parents are Bro. Jordon and Sis. Kathy Feucht (Princeville, IL). A July 25 wedding is planned. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together.

We are thankful for the ministers who came to share the Word of God with us this month. May God richly bless Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL).

Our prayers are with those who suffer bodily affliction. Sis. Helen Bolliger and Elmer Brunner (Dorothy) both spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God will comfort and heal where it is His will.

#### **ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Sue Ruppert**

**Denise Romersberger**

"Another parable spake he unto them: The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which the woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

*Matthew 13:33*

The yeast that causes bread to rise does so even while the bread is being kneaded. This kneading is necessary for the bread's proper formation. It takes several hours to complete the whole process of kneading the bread. It has to be left to rise and then be punched down again and again.

The righteousness of God is complete forgiveness and holiness in the eyes of God. He plants this in our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. It has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God and He gives us this righteousness through grace by faith. That righteousness is displayed in our lives by what others see us say and do. Growth is gradual and we need kneading just like bread. We need to be more dependent on our Saviour for hope and meaning in our lives. His Spirit is that yeast that helps us rise up and serve Him again. His

forgiveness makes us whole.

May we trust in Thee, Lord Jesus, to be there to rise up when we have fallen short.

Holy Communion was celebrated this month. This is such a special time for all who share in the quietness of the evening. The presence of God can be felt so completely as our Lord's death is remembered, and His resurrection anticipated. Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) was present to assist with the proceedings, for which we thank him.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). Thank you, brothers, for your faithfulness. It is a joy and privilege to know that the Truth will be spoken, no matter what congregation they come from.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Stacy Ledford. She is home and doing better. Also, Sis. Sue Ruppert underwent surgery on both knees. She is home and recovering well.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti Teubel as they welcomed a little daughter, Sadie Brooke, in their family. She has two older brothers, Seth and Noah, and grandparents Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Teubel and Ray and Jeannie Bienemann.

Also thankful first-time parents are Bro. Brandon and Sis. Sonia Endress. Their little son, Mitchell Ray, will bring joy to them and his grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Feucht (Lester, IA) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy Endress (Peoria, IL).

We give a hearty welcome to Sis. Mildred Endress from Princeville, IL and Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss from Morris, MN. They have moved into our new condos by the church. Trusting the Lord will bless them in their new homes.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Maller**

**Trudy Eisenmann**

Greetings from Bluffton. With Springtime upon us so comes storms, showers, sunshine, and the flowers. For us in Bluffton, we have experienced a little of them all. For the storm, we had a tragic accident resulting in the hospitalization of Bro. Scott Gerber and the death of his wife, Sis. Melinda. It is our hope that during this time, their three young children, Mick, Ben, and Alicia, along with Bro. Scott and all their family members, are lifted up by the prayers made on their behalf. Also mourning a death is Sis. Anna Isch, as her husband, Bro. Ervin, has gone to his rest. As for these deaths, we encourage you and your families to look for that silver lining beyond the clouds.

For the showers, we have several with afflictions of the body and/or have spent time in the hospital: Bro. Alvin Gerber (Sis. Helen), Sis. Nellie Bertsch, Sis. Dorothy Fiechter (Bro. Wayne), Bro. Jim Walburn (Sis. Lora), Bro. Kenneth Aschliman, Bro. Lester Schwartz (Sis. Sally), and Sis. Amelia Heyerly (Bro. Ray).

Then came the sunshine. Phillip Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean) gave his heart to the Lord. Praise God for answered prayers.

Shortly after the sunshine, came the flowers of new birth. Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr gave birth to Anna Corrine on April 3. We know she will be welcomed by her four older sisters and three older brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carolyne Isch and Sis. Pat Kaehr (late Bro. Roger). Our co-writer for Bluffton, Sis. Trudy, and her husband, Bro. John Eisenmann, welcome son Andrew John on April 12. Andrew will be greeted by his three older sisters who await his homecoming. Grandparents are Bro. Ramon and Sis. Lorena Steffen, Arlen and Jeanne Gerber and Roger

and Linda Eisenmann.

At this time, we want to welcome Bro. Dan and Sis. Trisha Tucker and their precious little girl, Timber Danielle, back to the Bluffton congregation. It is always nice to see loved ones return home to be with their families and friends.

We apologize for not mentioning that Bro. Dave Stieglitz (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan), originally from the Leo, IN congregation, was married to Sis. Paige Massner (Bro. Al and Sis. Rosie) from Taylor, MO on September 28. Since their marriage, they have chosen to go back to the Leo congregation for their home church. We hope for them many blessed years together and we invite them to gather with us often. Their address is: Dave and Paige Stieglitz, 11224 Rupert Road, Grabill, IN 46741, phone number is 219-657-5169.

Our Sis. Phyllis Reinhart (Bro. Richard) laid her dear sister to rest recently and we extend our sympathy to her and their family members.

The visiting ministers who delivered a Spirit-filled message to us were Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS). We thank them and wish them many blessings returned.

---

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH

**Lori Steffen - Rhonda Maller**

We had the blessed privilege to share in Holy Communion this month and were thankful to have Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) gather with us during this special event. It is always good to remember the price Jesus paid for us. May our lives reflect our thankfulness! We also appreciated Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) being with us and sharing the Word.

The Lord continues to call souls out of this world of sin and darkness. Jenna Mueller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri) has answered God's call. Let us continue to pray for those still lost in sin.

April 19 is the wedding day for Sis. Anna Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Jason Lantz. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene and Bro. Dan Jr. and Sis. Charlene. May God bless them as they are united in Holy Matrimony.

Our community and church families were saddened by the tragic loss of Sis. Melinda Gerber (Bro. Scott) in a drowning accident. We lift up Bro. Scott in prayer, along with their three children, Mick, Ben and Alicia. May they draw close to our Heavenly Father and find comfort and direction in the days ahead. We were also saddened to lay to rest our dear Bro. Ivan Frauhiger (Sis. Sylvia). His children, Sis. Arlene Stoller, Rudy Frauhiger and Bruce Frauhiger, will certainly feel a void, but Bro. Ivan is probably enjoying being reunited with their son, Bryce, in Heaven. May we keep these families in our prayers. What a comfort to look forward to meeting in Heaven someday!

Bro. Dick Troxel (Sis. Patti) has been hospitalized this month. May we keep him in our prayers.

As we reflect on the teachings we were given by our faithful brethren at the mid-winter Elder Conference, let us strive daily to be the light and example God would want us to be. God's grace is sufficient if we stay close to Him and desire to do His will.

---

## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Lily Pelsy**

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



*Luke 15:10*

We rejoiced with Sisters Amber and Amanda Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) and Andria Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) as they shared their testimonies and were baptized.

On March 29, we had a very precious evening in Francesville, as Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda) was ordained as deacon. We give him and his family our prayerful support. We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) for preaching the Word during the day and also assisting Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) in the ordination service.

We are thankful with Kevin Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), as he has found peace.

Sis. Louise Onken went Home to be with Jesus on March 30. May God comfort her granddaughter, Sis. Colleen Wuethrich (Scott).

March 22, the home of Pat and Lana Dausch was blessed with the birth of Clarissa Hope. Her sister, LaNae, and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Overmyer are thankful.

Our converts, John and Jessica Murray, welcomed their daughter, Vanissa Olivia, on March 23. Her brothers, Bryce and Gage, are happy. Thankful grandparents are Howard and Shirley Murray and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton.

We thank Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing the Word of Life with us.

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS****Lynn Dotterer**

We know the angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents

and we rejoice along with them over Sean Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn) who has given his life to the Lord.

Our church is growing by leaps and bounds. We welcome Bro. John and Sis. Nicole Johnson who have recently married and made Indianapolis their home.

On March 28, we celebrated Communion. We were reminded of the last Passover Jesus observed with His disciples. We thank Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) for helping our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

**INDIANA, LACROSSE****Anna Marie Stoller**

Another year of life's changes have occurred in the lives of mothers and children. Family circles have been affected by birth, death, joy, gladness, and sorrow. The beautiful prophetic words of Proverbs 31 are those of king Lemuel, and they are lessons from his mother. A wise woman will read Proverbs 31 and strive to become a more virtuous woman. "...a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." (Prov. 31:30)

Sis. Kerri Goodwin (Jerry and Chris) and Bro. Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) have been blessed with God's direction in their lives, as the happy news of their engagement was announced from the pulpit. What a wonderful time to reflect upon the relationship of earthly marriage and that of Christ and His bride, the Holy Church.

Communion services were held, and Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) gave of himself to help serve the wine and bread. During services the following day, Bro. Marvin spoke of his appreciation for the young brothers and sisters who express eagerness to learn God's ways. Bro Marvin delights in meet-

ing with his young people and communicating with them in the spirit. We are truly thankful and prayerful for those who are over us that are "apt to teach" (I Timothy 3:2).

Good Friday services were held, and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) was inspired to teach us that if our relationship with Christ is not intimate, we will be overcome of three things: riches, pleasures, and cares. The annual Sunday School Easter Program was performed after the services.

Good Friday brought heaviness to our hearts as we considered the great sacrifice Jesus made for us. On Easter morning our hearts were lightened with the wonder of resurrection and tremendous hope. Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) ministered regarding the transfiguration. He stated that Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land, after all he had gone through leading God's people to it, yet we know Moses got to Heaven since he appeared in the transfiguration. Moses endured the earthly discipline, but hope for eternity was alive due to his submission. Those who submit to discipline in the church of Christ should likewise have hope that the discipline in life is not loss of hope for eternity in Heaven.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest are all smiles with the birth of another precious granddaughter, Arica, born to Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest (Latty, OH).

Another timely thought expressed through the preaching of the Word as related to Romans 9, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart." These were the feelings of Paul for the people of God who were straying. There are times that we sorrow over earthly things, but do we carry a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of others and ourselves as the apostle Paul felt for God's people? May we find grace sufficient to apply the teachings we

so bountifully receive.

## INDIANA, LAFAYETTE

### Gordon Gerber

Our congregation is thankful for Bros. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for providing the truth of God's Word to us this past month. We are also thankful for all of the students and friends who faithfully attend our Thursday evening services, bringing such youthful energy and enthusiasm to the group. As the end of the school year approaches, we pray for their safety and service over the summer break, and look forward to their return for the fall semester.

Bro. Mike Fritz (Sis. Monica) and their family are relocating to Nashville, TN in a job transfer with Mike's employer. While we are sad to see them go, we know that our loss is Nashville's gain. We pray for a blessing over them as they depart the Lafayette area. May God go with you in your new assignment in His fields.

If you are in Lafayette over the summer break, please call Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 448-4709 for information or a church schedule. We would love to have you join our fellowship as we praise the One who brings us together.

## INDIANA, LEO

### Ethelyn Schlatter

Our Elder Bro. David Bertsch had back surgery and is still recuperating at home due to complications. Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz had surgery on her leg. The doctor says it is healing, but she still needs to lie with her leg elevated. We pray for their healing. Sis. Thelma Schlatter has returned to her home; she, Sis. Helen Zimmer, and Bro. Gene Stoller have attended services again. "...unto you that fear my name shall

the Son of righteousness arise with healing in his wings..." (Mal. 4:2)

We were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Greg Stieglitz and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) shared with us at Wednesday evening service. Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) presented our topical Bible study on another Wednesday evening. His topic was "Friends and Friendship". Some thoughts he shared were: be careful with whom we make friends...children are our most important asset...there is no greater return on an investment than being a friend of Jesus...may we be the kind of friend that Jesus was to us. "As the Father hath loved me so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:9-11). Bro. Nelson ended with, "To be a friend of Jesus we must be committed...and do it with enthusiasm."

On April 18, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) came to share Holy Communion with us, assisting Bro. John Stoller. It was a sacred time to remember our Lord. How thankful we are for God's provision. We ask the Lord to bless all who shared with us.

The Easter Program, presented on Palm Sunday afternoon, was based on the prophetic message from Revelation. We pray the Lord will bless the thoughts expressed, that they bear fruit in the lives of those who spoke and those who listened.

On Easter morning we gathered at the Fellowship Center to focus our thoughts on the "Son" and all He did for us. Various families took part and afterwards we had breakfast together.

We welcome Tessa Schamback (Bay City, MI); she has found employment in our area and is worshipping with us.

A prayer in memory of our mothers who have gone to their Heavenly reward; and for those mothers still trying to raise their children to love the Lord:

### *My Children, My Children*

O Lord  
My children  
My children!  
I pray for them so earnestly  
So achingly  
So imploringly.  
Day after day  
Year after year  
I continue to plead  
I continue to intercede.  
Are You listening, Lord?  
Do You hear me?

Dear child  
Not only do I hear you;  
I'm interceding for them, too.

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

*Hebrews 7:25*

What a joy to have spring arrive, with all the flowers and trees in bloom. Let's keep watching for Jesus.

## INDIANA, MILFORD

### Linda Beer - Renee Beer

It was a special month for our congregation as we had the privilege of partaking in Holy Communion together on March 28. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) coming to assist our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in this blessed weekend.

We also appreciated the efforts put forth by the Prairie Choristers from Roanoke as they traveled to be with us for a weekend. Thank you for your message in song and

blessed fellowship that you brought to us. We were thankful that Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was willing to be a servant in spreading forth the Gospel of salvation.

Because our Saviour lives, we rejoiced together at 6:15 a.m. Easter morning for our Sunrise Service. It is always good to see the effort put forth by our Sunday School children to attend and take part. We were also encouraged as the children presented lessons in songs and poems at our Easter program. We're thankful for the work that our Sunday School teachers provide in helping to guide our youth in their spiritual growth.

Our prayers are with those of our congregation who have experienced minor surgery or illness. Bro. Alvin Haab (Sis. Carol), Kevin Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn), and Bro. Elmer Hartter.

Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman welcome their first grandchild, Alexis Breanna, born on April 2 to Michelle Lehman.

We were saddened to say farewell to our dear Sis. Mary Ann Haab who passed away on April 5. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her faithful husband, Bro. Arthur. We're so fortunate to have Sis. Mary Ann's example and faithfulness left in our minds. She certainly enjoyed laboring on behalf of others and brought many smiles as she lifted each one's heart. May we all strive to join her one day in those Ivory Palaces.

April 11 was a beautiful day for Mike Haab (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) and Christi Cole (John and Peg) as they joined their lives together in marriage. We pray they will feel the Lord's nearness as they walk this path together.

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

lives.

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

*Proverbs 31:10,25-28.*

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

#### Patti Bahler

On Sunday, April 5, our Sunday School children presented a beautiful and inspiring Easter program to our congregation. The death and resurrection of our Lord was shared to us through verse and song. May God bless all who participated.

We received the blessing of a visiting minister this month. We extend a special thank you to Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for sharing God's Word with us.

Our hearts are lifted with the signs of spring and new life blooming all around us. We also rejoice with Alisia Kilgus (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) as she has found a new life in Jesus Christ. We trust the Lord will "heal the broken in heart, and bind up the wounds" as Alisia turns her heart toward Him in repentance. May the Lord bless her abundantly with peace and rest.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby Wahl on the death of his aunt, Lydia Braun. Lydia was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) in Elgin, IL and has resided at Parkview Haven for several years.

### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

#### Jennifer Mangold Sue Beebe

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down and drink, and live!"  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul  
revived,  
And now I live in Him.  
—Unknown

We were grateful for an overflowing church on Palm Sunday weekend as we had the blessed privilege of hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our dear friend, Craig Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla). It is good for each of us to "re-live" this experience and its importance in each of our lives. These precious moments in our lives serve to remind us of our Heavenly Home and our never ceasing effort to reach this Home. We pray Bro. Craig will keep this effort in the forefront of his thoughts and actions, as it should be for all of us.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and our dear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). Also sharing Easter Sunday with us was Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH).

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

#### Cheryl Bucher - Hope Bucher

Spring has definitely sprung here in northwest Indiana. It's a reminder of our great Lord, to see the season change from winter to grass which is green again and blooming flowers.

The God who takes a summer storm  
And ends it with a rainbow,  
Who lights the very darkest night  
with silver stars above,  
The God who with a tiny seed,  
Can form a perfect rosebud.  
Is our God, and the One who heals  
Our heartaches with His love.



Our friend, Dorothy Clausen, passed from this life recently. She worshipped with us as often as her health would allow. Dorothy loved to play the piano, and many of us were privileged to hear her play. She is survived by one daughter, Carol Black.

Bro. Roy Frieden (Sis. Aldine) suffered a fall and is in intensive care at this time. Our prayers are with him, Sis. Aldine and their children.

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). We thank these brothers and their wives for so faithfully serving us.

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

#### Beckie Lehman - Jody Bahler

We were privileged in this last month to follow the Lord's commandment and take Communion together. We are thankful for the Lord's broken body and shed blood, and rejoice in His resurrection. What a gift for which we are not worthy.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for lending himself for our Communion service. May God bless him for serving so willingly.

We enjoyed once again hearing the Easter story as told to us by the Sunday School classes. The children did a beautiful job reciting and singing about Christ's victory over death.

We also bid farewell to the last of the pioneers of the Wolcott Church with the passing of Sis. Irene Anker. She was 94 years old and had been living at Parkview Haven.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON

#### Karla Gerst - Judy Gehring

Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) were with us for the Memorandum reading. May God bless them for

their untiring efforts.

Inga and Larry Simms were blessed with a son called Naulon Kit. He was welcomed home by big brothers, Patrick and Laurence, and sister, Alainna. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster.

We were blessed with Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz sharing Communion with us. Bro. Joe shared John 6 and John 19:23. The congregation sang #89 "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross" and #200 "Communion Hymn".

Our monthly singing was held the first Sunday of the month. We welcome one and all.

This month we have several in the hospital. May God's healing hand be with them all.

We had our Good Friday services. Such a solemn Friday.

Easter was a beautiful bright serene Sunday morning. The Lord has risen and we can be the benefactors of His death and suffering for one and all. It was a day many families were together.

Danville services were held on a Thursday evening. The residents really enjoyed singing along with us.

May we all stay true and faithful till either death parts us or the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Dear Ones All,

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who showed some form of kindness to us during the illness and passing of our wife, mother and grandmother. The prayers, cards, phone calls, etc. meant so much at such a trying time. We know each deed of kindness helped to lessen the load. May God bless each one and help us all, by His grace, to reach our heavenly goal.

Least Ones in Faith,

*Bro. Lloyd Massner*

*Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf  
Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona Streitmatter*

*Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana Metzger*

*Bro. Dave and Sis. Karla Eberhardt*

*and Grandchildren*

### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

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

*Phil. 4:7*

We rejoice with Darla Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) who has found this peace. A peace unattainable from earthly deeds or pleasures.

We were richly blessed to have Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan, NY) with us for Good Friday services and Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) with us for Easter services. Our thanks to these brothers for bringing their families and sharing God's Word with us.

We also want to thank our Jr./Sr. Bible Class students for singing to us a few songs telling the story of Christ's death and resurrection prior to Good Friday services.

As we look ahead to the month of May, we have three high school students looking forward to graduation: April Hanson (Albert and Trudy), Kent Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Becky Frieden (Sis. Gloria Frieden). As these students make plans for their future, may they seek God's will and allow Him to direct their paths.

Also in the month of May, a day has been set aside to give God thanks for our Mothers and to let them know we appreciate all they so lovingly do for us.

## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

### Delores Reinhard

Once again, another Spring is here and we find ourselves in the gardens planting 'those 'tiny seeds with the faith that our Heavenly Father will provide the much needed rain and sunshine lest our efforts be in vain.

#### *The Time of Waiting*

See the husbandman, his seed now  
strewing  
on the earthly field in hope and fear,  
In God's promise still his trust  
renewing,  
Till spring sunshine makes sprouts  
appear.

Few fruits ripen from the  
springtime sunshine;  
Not till autumn is abundance shown;  
Without waiting we ne'er feel the  
rapture  
of a precious, bounteous harvest  
grown.

*Zion's Harp #244*

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We thank him for coming and serving us from God's Word. He was accompanied by his wife and family members.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores were happy and excited grandparents when we heard of our 15th grandchild's arrival. Born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn of Latty, OH is their first child, Zachary Walter. We wish them Godly wisdom in raising their little boy.

On March 29, we were blessed to have visitors come and share with our "Invite a Friend" weekend. May God enrich the lives of those who made the effort to join us for the weekend.

My heart is stirred as I think of Mother's Day coming. I no longer have a mother here on earth to guide me, instruct me, and listen when I have a heavy heart. I hope I can be the mother to my children that my

mother was to me and be there when I'm needed. Memorial Day fits right in, coming up, too. Let us think back and remember the Godly teachings we were taught by our mothers. We have so much to be thankful for that we had God-fearing mothers.

#### *Remember Mother*

Despise not your mother when she  
is old,  
She's dearer by far than wealth  
untold.  
She nurtured you kindly, right from  
your birth,  
And watched o'er you carefully in  
sorrow, in mirth.  
She'll not be here to see you grow  
old,  
For God will have called her back to  
His fold.  
So show her affection and your love  
restate  
By visits and by letters - before it's  
too late.

—W.F. Stricker

## IOWA, IOWA CITY

### Sharon Gerst

Once again, God blessed us with visiting ministers to break the Bread of Life with us. They were Bros. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Nelson Aric is welcomed by Bro. Neil, Sis. June and big brother, Grant Knobloch. Nelson was born on April 15. What a wonderful reminder children are to us! We should strive to attain a childlike faith and trust in our Heavenly Father.

It is the time of year when we think about planting our gardens and crops. But what about our spiritual gardens? Are we bearing fruit for our Lord Jesus Christ?

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask

of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

*John 15:16*

## IOWA, LESTER

### Sue Warner - Cindy Leuthold

On Palm Sunday weekend, we were so wonderfully reminded of Christ's death and suffering when we partook of Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters in faith. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was willing to be with us for the occasion. Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). Our thank you is extended to them for their willingness to preach God's Word.

In the springtime of the year, nature reminds us of the beginning of new life. The birth of a new little girl has brought joy to Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner. Little Anna Marie Warner was born on May 9 to her happy parents. Her brother, Matthew, and sisters, Maria, Abigail, and Sarah, welcome her home. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

We think of loved ones who have spent time in the hospital or have had surgical procedures. Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) and Jeff Knobloch (Bro. Delbert and Sis. June) have met with bodily afflictions this month.

Thoughts of prayer and sympathy are expressed to Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie Metzger and family with the death of her grandfather.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who remembered us with their thoughts and prayers, cards, food brought to visitation, the funeral and the house and memorial gifts.

Your acts of kindness and love have greatly helped to ease the recent loss of our husband, father and grandfather.

*The family of Otto Knobloch*

*Anna Knobloch*

*Emma and Paul Banwart and families*

*Alice and Jay Jacobson and family*

## **IOWA, OAKVILLE**

**Melody Steiner**

**Debbie Wagenbach**

We rejoice with Clarence Kuntz (Anna Mae) as he was baptized and welcomed into our precious brotherhood in recent days. We are thankful to God that His redeeming love and salvation is extended to all who follow His will. As we think of Bro. Clarence and his dear wife, we want to lift them up in prayer as Anna Mae's health is very fragile. May God bless and protect them throughout the remainder of their life's journey whether it be few years or many. Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and his wife were with us for Wednesday evening services preceding the baptism.

Saturday, March 28, we were vividly reminded of our Lord's death and suffering upon Calvary's tree as we assembled to partake of Holy Communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) assist our Elder Bro. Ed with this most sacred meeting. The entire weekend was a special blessing as we gathered on the Lord's Day following Communion and again were taught of His precious promises. We thank Bro. Kevin and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, for spending the weekend with us. May God richly reward them for their willingness to be used in His service.

Three new babies have been added to our church family. Dan and Pam Massner welcome Allie Elizabeth into their family circle. Allie

joins big sister Darby as a special little blessing to her grandparents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner and Larry and Pat Darbyshire (Mediapolis). Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie Stoller are first-time parents of little Torri Anna. Torri was born on April 2 and is Bro. Ervin and Sis. Teresa Marti's third little granddaughter. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller. Luke Lyle has come to bless the lives of Lyle and Deb Massner. Bro. Earl and Sis. Ada Massner and Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Redmond (LaGrange, MO) are thankful to have a new grandson to love.

As we once again experience the beauty of the changing seasons, let us reflect upon the changing "seasons" of our lives. Do we bloom and portray the beauty of God's love with each changing step in our lives or do we wither and stagnate with changes? We do not face life alone—Jesus has went before us—let us trust fully in Him and His promises.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you."

*John 14:2*

## **IOWA, PULASKI**

**Lisa Knecht**

Greetings of love to each of you! We want to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) for visiting our congregation and sharing God's instructions to us. We also bestow a special thank you to Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in the Communion services. We greatly appreciate the reminder for a more dedicated, sincere and greater love for our Heavenly Father and then for one another.

Our prayers and thoughts are ex-

tended to Sis. Sue Ann Schaer (husband, Don, and children, Brian and Esther) during this time of sadness due to the death of her father, Elmer Holycross. May the comfort of the Holy Spirit be felt.

As Mother's Day approaches, may each mother strive to be a "...joyful mother of children", and praise the Lord for this opportunity.

## **IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Eunice Fehr**

**Berniece Banwart**

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan-Naumburg, NY), and Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO). We want to express our appreciation to all these brothers for expounding the Word of Life to us. We also appreciated the evening spent with Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene, Fairbury, IL) as he visited with a goodly number about the afflictions of the body, the various crosses that many of us have, or will be asked to bear sometime during our life here on earth. We must take the time to read and learn from God's Word that He will never give us more than we can bear and He will give us grace sufficient for the day if we only let Him lead us.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Melbert and to Robert Thomann on the loss of their sister, Edna Coleman, Falmouth, MA.

Bro. Kevin, Sis. Sandy and Emily Banwart have opened their hearts and home to 3-year-old Ryan Matthew and 6-month-old Maria Rose from Bolivia, S.A. May God bless them as they raise these adopted children and teach them of God's love. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin



and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Jemes and Sherry Schmidt. Sis. Ida Schmidt is their great-grandmother.

Christopher Messner (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey), Randal Metzger (Dawn), Bro. Walter Banwart (Sis. Esther), and Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma) have all been hospital surgical patients. Kay Banwart (Robert), Sis. Esther Banwart (Bro. Walter) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora) were hospitalized for medical care. May all these loved ones feel God's nearness as they recover from these bodily afflictions, if it can be His will.

### *What Is a Mother?*

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

### **JAPAN, SHIODA** **Willis Ehnle**

It was a beautiful Easter Sunday morning, and a small group of seven of us gathered together beside the rapidly flowing river near our

church and home. At 6:30 a.m. we began to sing and praise the Lord for His resurrection. We prayed, read the resurrection story from the Bible and meditated on what we had read. Cherry blossoms were in view from the river where we were and our town of Ichinomiya was pretty well covered with beautiful, pink, peach blossoms. (God has blessed us with wonderful peaches, and wonderful grapes.) We ate our breakfast together down by the river and gloried in the beauty of nature all around us, and we gloried in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He really did arise from the dead, His body was gone from the tomb, He is the Son of God, our Saviour.

After our regular Sunday morning worship service, the Sunday School children, seven of them, gave an Easter Program, singing, reading Bible portions and using posters to help get the point across. In the afternoon, we had our usual Bible Class type meeting in the assembly room. We had a blessed Easter Sunday and every day is a blessed day, because of Christ's resurrection.

### **JAPAN, TOKYO** **Andy and Chris Aberle**

Greetings of Christian love from Tokyo, Japan.

Spring started with a very special event in our little church. On March 26, Rachel Marie was born to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus. She was a gift from God and was welcomed by her parents and three siblings, Caleb, Sarah, and Hannah. Also, grandmother Sis. Shirley Kieser was here to share in the joy. We welcome another young child to our congregation.

We were privileged to have Bro. Shane Stieglitz visit and worship with us. He was visiting/touring Japan and spent a weekend at the Tokyo church. He is the son of Bro.

Steve and Sis. Jane Stieglitz.

Easter Sunday was a wonderful day at our Tokyo church. Our benches were filled as we listened and meditated on the resurrection story of our Lord, and what that means to us today. Many of our listeners were "casual attendees" or even there for the first time in any Christian church. They were blessed to hear the salvation story and were told of the significance and certainty of our Lord, and His ability to save us and give us peace with God. In the afternoon, local community children from our Sunday School and adults shared the Easter story through Bible verses, pictures, and song. It was wonderful to see 15 Japanese children involved in the program. Our prayer and assurance from the Word of God is that these gospel seeds that have been planted in their hearts will grow and produce fruit for His Kingdom.

April is a gorgeous season in Japan, especially due to the different bushes and trees blooming and displaying their many colors. Each morning, as we head for school, we must wait at a light and cross a very busy highway. Next to that road, there is a bush growing in a cramped space and in very little soil. Even just inches away from a constant stream of cars, noise and pollution, the bush is covered with beautiful pink flowers, giving glory to the Creator...for all those who pause to view. Like that bush in a noisy, polluted world, may we prosper where God has planted us and may we always be displaying the glory of our Lord.

### **KANSAS, BERN** **Lori Baumgartner** **Holly Meyer**

"God has been so good to me. He has promised grace for every trial (I Cor. 10:13); He has promised never

to leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5); He has promised to be faithful (Lamentations 3:19-26)...

...Life is such a vapor. I must be prepared to die but ready to live—whichever He chooses. His will will be best."

*Sharon Morris*

Sharon (Meyer) Morris of Columbia, MO wrote these words several years ago in her journal, as she faced a long battle with cancer. She went to be with the Lord on March 21 and a memorial service was held here on March 25. Our sympathy and prayers are with her husband, Carl, and their children, Jason, Jennifer, and Joanne. Those from our congregation we wish to remember are her parents, Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer, her sister, Marci (Dave), and her brother, Judd (Carol).

Hospitalized recently have been Bro. Wilhelm Metzger, Bro. Harvey Grimm (Sis. Marie), and Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona). May they each feel the hand of the Great Physician as they deal with their various forms of affliction.

As new life springs forth everywhere around us, we have been wonderfully blessed with three "new lives" in our congregation.

Zachary Lou was born on March 30 to Judd and Carol Meyer. Big sisters, Darla and Amanda, welcome him home, as do grandparents, Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer and Gene and Lois Visser (Corning, KS).

April 3 was the birth date of Benton Ross, born to Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita Rokey. He is also welcomed home by two sisters, Leigha and Amanda. Benton's grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Eugene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Todd, Sis. Cynthia, and Logan Fehr are happy to have Leanna Jane join their family. She was born on April 9 and is also a

blessing to her grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman and Bro. Warren and Sis. Shirley Fehr (Fairbury, IL).

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Kristen Lehman to Bro. Gabriel Hill, both of Phoenix, AZ. Their parents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman and Edward and Susan Seuver (Phoenix, AZ). Our prayers are with them as they prepare for marriage and establish a "threefold cord".

This union of our hearts  
shall stand through grace in Jesus;  
We walk the path of life,  
while cheer and trust increases.  
Where God in truth abides,  
where two join hand and heart,  
We find a threefold cord,  
not lightly rent apart.  
*Zion's Harp #79*

We want to thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), Gene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), and Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). Bro. Jay was here to assist our Elder Bro. John in serving Holy Communion. What a blessed and holy evening it was as we partook of the bread and wine, as Christ commanded us ("This do in remembrance of me", St. Luke 22:19).

Good Friday services were held in Sabetha this year. It is always a special time to gather with the Sabetha brethren and reflect on our Lord and Saviour's death. We want to thank our home ministers for proclaiming the gospel of Christ on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We greatly appreciate your efforts week after week!

---

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings,  
See what God hath done;

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings,  
See what God hath done.

*Hymns of Zion #116*

We have had many blessings this month. First we want to thank Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) for helping Elder Bro. Charles in serving us Holy Communion on March 28. What a blessed and awe inspiring time to think of all our Lord and Saviour did for us.

On March 28, Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie) was added to our ministering brothers. We thank the Lord for providing for us and are thankful that Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie are willing to serve us.

On April 6, God blessed Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr with a precious little girl, Heather Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr, and Sis. Martha Feucht (Lester, IA). May God grant Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie wisdom and strength in all of their new duties.

Ryan Kraft (Roger and Chris) had a tonsillectomy. We are thankful that all went well for him.

We welcome Dave, Trista and Aly Miller. They had been living in Kansas City and have moved to Fort Scott. We look forward to them meeting with us.

On April 19, it was our annual Invite a Friend weekend. What a blessing to meet with friends from far and near and to meet new friends. Another blessing we enjoy is traveling from one congregation to another and hearing the same gospel and feeling God's love radiating through the brotherhood.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Hymns of Zion #95*

---

**KANSAS, KIOWA****Janice Bahr - Darcy Kisling**

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

*Psalm 100:3*

What a blessed people we are! We were reminded of this numerous times this past month, but most especially when we were visited for the weekend by Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and his dear wife, Sis. Nancy, and mother, Sis. Doris; and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), and his dear wife, Sis. Connie. The brothers shared with us the Memorandum of the Conference, and it is so precious to know that, unlike the world where anything goes and anything is okay, God, our Great Shepherd, is still ordaining Elders and ministers of the Gospel as Watchmen to warn us against the things that will lead us away from the one God who gave all He had that we might live forever with Him. May we as the sheep of His pasture have listening ears, that we may walk closer to His statutes as we see the day fast approaching, and not be caught unprepared for His coming.

We don't always know who of our loved ones are ill during the month, but ask that we keep each other in our prayers and thoughts, that God might oversee all of us. Sis. Marie Schurter, Sis. Matilda Schupbach, Erlene Farney, and Sis. Edna Reed were all hospital patients this month, and it is our sincere prayer that God will bless each one.

We often hear from our dear Sis. Rachel Kraft, who is in Oklahoma City close to her daughter, and are so happy to hear that she is doing well. We miss her happy presence among us, but are also glad that she can enjoy having her daughter so near.

The year has gone so quickly already, and graduation is fast approaching. In Kiowa, we have no high school graduates, but three of our junior high youth will attend high school next year if the Lord delays His coming. They are Vanndy Frieden, Jamie Johnson, and Stephanie Bahr. Our children are an heritage of the Lord, and it is a tremendous responsibility. It is up to us as parents to instill in them the love, respect, and knowledge of God, and if we fail to do so, we cast them adrift with no proper tools to face what is to come. May God help us, dear parents, to keep our priorities straight, for our children's sake, that we not lead them astray.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

*Psalm 27:1*

**KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY**  
**Julie Bahr**

We need to be ever mindful of our dear ones who have physical needs. Our dear Sis. Matilda Beyer recently moved from her home in the Sabetha Care Home to an extended care facility here in Burlington. We welcome Sis. Matilda into our midst again and pray that God will be near her and provide for her. We are also mindful of Glen and Faye Kraft as Glen was hospitalized a while ago for complications following his chemo-radiation therapy. We sincerely ask the Lord's presence upon these loved ones with infirmities, which also includes remembering Bro. Floyd Isch in his recent days of affliction.

Congratulations and our best wishes to our graduates this year again. It seems that only too recently we were offering the same to last year's graduates. How quickly the time passes on and only those

things done for God will be lasting. We sincerely extend our Christian love and congratulations to those who are graduating this year. They are Andrea Luthi and Heidi Zimmerman (8th grade); Stacie Zimmerman (senior); and Kayla (Bahr) Holland from Emporia State University.

Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth enjoyed the friendships they made and the fellowship they had with the other junior high students that traveled to share in the invitational weekend at Bern, KS. The Word was proclaimed, with the fervent hope that they may someday yield their hearts to Christ's loving invitation. Thanks to all those who gave of themselves to make this an enjoyable and memorable time for our youth.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish you knew how much I appreciated your prayers, cards, telephone calls and many good deeds you did for me through my recovery from knee surgery. May God bless and reward you all.

*Bro. Samuel Anliker*

**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Brenda Grimm**  
**Mary Kay Wenger**

We have been so blessed as we have heard of Christ's death and resurrection this past month. May we think on this often and never forget the love He has for each one of us. We had the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion on March 28. Our Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) was assisted by Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We thank these brothers for sharing the Holy Supper with us.

Wednesday evening services have been discontinued and we will now alternate Sunday evening singings with the Bern congregation.

Our sympathy is extended to the



families in our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Phyllis Strahm's son-in-law, Tony Cole, of Topeka, KS has passed away. Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Jeanette Huber (Bro. Sam) on the death of her father, Bro. Alvin Nohl, from Morris, MN. May they all take comfort in God's nearness during this difficult time.

We are always thankful for the love put forth by our Sunday School teachers as they teach our future church about Jesus Christ. Our new teachers for the next term are Bros. Don Plattner (Sis. Ada) and Rodney Grimm (Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Shari Eisenbise (Bro. David). Substitutes will be Bros. DeVere Meyer (Sis. Michelle), Kevin Grimm (Sis. Nita) and Jay Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn) and Sisters Jolene Edelman (Bro. Rodney) and Sharlyn Huber (Bro. Gordon).

It is a blessing when souls that have been repenting can find peace with God and man. We rejoice with Carrie Aberle, Kara Grimm and Rita Hartter as they have found this peace and we look forward to their testimonies and baptisms scheduled for May 9 and 10.

Our Bible Class recently traveled to Detroit, MI for a weekend of fellowship and we want to thank them for their kind hospitality.

How thankful we are again for the visiting ministers this month. They include Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). We appreciate their willingness to teach us from God's Holy Word.

As Mother's Day approaches, we are reminded of the love and kindness a mother shows to her children. May we each remember to thank God for our mothers and for the Godly example they have been to us.

## KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

We observed the Easter season by holding Good Friday services the evening of April 10. Then, we gathered at the church on Easter morning for a congregational breakfast. This holy season was enhanced by the flowering trees and shrubs. The beautiful full moon on Saturday night reminded us that Easter Sunday's date is set for the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. I have enjoyed teaching that fact to my intermediate grade Sunday School students over the years. This year I am working with younger students and they too were able to learn this fact.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel have been blessed with two new grandsons. Jacob Andrew and Maxwell Glen were born on April 1 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny (Reimschisel) Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Our congregation is anticipating the addition of a ground level dining room to our church building. We have long had a need for a handicapped accessible facility and it appears that the Lord is opening the way that this can be accomplished.

## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Kristen Plattner**

**Michelle Oesch**

With warm and sunny days with us, it is always uplifting to the heart and soul. The green grass, the flowers popping up, buds on the trees, all this and much more, is evidence of our faithful Lord. Also, with the warmer weather we welcome back those who have been away for the winter. It is always encouraging to have those we love and are dear to us return and be a part again of the fellowship here in Alto.

It was a blessing to hear from the youngest to the oldest from our Sunday School exclaim the words about Christ, "He is not here, He has

risen!" Each class shared a song or verse proclaiming the Easter story and how it affects all mankind on the earth. May each soul who shared in the program take with them the self-sacrificing love our Saviour expressed on the cross when He died for our sins and now gives us His grace daily.

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

*I Corinthians 13:7*

A mother is the one who is still there when everyone else has deserted you. As Victoria Farnsworth has written:

Not until I became a mother did I understand  
how much my mother had sacrificed for me.  
Not until I became a mother did I feel how hurt  
my mother was when I disobeyed.

Not until I became a mother did I know  
how proud my mother was when I achieved.  
Not until I became a mother did I realize  
how much my mother loves me.

As we honor our mothers on Mother's Day, may we remember the many sacrifices they have made for us and what blessings we have known because of their love and prayers for us. Call your mom today and share with her how much you love her.

## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Rhonda Knochel**

**Peggy Jackson**

It is once again springtime and the earth just seems alive with new beginnings. Perhaps because of the beauty of this time of year, it seems so fitting to honor our mothers. We are a blessed and privileged people to have had the honor of Godly

mothers. Perhaps not everyone has had that experience, but to those of us who have, we can truly say we've been blessed. It is often through the tender love of our mothers that we realize the tender love that God has for us. Also, it is often through the Godly instructions given to us, by these special women in our lives, that we have something precious to pass down to our children. Psalm 78:5-6 says, "...[the Lord] appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them..." Even though this passage refers to our fathers, I think it encompasses our mothers as well. May God bless all of you Godly women out there who are raising your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Once again this month we have very little news to share, but what we have we want to share with you. Sis. Kay Knochel (Bro. Jim), Marcie Cowan (Stacie) and Gerald Meier (Sis. Edith) all experienced the frailty of the human body and the ability of God to heal. We are very thankful that God, indeed, has extended His hand of love to them, and pray that they will be fully restored to good health.

We had the wonderful privilege of sharing the Lord's supper together. Communion is such a blessing and so refreshing to the spirit. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy in this sacred event. We are very thankful that Bro. Aaron took the time to be with us and again to minister to our needs on Sunday. We always appreciate Bro. Aaron visiting our congregation and pray that God will bless him for his labor of love.

May the Lord be with you in the month ahead.

## **MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Manuela Denes**

**Kristie Meyer**

In a small church like Detroit, it is always special to hear a wedding engagement. Feeling it to be the Lord's will, Sis. Brenda Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther) has accepted Bro. Steve Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) from our Mansfield, OH congregation to be her help-mate. We look forward to their wedding later this year.

Leland and Katie Haines are the thankful grandparents of little Austin Duane who was born to Phil and Wanita Haines. First-time great-grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi, were happy to announce the birth of Ryan James Paye. Our prayers are also with Bro. Joe as he has been ill and in the hospital this past month. May our Lord always keep a watchful eye on those brethren and family members that are ill or suffering in any way.

We would like to thank Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Sis. Sue for being with us this month and for sharing the Word with us.

It has been a Spring where there have been many changes and often-times we may find it difficult to deal with new situations. May we always remember that we have an understanding Lord and Saviour to whom we can always look to for guidance and in helping us to make the right decisions.

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."

*Isaiah 42:16*

## **MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**

**Delores Sauder**

We enjoyed a blessed weekend

March 21 when the Minneapolis and Winthrop single groups hosted the single groups from Lester, Morris and West Bend. We thank God for His traveling mercy.

We were recently reminded that it doesn't matter who ministers the Word, but that it is God's Word that is brought forth. We are thankful for our ministering brothers who share God's Word with us and encourage us on our way. We also thank Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) who also ministered to us this month.

On March 28, we gathered together spiritually in the upper room to partake of the Lord's supper. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp assisted our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) in this solemn occasion.

The Sunday School children told the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection on March 29. We thank them and the teachers for their efforts.

## **MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Nancy Wulf**

**Dianne Kellenberger**

We had visiting ministers this past month for which we are thankful. Sharing God's Word with us were Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Dale Wulf (Lester, IA).

It was truly a blessing to again hear the Sunday School children recite pieces and sing hymns to remind us of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour for the remission of our sins. Do we truly appreciate what Christ has done for us? Please, loved ones, please, come unto Him. His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Sis. Thelma Dogotch (Bro. Leo) was recently hospitalized. We're thankful she has fully recovered and is home again!

"To every thing there is a season,

and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die;"

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Bro. Alvin Nohl who passed from this life on March 27 to his Heavenly Home. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sis. Minnie; four sons, Bro. Art (Sis. Sandra), Robert (Marilyn), Alvin Jr. (Kathy) and Bro. DeWayne (Sis. Janice), all of Hancock; one daughter, Sis. Jeanette (Bro. Samuel) Huber of Sabetha, KS; two brothers, Bro. Henry Jr. (Sis. Anna) and Eli, both of Morris; four sisters, Sis. Lillian Koehl (Peoria, IL), Sis. Naomi Nohl and Sis. Nettie Nohl (both of Hancock), and Cora Hedstrom (Warroad, MN); grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We also pray for Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr and their family in the passing of her father, Ervin Heltner. May God comfort them in each day anew.

We bid farewell to Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss as they leave our congregation to move to the Washington, IL area. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they establish their new home.

Some members and friends journeyed to St. Peter, MN to help with clean-up after a tornado destroyed much of their region. Our prayers are with them as they rebuild their lives and property. May God richly reward those who so willingly give of themselves to help others near and far.

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Becky Braulick - Jan Messner**  
Greetings!

This past month we had the privilege of listening to the Memorandum and we wish to extend a special thank you to Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) for shar-

ing in these labors with our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn). We appreciate that they were so willing to come and share their weekend with us. This practice is so beneficial to our spiritual lives and we are so thankful that our Elder brethren continue writing these letters to the churches carrying out this tradition as was started so long ago.

This past month we hosted West Bend, IA for an invite a couple weekend. We want to thank ministering Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for laboring on our behalf. The time spent with these families and all our visitors this past month was a blessing to us here in Winthrop.

April 4 was the funeral for our dear Bro. Cornelius Messerli (Sis. Delores). We pray that God will remain close at heart to Sis. Delores and all the family during this sorrowful time. We would like to thank Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) for helping labor on this day.

On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed our annual breakfast put on by our Sunday School. It was so nice to see so many people there. We want to thank the Sunday School and the teachers for making this such a wonderful way to start off our Easter day.

Mother's Day is a wonderful time to remember our mothers and all they have done for us. Whether they're grandmothers now, young mothers, or have passed on, let us be thankful for the patience, wisdom, and unconditional love they've shown their families. Let us not take this for granted.

For so many years, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona) of Lester, IA was the Elder brother for us here in Winthrop. We wish to extend our appreciation we feel for him and to thank him for this service to us. May God's grace and blessings abide

with him.

Our hospital patients this past month were Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Gerry). We continue to pray for Brendon's recovery from his surgeries and look forward to his return home from the hospital. We also pray that Bro. Harold will recover quickly from his heart surgery and we pray for the Lord's healing hand to be with both of them.

### *Note of Thanks:*

Thank you for your love and kindness extended the past few months. Your prayers were especially appreciated at the time of Cornelius' death and during my recovery.

*In Christian Love,  
Your least sister in faith,  
Delores Messerli and family*

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

On April 18-19 we were blessed to host the Mortonaires. The singing they performed throughout the weekend was beautiful and greatly appreciated. We also enjoyed the abundant fellowship that always comes with a packed church. We wish to thank all of our many visitors that came for this special weekend. We are especially grateful that ministering Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) was with us to preach the Word.

On April 5, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) assisted Bro. Gene in serving Holy Communion. We appreciated his efforts throughout that blessed day and look forward to having him back soon.

We are rejoicing with yet another soul who has decided to live for Jesus Christ! Kent Steffen has expressed his desire to become a child of God. Our church, which is cur-



rently larger than ever, continues to grow.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). We are thankful for their efforts in proclaiming the Gospel and we hope they continue to visit us often.

Our annual Invited Guest Weekend was March 21-22. We thank each one who attended and hope you will join us again.

This month, Megan Rokey (Bro. Garry and Sis. Marty) was involved in a severe car accident. We are very thankful that although she is suffering from several injuries, she is out of the hospital. Our prayers are with her as she continues to recover.

---

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

Our surgical patients this past month were Bro. Ray Luthi (Sis. Vi) and Kelly Kellenberger (Chad). We are thankful they are both home and may God continue to heal and strengthen them.

As we approach Mother's Day, may we be thankful for our dear mothers who have taught us of God's love and kindness. May God continue to bless and provide for each one.

---

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

We thank God for the many blessings we have been granted this Spring, with the beautiful weather, the magnificent flowers and blossoming trees and bushes, and our numerous visitors on weekends. Lending themselves on the pulpit this past month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS). When a minister comes to St. Louis,

knowing that we are planning to be gone that Sunday, and serves on the pulpit here alone, our whole congregation is especially appreciative. God seems to supply an extra measure of grace and strength. We truly have a marvelous fellowship.

---

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

Chad and Lisa Massner are the parents of Blake Edward who was born on March 24. Courtney will be mom's big helper with Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Rosie Massner and Carl and Alice Adair of Lima, IL. We are so thankful for all the little ones that God has sent us lately.

Those hospitalized this month are Pauline Shoemaker, mother of Sis. Roberta Bostrom; Marcia Sutter, daughter of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie, had a close call and was sent to the emergency room for an allergic reaction; Jimmy Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris) broke his arm; Bro. Jim Sutter had knee surgery; and Bro. Ben Knapp is ill in Peoria Hospital. May each one find strength in God's promises. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." (Psalm 121:1)

Many thanks go to Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for sharing the presentation on the Eastern European Apostolic Christian Churches. He also shared the Word of God with us. "...One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours." (John 4:37-38)

---

### **NEW YORK** **CROGHAN-NAUMBURG** **Anna Mellnitz**

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying,

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

*Matthew 26:39*

On April 12, the Sunday School children had their Easter program of Jesus' death on the cross. They done a very good job. It is nice to hear them tell of what they have been taught in Sunday School by the teachers.

On March 21-22, we had visitors from Rockville, CT and Morris, MN. We had a potluck supper and singing afterwards.

On March 21, Holly Graves and Matthew Cremisio were married. She is the daughter of Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda Graves. He is the son of Len and Sharon Cremisio.

On March 16, Sis. Eleanor Herzig (Bro. Ronald) had major surgery and has recovered. Amos Bush fell through the hay shoot and was hospitalized for a while but he is fine now. He is the son of Joe and Linette Bush. Noel Virkler had eye surgery. He is the son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler. He is doing fine now. Paul Shamback was injured in a shop accident. He is the son of Bro. Dave and Lois Shamback. I had back surgery and am out of the hospital and at home now. I trust in God's healing to heal me and all that have met with accidents and sickness.

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: For the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee: he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

*Deut. 31:6*

### *Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone that visited me in the hospital and home and the cards that were sent and the prayers. God bless each one.

*Anna Mellnitz*

---

**OHIO, AKRON****Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Angela Palitto (Bro. Mark and Debbie) took the Lord Jesus for her Saviour, received peace with God, and gave her testimony and was baptized on Palm Sunday, and welcomed into the fold. Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn (Latty, OH) were with us for the weekend and we appreciated Bro. Ray's assistance.

Roger and Judy Gal gave their testimony of their conversion and faith and we rejoice to have them added to our fellowship.

Bro. Zoltan Bako had a procedure at the hospital and an overnight stay, and we are thankful he is assembling with us again. Bro. Leo Heib was hospitalized and we are thankful he is assembling with us again.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS****Nancy Banks**

For our monthly potluck supper, it was a joy to have with us ministering Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riggensbach (Rittman, OH) and their family. Also joining us this month were Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH). We appreciate our visiting ministers and the support they lend to our pulpit here.

Years ago, while reading through a book, I found a quotation that held so much meaning for me as a new mother. I copied the quote down on a piece of paper and tucked it away, only to find it the other day after approximately 20 years. It is so perfect for our coming Mother's Day celebration.

"Wise mothers will always keep in mind that they are the first book read and the last put aside in every child's library."

—C. Lenox Remond

**1810-1873**

We honor those mothers on May 10 who so selflessly give or have given of themselves day after day to be the caretakers of their families and homes.

**OHIO, JUNCTION****Sandra Manz**

"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*

With reverence and in gratitude, we partook of Holy Communion on March 21. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Sis. Nancy, Philadelphia, PA) here to meditate on that first Lord's Supper and remind us of its significance in our lives today.

Among our guests during Invite a Guest weekend were visiting ministers, Bros. Mike Bauman (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), and Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). Those outside of our faith often cannot comprehend the love and fellowship that we share with our church families from near and far. Let us preserve this for our future generations.

Our heartfelt sympathy reaches out to Sis. Juliet Schlatter and other relatives in our congregation as her grandson, Eldon Hartzler (Creston, OH), was killed in an auto accident. May we not soon forget to pray for those whose hearts are breaking.

Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) served us on the pulpit on Good Friday. He left us with the thought that just as Pilate was faced with a dilemma regarding Jesus' fate, so we too must decide what we will do with Jesus in our lives.

Anticipating high school graduation in May are Sam Dietrich (Bro.

Gus and Sis. Dorothy), Micah Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon), Shawn Hurd (Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen), Chad Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Sis. Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), and Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra). We pray for the Lord's prompting in their future plans.

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

*Proverbs 31:30*

Many of us mothers feel shame when we read about the virtuous woman described in this chapter. Even though we may feel that we can never measure up to those standards, we can use them as goals in becoming a more godly mother. Happy Mother's Day to our loving mothers across the nation and world.

**OHIO, LATTY****Kathy Sinn****Heidi Hackenjos**

We are thankful for another spring season. At Easter we were reminded that Christ died for our sins and rose again on the third day to give us the hope of eternal life. We can see God's handiwork all around us. The budding trees, the spring flowers, and even the small earthworms churning the soil to make it ready for a new growing season are proof that God is the Creator of all things and takes care of the world He created.

Here in Latty we were blessed with four babies. Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest welcome home Arika Jean. Andrea, Aaron, Alyssa, and Adam welcome their new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma Nuest (LaCrosse, IN) and Sandy Emerson (Fort Wayne). Dana Jo is the new addition to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm's family. Mallory, Rachael, and John



are thankful for their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman and Sis. Irma Stoller. Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn are first-time parents of Lucas Ray. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Otto and Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn. Ethan John was born to Jim and Sis. Jane Linder. Ethan was welcomed home by Riley, Abbey, Haley and Corbin. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn, and Jim and Pat Linder of Payne.

On March 15, we heard the wedding engagement announcement of Sis. Dawn Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Rick Steiner (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH). We wish the couple the Lord's blessings.

We rejoice with Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) as he gives his heart to the Lord in repentance.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). We thank these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Tim and Becky Schlatter with the loss of their nephew, Eldon Hartzler (Rittman), in a car accident. Our prayers are with Bro. Melvin (Sis. Irene) Stoller, Sis. Lillian Eisenmann, Sis. Irma Stoller, Sis. Eunice (Bro. Roger) Gerber, and Sis. Lorine (Bro. Myron) Hackenjos on the loss of their brother-in-law, Roscoe Waters, of Paulding. Our prayers are with Elizabeth Waters and her family as they go through this time of loss.

We welcome our snowbirds back from the South. We miss their presence during the long winter months and are thankful each has arrived back safely.

Mother's Day is almost here. Let's be thankful for the Mothers

the Lord has given us and remember them during this day our nation has set aside for their honor.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD Cari Mann

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

*Genesis 2:24*

March 22 was the day we heard the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Stephen Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn) to Sis. Brenda Orcsik (Bro. John and Sis. Esther, Detroit, MI). As this young couple prepares for their August wedding, may they feel the love and prayers of their church family. May they ever look to God for His leading in all their plans.

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

*Col. 3:15*

March 22 was an exciting day for Bro. Dan and Sis. MaryAnn. For it was also made known to the congregation on that day that their daughter, Stephanie, has found peace with God and man and now awaits baptism. As she looks forward to that precious day, may she ever continue to grow in faith. May she always feel our prayers ever lifting her up to our Heavenly Father.

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

of sins."

*Matthew 26:26-28*

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) joined our Elder Bro. Ken Sauder in serving Holy Communion on April 4. Bro. Aaron read several of the preceding verses in the book of Matthew where it spoke of Judas asking Jesus "is it I" in response to Jesus' statement that one of them would betray Him. (see v. 22-25) As we partook of that symbolic Holy feast here on earth, several of us thought of what it would be like to one day share in that same feast at Jesus' table. Let us each one strive to live so that we would in no way betray Jesus.

Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes:

He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign;  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!  
Christ arose!

*Gospel Hymns #323 chorus*

Many gathered the evening of April 5 to hear our Sunday School children proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Let us always strive to remember that without our risen Lord, we would have no hope of a Heavenly home.

So fare ye well! Our hands are joined in parting.  
This may our final farewell greeting be.

O, let us look unto our Lord and Saviour,  
Who'll lead us into all eternity!  
O, may God's grace, our bond of love completing,  
Protect us all; this is our farewell greeting!

*Zion's Harp #114*

On Easter Sunday, we bid a fond farewell to Sis. Helen Brumm and Sis. Florence Schwartz who have moved to the nursing home in Peo-



ria, IL. We will miss their warm and friendly greetings each time we would meet. We know that the other residents will enjoy these dear sisters and our prayers go with them as they begin a new stage of their lives.

#### *A Prayer For You*

I said a prayer for you today and  
know God must have heard -  
I felt the answer in my heart  
al though He spoke no word!  
I didn't ask for wealth or fame (I  
knew you wouldn't mind)  
I asked Him to send treasures of a  
far more lasting kind!  
I asked that He'd be near you at the  
start of each new day  
To grant you health and blessings  
and friends to share your way!  
I asked for happiness for you in all  
things great and small  
But it was for His loving care I  
prayed for most of all!

How many of you can imagine your mothers praying this prayer for you? My mother gave me a little card with this poem on it a long time ago. I could imagine then and still know that she prays a similar prayer for me each day.

How thankful we need to be that our loving Heavenly Father has given us loving earthly mothers to pray for us, guide and

teach us and just be there for us whenever we needed a shoulder. As Mother's Day once again approaches, may we each take time to thank our Heavenly Father for the love of our mothers.

#### **OHIO, RITTMAN**

##### **Lucy Gasser - Carla Stoller**

March 21-22 was a special weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Mary Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Ryan Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole). Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted in the proceedings.

We gathered for Communion

services on Saturday evening, March 28. Assisting our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer were Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Several ministers have visited us recently, including Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). May each one feel God's nearness as they labor in the vineyard of our Father.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Bro. Ed Riggensbach (Sis. Anita), Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion), Sis. Joyce Hartzler (Bro. Dale), Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle (Sis. Joan) and Sis. Anna Blough. May God bless them with strength and healing.

Our prayers are extended on behalf of Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler after the death of their son, Eldon (Chasity). Surviving brothers and sisters are Fred (Mindy), Sis. Lynn, Eric, Shane and Jayna.

Much love and support were shown to Bro. Ken Maibach and Sis. Sue-Ellen Gasser on their wedding day, April 5. We will miss Sis. Sue-Ellen and her children as they will be attending the Smithville church.

We rejoice with Debbie Stoller (Brian) and Brad Hartzler (Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen) as they have turned to the Lord in repentance. May they feel the guidance from God each day.

Rich and Michele Holcomb and Mara welcomed Grant Richard into their family, born April 9. Grandparents are Glenn and Mary Jane Winkler and Jim and Charlene Holcomb.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Wilma Ramsier welcome another grandson born April 11 to Keith and Peggy Ramsier.

JoAnn Garrison welcomes a granddaughter, Grace Ann, who was born to Brian and Jenni Garrison on April 11.

#### **OHIO, SARDIS** **Joy Indermuhle**

"The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."

*Proverbs 20:7*

Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel welcomed another grandchild on March 26. Laken Maleah arrived to bless the home of their children, Dave and Amy Figel, and big brother, Justin. May each of their children and grandchildren be a blessing to them.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

*Ephesians 4:12*

We thank Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for sharing the Word with us this month. May God bless the brothers who stand so faithfully before us each time we meet.

#### **OHIO, SMITHVILLE** **Ruth Gasser - Edith Miller**

To break thy bread we now have  
gathered,  
In covenant to drink thy wine;  
As brethren we unite together,  
That unto death we might be thine.  
This promise we, with heart and  
will;  
Give grace our promise to fulfill.  
*Zion's Harp #25*

On April 4, we were again reminded of the death and suffering of our Lord Jesus, as Holy Communion was observed. We thank our Elder brothers for serving us so untiringly. Assisting our own Elder for this solemn occasion were Elder Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH). We also thank Bro. Ed for being with us the following

day and bringing forth God's Word. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God richly bless these brothers for their labors.

On April 5, Bro. Ken Maibach was united in marriage to Sis. Sue Ellen Gasser (Rittman, OH). We trust the Lord will richly bless this couple as they walk life's pathway together. We sincerely welcome Sis. Sue Ellen, along with her four children, Laura, Leah, Todd, and Bethany, to our Smithville congregation. Parents of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Ellen are Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider (Rockville, CT).

Two families have been blessed with the birth of little girls. On March 14, Grace Caroline Rhoads was born to Steve and Barb. Big sister, Elizabeth, awaited her arrival, as also did grandparents, Bill and Marge Rhoads.

On April 3, Dave and Shelly Colven welcomed Lauren Elizabeth into their family. Zachary, Morgan and Amanda are her brother and sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH). We wish God's blessings to both of these families as they raise their little ones.

We rejoice that the Lord is still calling souls to repentance. Jenny Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) heeded the Master's tender call, and we surely wish her much grace as she begins walking in the footsteps of our Lord.

Several from our number have had to spend time in the hospital recently. We trust in the healing touch of the Lord Jesus upon Sis. Mildred Hartzler, Sis. Marge Zollinger (Bro. John) and Nathan Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky).

## **OHIO, TOLEDO**

### **Rebecca Beard - Edie Fetter**

"...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;"

*I Cor. 15:3-4*

We rejoiced to once again hear the miracle of the resurrection of Christ from the grave on Easter Sunday. Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) shared this message of hope and joy with us.

We are very glad that Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa) has been able to return home after a lengthy stay in hospitals and convalescent centers. It is our prayer that he will continue to gain in health and strength.

## **OREGON, PORTLAND**

### **Louisa Gallup - Mary Berg**

Christian greetings from the beautiful northwest. We've had a couple of sunshiny days this past week that give us encouragement that warmer weather will soon be here. Springtime in Oregon can be a little gloomy with so much rain and so many gray days. But we know that all that rain soon gives way to beautiful trees and flowers and we'll soon forget how gloomy it's been.

Our best wishes to Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl Miller on the birth of their first great-grandchild. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth Endress had a little boy. We look forward to their first visit and the chance to meet little Matthew Robert.

We rejoice that our friend, Brianna Miller, has found peace with God and man and we look forward to her testimony and baptism in July.

A special thanks to the Sunday School for sharing the Good Friday and Easter story in poems and songs

with the congregation on Easter Sunday. It takes special courage sometimes for the younger ones to stand in front of a group and recite. We know Jesus is smiling in Heaven because of them!

We continue to pray for Sis. Margaret Banwart as she recuperates from her broken hip in the Mountain View Rehabilitation center. We hope she will get stronger every day and can soon return to her home.

Prayers of sympathy go out to those of our congregation who have lost relatives in the past month.

We thank Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for sharing the Word with us on Easter Sunday.

## **OREGON, SILVERTON**

### **Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

It seems Spring always brings a feeling of encouragement and hope as we notice the trees greening with new buds and the many flowers starting to bloom. As our commemoration of Christ's triumphant resurrection from the grave coincides with Springtime here in North America, we often associate this renewing of the earth with our Lord's (and therefore our own) resurrection. Perhaps this increases our joyful and hopeful attitude about this time of year.

With this same joy and hope for the future, two young couples here recently announced their engagements. We hope and pray they and their families will seek the Lord's direction in all their planning. Bruce Kuenzi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosa Lee) and Stacy Metzger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte, Lester, IA) plan to be married at the Lester Fellowship Hall on September 12, 1998. Bruce is a Dental Hygienist and Stacy is finishing her senior year at Oregon State University as an exchange student from South Dakota State University. She will graduate from SDSU in May of 1998.

Sunday, April 19, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Andy Angstrom (Richard Angstrom and Nancy O'Riley) and Sis. Renee Hari (the late Bill and Sis. Verla Hari), all of the Silverton-Salem area. Bro. Andy keeps busy with his own Silverton Apiaries business and Sis. Renee is a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Silverton Hospital. They have picked July for their wedding date.

First-time parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah Kuenzi. Little Remington Wade was born on March 28 and has so soon made himself a wonderful and time-consuming part of their home. Can't all we parents remember what an impact that first baby had on our hearts and homes! Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Stuart and Phyllis Martin.

Our sincere thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Duane Metzger (both of West Bend, IA) and Bro. Robert Miller (Oregon City/Portland, OR). This is such a wonderful benefit of our church and something we greatly appreciate.

There are dear ones in our congregation needing our thoughts and prayers. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Alice Metz (Bro. Eldon) whose grandfather, Bro. Leonard Luginbuhl (Rockville, CT), passed away. After many years confined to a wheelchair, it is surely a comfort to the family to know his struggles are ended here below. "...When at last my hour shall come, when all earthly ties are severed, and from death and toil delivered, Angel bands shall bear me home!" (Zion's Harp #245). Our sympathy also to Cliff and Violet Kuenzi, whose daughter-in-law, Shirley Christie Kuenzi (Kenny), died recently. Complications from severe Diabetes took her life at age 49.

Surely Marissa Kuenzi (Bro. Nick

and Sis. Mary) and family would appreciate our prayers and words of encouragement as Marissa bravely faces a serious and lengthy surgery on her back. Her surgery is scheduled for May 12 at Portland's Emanuel Hospital. We do appreciate having skilled specialists and excellent hospitals nearby, but we really rely on our Lord's love and mercy to guide their hands and send His healing power.

---

### PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

On March 28, Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman and Bro. Ben Wiegand read and exhorted on the Brotherhood Conference letter. We were reminded of the blessed church and faith God has given us through the faith of our fathers and of our duties and responsibility to be submissive and obedient children in His house to further this cause and to win eternal salvation. Then on Sunday, March 29, the brothers served Holy Communion in remembrance of the Lord's suffering and shed blood on the cross at Calvary as a sacrifice for the sins of fallen mankind.

A new baby girl, Megan Feeley, was born to Paul and Patricia Aeschleman, who live in Chicago. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and Tom and Jackie Feeley. May it be that this child will be reared up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

On Saturday, April 18, the Philadelphia brethren lent themselves to the spring cleaning of our church building and grounds. It was a good example of what can be done when we work together to keep God's house clean and wholesome, both physically and spiritually.

### TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

#### "What Is A Mother?"

It takes a Mother's LOVE to make a house a home,  
A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam...  
It takes a Mother's PATIENCE to bring a child up right,  
And her COURAGE and her CHEERFULNESS to make a dark day bright...  
It takes a Mother's THOUGHTFULNESS to mend the heart's deep "hurts",  
And her SKILL and her ENDURANCE to mend little socks and shirts...  
It takes a Mother's KINDNESS to forgive us when we err,  
To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer...  
It takes a Mother's WISDOM to recognize our needs  
And to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds...  
It takes a Mother's ENDLESS FAITH, her CONFIDENCE and TRUST  
To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust...  
And that is why in all this world there could not be another  
Who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER!  
—LOVINGLY by  
Helen Steiner Rice

On April 5, we were privileged to have ministering Bro. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH) and his wife, Sis. Joyce, as well as many other visitors from Latty, OH; Alto, MI; and Chicago, IL worship with us. Ministering to us on our April 19 services was Bro. Roy Ehnle (Bradford, IL). Roy's wife, Sis. Donna, and a group of approximately 25 from Princeville and Bradford, IL also worshipped with us. We especially thank the ministers for their efforts in speaking God's Word to us and ask the Lord's blessings upon all of our visitors.

June 7 (Morton, IL), June 21 (Elgin, IL), July 5 (Forrest, IL), and July 19 (Francesville, IN) are our



upcoming worship service dates along with the respective churches who will be joining us during those weekends (Lord willing). If you are traveling in the Nashville area, we welcome you to join us for these services or for a tape service on the other Sundays. Please phone one of the following contacts if you do plan to join us: Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 352-3940; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

*II Thess. 3:5*

### TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

"...That where'er I go my life may shed abroad, Fragrance of the knowledge of the love of God." (Hymns of Zion #285)

We were recently reminded of our duty to be a light for the Lord wherever we go. Our deeds and actions can be a witness even when we lack words.

We appreciate our visitors who come to support our congregation. Ministers this month include: Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), and Ben Manz (Junction, OH).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area. The last Sunday we meet at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home at Round Top.

The remainder of the month we meet in Austin at the Omni Hotel at I-35 and Hwy. 290.

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

### TEXAS, DALLAS Eric Strassheim

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. William Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS). Thank you for your efforts.

This past month, with the passing of Easter, many of our members here had some unique chances to spend time together. We learned that many of the passages in the Bible have greater meaning to those with knowledge of Jewish culture. For example, the fact that Jesus gave up His Spirit at the ninth hour is more significant to someone familiar with the Jewish culture. This would be 3 p.m., which is the time when the afternoon sacrifice of the sacrificial lamb takes place. Many other interesting occurrences fit into the perfect plan of God.

Services are typically held on the first Sunday of every month. However, this summer all services have been canceled for the months of June and July. 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

We were thankful to have Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) minister God's Word to us April 5. Bro. Wayne and his wife, Sis. Charlen, were visiting their daughter, Sis. Krista, in McAllen, TX. Sis. Krista Banwart has been working on a traveling therapy assignment since February, and has enjoyed the fellowship of the Zapata church during her stay.

Have you ever wondered what the inside of a rock looked like? Bro. John Perdelwitz collects rocks and then cuts them to make some beautiful clocks. The designs vary in grains and colors. Some of the rocks have smooth surfaces, others are rough on the outside. The rough rock can be made smooth by being river washed or ground off by wind and dust. It takes at least one hour to cut six inches of rock with a diamond saw blade. He travels many places in the United States to find the different kinds of rock.

Isn't our spiritual life a little like these rocks? Only God can see the inside of an individual. The rough spiritual life can be made smooth by faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. The smooth rock can be compared to brethren whom have weathered many a storm but through it all, have grown closer to the Father's heart.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

We are not to encourage anything that would not be the simple gospel or we are partakers of the sins. Jesus did this because Satan tempted, "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread." (Luke 4:3). Certainly we are tempted by many things and some of them can be perhaps even those aspects of physical needs that we need. Yet, for Christ to be receptive to the encouragement of Satan here, the devil would have reflected his willingness to be tempted and to do this.

Did Satan give up? No. Did Satan give up with you or me? Not usually. Oh, he may for awhile, but there would be other temptations. Jesus teaches us that we should know the Word and that we can respond to it.

Same here, another temptation says that the angels will help Him and he misinterprets a previous writing, or earlier recorded words. Jesus said, "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:8). Part of being victorious is understanding the conditions or situations we are in.

To do that assessment that we were encouraged to do this morning, to recognize the conflict that we might find ourself in, the spiritual conflict, the temptation, so we recognize temptation, we can respond in the way that is consistent with Scripture.

It has been said that when Daniel and his friends responded, they said, "No, we don't want to have this food that has been offered up to idols." This wasn't something that he had not thought about or reflected upon earlier, or perhaps in his home where his parents had taught him. The understanding of the will of God, prior to temptation helps us to react appropriately at the point of temptation rather than coming up to the point of temptation and then wondering, "What

does God's Word say about this? What does God's Word say about that?"

One thing for sure, Jesus taught us, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Luke 4:8). Satan is vigorously attempting to obscure that and causing us to divert our attention, to divert our affection, to divert our energies away from the worship of the true God and to misdirect our lives. Jesus is telling us here that there is only one true God.

Rahab came to that point, didn't she? She came to that conclusion, "Your God is the God of heaven." She responded because she saw no other plausible way to escape the certain destruction that she faced.

We are so thankful that Jesus was committed to His Father's will. I often wonder as we interact, we sometimes lose patience one with another. The Word tells us that very few would give their lives for another. Jesus saw the response and He saw the response of His community when they rejected Him. How did He go on? How did He keep going along that path that led to the cross?

We believe that He looked down to the time when He saw your life and my life and saw our great need. He saw our absolute hopelessness and He was willing to be that Sacrificial Lamb.

Certainly the saying here presented an alternate, a path of least resistance when it would have been easier for Him to not have to go to the cross. But He was willing and He was committed. We can contrast that with the nations that we read of this morning how they were unwilling to commit their lives to God's will and to the instructions the prophets had given them. For a short time, it appeared to be the best approach for them.

We read about those letters. We read about the description that it was good or it seemed good that it

seemed appropriate to them. That is the way temptation often is. Satan doesn't really come out and say, "Well, the end result will be this." When you think about that, there's really no decision at all.

Go back to Adam and Eve. If they would have had time to reflect on what that meant—that decision that faced them—would they be willing to disobey God? I don't think so for a moment.

In fact, we must reflect often on why were we not just willing to take God at His Word? Why were we not just willing to, even though maybe we didn't understand, just take Him at His Word to worship Him only and not be distracted by temptation, and to not follow the encouragement that was in direct violation to our Creator's instructions?

We are so thankful that even then God promised the Saviour. One of the blessings is that even Christ is His model, His role and even His willingness to experience temptation as you and I have experienced it, and to show us how to react when we are tempted. We are to draw upon the Word of God. To resist Satan, the Word tells us, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4:8)

When He began His ministry here, "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about." (Luke 4:14). We look at how things were done back then. The synagogues were set up and they had visiting rabbis, if you will, or they obviously visited in-between and had an opportunity for visitors to come and speak.

He took opportunity there in Nazareth. As His custom was, He went into the synagogue as He was faithful in His worship. Given that opportunity, He opened the Book of Isaiah. He said as plain as anyone could ever say what His purpose in life was...what His purpose and His

role was.

He was the One Who said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19). This was His purpose and this was His role to share with us the wonderful opportunity, the examples, the teachings, the instructions, and the way that we can be victorious.

As the two scribes described Rahab what she needed to do, Jesus shared with us. We heard it this morning and we heard it over and over that we are responsible and we are accountable to our Creator, and to our God. Unless we are reconciled through His Son, Christ Jesus, there is no hope and that it is really up to each one of us individually.

As clear as Rahab was instructed, "If you are not in that house, you will bear full responsibility for yourself. Your father, your mother, your brothers, your sisters, if they are not there, they had the choice to make."

You wonder what she did to convince them to be there. They could have said, "How could this possibly be to go into your house, and it will save us?"

Today, there are many that doubt the role of Christ Jesus. The same as those Nazarenes said, "Is He really the Son of God?" Why should I recognize Him? But let us look at His works. Let us look at His life. Let us look at His teachings. Let us believe! Let us have faith that He is the One that became poor that we might be rich. He came to give us the victory!

## Your Parents

You sons and daughters who have left home should not forget that Dad and Mother get homesick for you.

You may think that because they live in a small town and know everyone and have many friends that they do not miss you so much.

But friends nor relatives can take your place with your parents.

If you are a short distance from home, you might run down Sunday afternoons. Many a time when you go, you choose to go elsewhere.

Never a Sunday passes that Dad and Mother don't think and talk of you.

Never a Sunday that they do not hope against hope that you will come.

When you don't go to see them, there is sadness in their hearts.

You don't know how much longer you will have a father and mother to whom you can go home in trouble or in joy.

Don't wake up to the loss when it is too late to put more brightness into their lives.

If you are too far away to go often, how about a letter, instead of a visit, at least once a week?

You may feel that your life is uneventful and the things you write about would not be interesting to them; but the scratch of a pen, from the boy or girl they love so much, is precious in itself.

—J.J. Mundy



# Christ the Resurrected

We welcome now the Hero,  
Who lay in calm repose,  
For over death He triumphed  
And from the grave He rose.

O Lord, Thou hast now conquered  
That strong and crafty foe;  
This giveth faith and comfort,  
For God is with us now!

The peace, which Thou has brought us,  
All fear has put to flight;  
The righteous now in chorus  
Are singing with delight!

May we with consolation,  
Thy trophies with Thee share.  
O, that this great salvation,  
Extend here everywhere!

Our sins have all been buried  
There in the grave with Thee.  
Oh, what a blessed comfort;  
We fear no enemy!

Lord, for this great salvation  
Be Thou forever praised,  
That after life's temptations  
To heaven we'll be raised.

We shall without despairing  
Go with Thee to the grave,  
And we Thy face beholding,  
May be forever safe.

Extend Thy banner o'er us,  
And guide us to the goal!  
Beyond the grave and darkness  
To heaven lead our souls.

What is there now to harm us?  
Of death we have no fear;  
We have in our Lord Jesus  
Found grace and mercy here!

ZION'S HARP #121



...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

**A**s we read the words to this well known hymn our hearts well up within us and the melody comes to our mind. What a blessing it is to have these songs imprinted upon our spirit. Singing is the church's chief expression of its praise to God. Every hymn is the result of a deep spiritual experience in the life of the author.

In the Bible we read that Moses sang and led the people in singing. Miriam sang. Deborah and Barak sang. David sang and wrote the Psalms to sing. Solomon had 1005 songs written. Jesus and the twelve sang. Paul and Silas sang in prison. The angels sing. In heaven everyone will sing.

Singing is so important in the Christian faith, there have been over 500,000

hymns written. A singing church is well attended. A singing church has power.

Recently a man died who had made public statements about his unbelief in God. There was a notice for his funeral with a message, "*There will be no singing*". If we think about it... without God, without Christ, without redemption, without hope... what was there to sing about? Christianity is a singing religion – Atheism is songless. Heaven is vibrant with song. We will sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb for eternity. In Hell there is no singing. What a contrast.

We have much to sing about. We have a God who loves us. We have a Savior who died for us. We have hope. Let's sing the old songs. And sing them often.

# Redeeming the Time

The time flies on and death draws nigh;  
Unite us Lord, with Thee on high!  
Prepare us now to live with Thee  
For ever in eternity!

Thou knowest, Lord, the every need  
Of them who for Thy mercy plead.  
With helping hand Thine aid bestow  
To guide Thy children here below.

Deny us not the truth and light,  
Thy precious gift so clear and bright,  
The word of truth to teach us true,  
And nourish heart and soul anew.

The righteous host enlighten Thou,  
And with Thy blessings all endow.  
Thy little fold do Thou still bless  
With steadfast faith and holiness.

Thy blessings in each house shall reign;  
And may Thy flock increase and gain.  
O, Lord, from Thee all blessings flow  
Which cause good works to thrive and grow!

Grant to Thy servants grace and might  
And wisdom, working virtues bright,  
That in this time good seeds they sow  
From which eternal fruits may grow.

The treasure of pure love anew  
Preserve among Thy children true!  
Let not their innocence depart,  
But guard and hallow every heart!

O, may young men devote in truth  
To Thee the flower of their youth;  
Be maidens' beauty holiness,  
The fear of God their glorious dress!

By word and deed is brought to light  
How Thy great name is glorified.  
And pure and clean our life shall be,  
A living witness, Lord, for Thee.

O, sanctify our heart and mind,  
That we, Thy chosen ones, may find  
The path from this turmoil on earth  
To God's bright home of peace and mirth!

ZION'S HARP #188

## Today is the Day of Salvation.

...Behold, now is the accepted **time**;  
behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

## Do Not Be Deceived

Let no man deceive you with vain words:  
for because of these things cometh the  
wrath of God upon the children of  
disobedience. Be not ye therefore  
partakers with them.

For ye were sometimes darkness, but  
now are ye light in the Lord: walk as  
children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit  
is in all goodness and righteousness and  
truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto  
the Lord.

And have no fellowship with the  
unfruitful works of darkness, but rather  
reprove them. For it is a shame even to  
speak of those things which are done of  
them in secret.

But all things that are reprov'd are  
made manifest by the light: for  
whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that  
sleepest, and arise from the dead, and  
Christ shall give thee light.

See then that ye walk circumspectly,  
not as fools, but as wise, **redeeming  
the time**, because the days are evil.

EPHESIANS 5:6-16

## The Time is Short

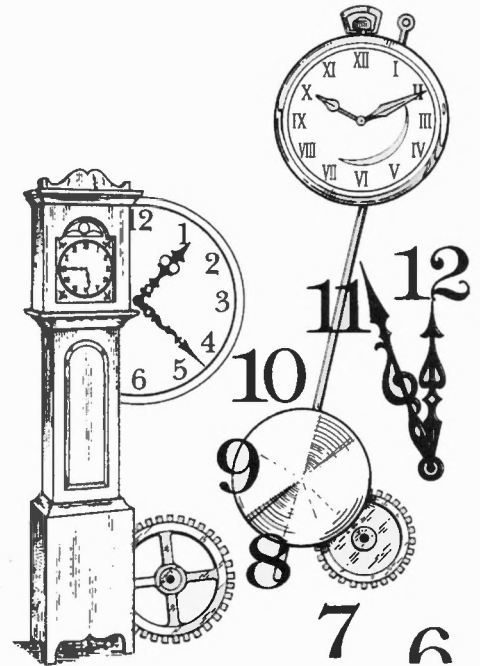
But this I say, brethren, the **time** is short:  
it remaineth, that both they that have  
wives be as though they had none;

And they that weep, as though they  
wept not; and they that rejoice, as though  
they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as  
though they possessed not.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-30

For I reckon that the sufferings of this  
present **time** are not worthy to be  
compared with the glory which shall be  
revealed in us.

ROMANS 8:18



## Let Your Speech be With Grace

Walk in wisdom toward them that are  
without, **redeeming the time**.

Let your speech be always with grace,  
seasoned with salt, that ye may know  
how ye ought to answer every man.

COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

## The Night is Far Spent The Day is at Hand

And that, knowing the time, that now it  
is high **time** to awake out of sleep: for  
now is our salvation nearer than when  
we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at  
hand: let us therefore cast off the works  
of darkness, and let us put on the armour  
of light.

ROMANS 13:11-12

## Seek God's Will

And the world passeth away, and the  
lust thereof: but he that doeth the will  
of God abideth for ever.

Little children, it is the last **time**: and  
as ye have heard that antichrist shall  
come, even now are there many  
antichrists; whereby we know that it is  
the last **time**. 1 JOHN 2:17-18



# REMEMBERING

## Our Spiritual Heritage

*Excerpts from the diary of Elder Henry Geistlich, Meilen, Switzerland, continue. He visited all the American churches in 1866.*

*Tuesday, June 19. Mansfield, OH:* The weather is pleasant. Today we went from Mansfield to Archbold, where the dear brother Braun lives. We took the train from Mansfield to Monroeville, then to Toledo and from there to Waseon, where Brother Braun really lives. At Waseon we visited Brother Weber, who is a watchmaker and a lovable brother. He has a house in which he has a special place to have church. This pleased me very much. Brother Braun came to Brother Weber's where we had church in the evening, although only a few were there.

*Wednesday, June 20. Waseon, OH:* The weather is pleasant, but hot. Today we went from Waseon, OH to Archbold by train. At Archbold there are several families from Switzerland, the brethren J. from Schaffhausen, also Brother G. Schelt from Butterhart. Brothers Bella and Braun accompanied me here. Archbold is a nice place, new and just being built up. I liked it here. The brethren here also raise some grapes. Here I saw the first grapes in bloom though I was told that the raising of grapes does not pay very well here, mostly on account of the late frosts. The potatoes were in bloom here.

*Thursday, June 21. Archbold, OH:* Weather hot. Today Brothers Bella and Braun and myself went from Archbold to Fulton to visit the brethren F.M., she being a sister of Brother A. from Schaffhausen. In the afternoon there was church. From there we went to Brother J. He was busy putting up masonry in his cellar. These two villages, Waseon and Archbold, are close together. The climate is healthy here but very warm. The land is fairly good and cheap although there is some timber land and swamp. The wages are also good. There are many brethren living here. All in all, I liked it here very much but it suits me best in our own dear Switzerland. Many brethren do not like it because I feel this way, yet there are some who feel as I do. The homesickness in many is yet strong for their fatherland. They will take it with them to the grave. The best

homesickness is, if we carry a longing in our heart that we find in II Corinthians, Chapter 5. This reads "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The 4th verse also speaks of it: "For we that are in this tabernacle do groan," etc. Yet often there are days when a special longing for that heavenly home overtakes us, so that we would sooner be at home than to journey further in this world, but we must wait until the Lord calls. This waiting takes all our patience to task, and more so, if many trials and provings come over us. In this we learn to be patient.

*Friday, June 22. Waseon, OH:* Weather very hot. Today accompanied by Bro. Joseph Bella, I left Ohio for Peoria, IL leaving here at 2:30 in the morning, arriving at Chicago, IL at 11:00 where we had to wait until midnight to get a train for Peoria. While waiting in this city I had many thoughts, thinking how far I am away from home and from my dear ones, thinking I have chosen myself all this trouble and worry which I have had on my trip. And I was also very tired, being unable to sleep during the past night. However, I consoled myself with our dear Saviour, Who in the place of the joy which He could have had, chose to carry the cross patiently and did not mind the shame, going through pain and suffering, often not knowing where He should lay His head. This all He did for the love He had toward us, and therefore, we are indebted to Him, that we can become worthy of Him and His kingdom.

*Saturday, June 23. Chicago, IL:* At midnight we left Chicago for Peoria, arriving at 8:00 a.m. Peoria is an orderly city, built up new, but unhealthy. After arriving, we came first to the brethren B who are from Baden, Germany. Brethren A and the brethren K who are from Switzerland also came here, weeping as they saw us. They were all homesick for Switzerland. One could see that they would like to go back. The brethren B were very kind to us.

*Sunday, June 24. Peoria, IL:* The weather is very hot. The past night we

stayed by the brethren B, but it was so hot that I could hardly sleep. In the daytime the heat penetrates the houses so that one is unable to sleep at night. Today there was church by Bro. John F. Hartman, who is at the head of the church here. We had a blessed day. For my text I read in Galatians, Chapter 4.

*Monday, June 25. Peoria, IL:* In the late Civil War, 800 men fell from Peoria alone. Today a brother named P. from the country came and got us. We visited Sister R., who is from Bern. Bro. P. took us to the brethren Bittner at Partridge. The brethren Leuthold also came to Partridge today.

*Tuesday, June 26. Partridge Prairie:* We stayed by Bro. Bittner. Bro. Bittner is a rich farmer. Here there are some wealthy brethren, owning lots of land. The land here is fertile and productive. Bro. Bittner owns about 800 acres of land. Today I met the brethren R. from Eglisau.

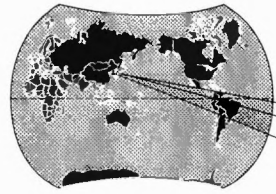
*Wednesday, June 27. Partridge Prairie:* Today we came to the new settlement of Roanoke. Bro. Bittner took us first to the brethren B. who live on Bro. Bittner's place. There we enjoyed our visit very much but were almost overcome with homesickness, they weeping day and night. Well, what is to be done? They are here and should make the best of it, but I thought that many are deceived as to America. We also visited Bro. F. and they were very glad to see us. They are getting along fairly well, having a place of 120 acres which they rent. From here we came to Metamora, then to Bro. Benedict Weyeneth's home, where we stayed.

*Thursday, June 28. Roanoke with Bro. Weyeneth:* Weather fair. Last night I had a dream, which was: I ate black cherries and I saw my relatives clothed in black. In the morning after I awoke I was worried, thinking that perhaps one of my relatives had died, yet there was nothing to be done. I was satisfied with whatever the Lord does, doing that which is pleasing to Him.

*By Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**Nest Issue:**  
*The Geistlich Diary Continues*





# *The Light Of Hope*

## *From Across The Ocean*



# 希望の光

### **"A Mother's Instinct"**

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

Mothers are wonderful, especially mine, although she has already passed on to the really beautiful world called Paradise, or Heaven. You probably think that your mother is wonderful, too, but I don't mind. As far as I'm concerned, all mothers are wonderful. But what makes them so wonderful? At first I was going to say that it is a mother's love, which resembles God's love, which makes them so wonderful, but suddenly I find myself thinking about a mother's instinct, that built-in mechanism which causes a mother's love to spring into action spontaneously, especially when it comes to protecting her children, or her husband.

Birds and animals also have this mother's instinct. Jesus said, speaking to Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matthew 23:37). I remember as a boy on the farm in Illi-

nois, seeing a mother hen call her chicks to come in under her wings if there was any danger, including a sudden thunderstorm. She would spread her wings and with a "cluck, cluck, cluck", call her chicks and they would come and tuck themselves under their mother's wings. I can relate to the analogy that Jesus used.

In Deuteronomy 32:11 we read how the Lord treated Jacob, "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him." I have been told that an eagle pushes her young out of the nest on a high cliff and lets them fall, and then swoops down under them, permitting the young to fall onto the mother's wings. That's like faith—we plunge and are confident that God will more than take care of us and we will surely land on something safe

and secure.

It is touching to read how Hannah, Samuel's mother, wanted to do something nice for him, after lending him to the Lord to serve with Eli, in accordance with her vow, before Samuel was conceived. "Moreover, his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice." (I Samuel 2:19). This is typical of a mother, always thinking, "What can I do for our children and grandchildren, something which would be good for them and which would make them happy?"

Mothers, you are wonderful. God has put into your heart and soul something of His own love and instinct. And all you ladies who have not become mothers, even as single maidens you will always have that love and instinct which you may demonstrate to many children who are not your own.

# 希望の光

