

The Silver Lining



Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

March 1999

"JESUS IS OUR PRECIOUS SHINING LIGHT"

Sermon by Bro. Chris Huber, Francesville, IN

John 1:1-34

John was writing this Word, and he was really not a lot different than any of us. He was a businessman and knew what it was like to have the daily pressures of keeping men busy in working a business and working to make a living. At one time, I believe, the Lord Jesus called him "The son of thunder." (See Mark 3:17). He must have had a temper somewhat and yet, we can see how the Lord molded him and humbled him.

For any of us, we all have, perhaps, at least I know I sure do, I have some things that I would love to see the Lord change and I would love to be a little different in some areas. But the Lord can change us. I don't know how many times, but maybe half a dozen times in the Scripture it says that he was the disciple that Jesus loved. Isn't that precious? One time the Lord called him "The son of thunder" because he is quick on the draw and yet, the Lord Jesus loved him.

One time at supper time, we find John on Jesus' breast. They were evidently very close, and may it be so in our lives, beloved. Sometime we can say, "Well, maybe I am not quite right in this area," so we draw back from God. May it be just the opposite and may it cause us to draw close to Him. It is because of Jesus Christ that we read about here that we have that privilege and we have that right.

He talks about grace for grace. When we understand the grace of God and the forgiveness of God, then there is just more grace for every need in our lives.

It began, "In the beginning was

the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1). What is the Word, beloved? What is the Word as we read here, "In the beginning was the Word..." We know that if we think of the Word as this Word that we see today, this precious Word that gives us instruction, comfort, reprove and there is everything that we need right here, beloved, to direct us in life. The Word is God's revelation of Himself to us, isn't it? It is God revealing Himself and opening Himself to us and He did it in such a precious way through the life of the Lord Jesus Christ...Christ being God with us.

"In the beginning was the Word..." We have a Bible class at home and one of the questions that was asked in the Bible class, one of the young men said, "What does it mean The Word?" Communication is so important in life. Is it that in the beginning communication was one of the first things that God created? Oh, yes, in a sense but that communication, beloved, if it is not in Jesus Christ, we miss the mark, don't we?

"In the beginning was the Word..." We can read in Genesis, "In the beginning..." What happened in the beginning, dear ones? It says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1). God spoke in the beginning and I take that to mean that in the beginning was the Word. The Word was there. The Word always was. God always was. Jesus always was.

But in the beginning, as we read of it here, the world began. In the

beginning, God created and God spoke and the galaxies and the planets all whirled into place. God spoke and there were plants and animals breathing and pulsing. God spoke and there were human beings created with the heart beat and the capability of loving, and the capability of sharing and giving.

Sermon continued on page 45

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

April

1. Bloomington/Normal, IL
2. Detroit, MI
3. Indianapolis, IN
4. Morris, MN
5. Sabetha, KS
6. South Bend, IN
7. Wolcott, IN

Next correspondence due:

For April Issue

(16 Feb. News - 15 March News)

Due: 20 March 1999

The Silver Lining (Vol. 53, #3)
RR 2 Box 50 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Wayne Anliker, Ervin Knecht

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)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 1999

Faith Without Works Is Dead

We often hear sincere children of God discuss the topic of faith vs. works as they relate to salvation. We know that we can never do enough good works to earn our salvation. Yet we know that "...faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (Ja. 2:17). What, then, is the duty of a child of God as it relates to faith and works?

The attitude of so many in nominal Christendom is to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and be saved. This process of instant salvation has significant appeal in a world in which instant gratification is the normal expectation. We have fast food, fast transportation, fast communication, fast credit, fast entertainment, etc. Why not fast salvation?

The ability to receive almost instant gratification from the above list is dependent upon someone else having provided the means to allow us to have these material items so rapidly. If it were not for a great deal of organization, management and technological know how applied, there would be no means available for these things to be given to us so rapidly.

Salvation, on the other hand, is not something that can be given to us by someone else. There is one part of the nominal Christian version of salvation that is accurate. Salvation is dependent upon our having a knowledge of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a relationship that must be nurtured in such a way that it can grow over a period of time.

Numerous places in the scripture we are instructed that we begin our relationship with Christ as babes and then we are to grow. We are instructed that "as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (II Peter 2:2). The Apostle Paul, in admonishing and exhorting the Corinthian Christians to grow, expressed dismay that they had not gotten past the "milk stage" of Christianity. He wrote to them "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able" (I Cor. 3:2). He further

encouraged them to "...be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be children, but in understanding be men" (I Cor. 14:20).

He also encouraged the Galatians that "...we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Eph. 4:14-15).

Therefore, we can come to understand that salvation is not accomplished as an instant act nor from a short term commitment.

There is no doubt that salvation is available to us through faith. In Ephesians we are instructed very clearly that "...by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). In instructing His disciples, Jesus Christ reminded them that it was His blood "...which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:28) that makes salvation possible.

The Apostle Paul reminded the Romans that of ourselves, we are nothing. We have nothing to boast of because boasting "...is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay; but by the law of faith" (Ro. 3:27).

What role then does works have in our salvation? The writings of James makes it very clear that works are a part of the requirements for a Child of God. Are Paul and James lacking in harmony? Is there a division between them? Paul again addresses this issue when he wrote "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you;" (I Cor. 1:10). He also reminded them to "...Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind..." (II Cor. 13:11).

Since Christ is not divided and God's people must be of one mind, we can understand that the writings of Paul and the writings of James complement each

other. They are not contradictory towards each other but supplementary.

Works then are a result of faith. After we have established a foundation of faith we are prepared to grow. Certainly our faith gets stronger as we mature and learn to know our Heavenly Father better. This maturity brings a desire to be of greater service to God.

James emphasizes a faith of action. He reminds us that we are to take advantage of the God given opportunities to do good. If we see one in need and do nothing to help them, then our faith is of no significance. If we simply acknowledge the need of the destitute and do nothing for them, we have neither warmed nor filled them. "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit" (Ja. 2:14-16)?

If taken out of their proper context, the statements of the Apostles Paul and James could be made to appear to contradict one another.

However, in I Cor. 13, this issue is laid to rest. In this beautiful exhortation, the faith vs. works issue is brought together and resolved. Here we are clearly instructed that works by themselves would leave us as nothing and be of no profit to us. Read I Cor. 13 for further study.

Therefore we take the instruction of Paul "...by grace are ye saved through faith..." (Eph. 2:8) and the instructions of James "...faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone..." (Ja. 2:17) being brought together by charity. A long list of works is mentioned and we are given to understand that these works, being alone, are of no value to us. We can, however, make them a significant part of our faith by heeding the final verse in that chapter: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (I Cor. 13:13).



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

Church Dedication in Ixtlan, Mexico



With the support of the Mission Committee the work of the Lord continues in Ixtlan, Mexico. Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold have benefitted from your prayers as they seek to bring the gospel message to lost souls in this area in Mexico. This photo shows many of the children that now have the opportunity to learn about the Bible.

At first, services were held in their home, which was very small and uncomfortable for even a small group. Last year approval

was given to construct a church building next to their home as shown in the photograph at the beginning of the article. Many brethren contributed time and money so that this could become a reality.

The physical work of providing new facilities for this budding congregation was completed late in 1998. Dedication of this church was held on January 24, 1999.

Elder Bros. David Wiegand, Wendell Gudeman, Roy Grimm, and Chuck Hemmer conducted these

services, and submitted the following report of what occurred when they were in Mexico.

Friday, January 22

The four brothers and their wives met in Dallas, Texas, and flew together to Guadalajara, Mexico. There they rented a van to drive to Ixtlan. They arrived at approximately 6:30 PM. Sister Jan Heinold had a meal waiting when they arrived in Ixtlan. After a nice visit, they drove on to the Hotel Jerico at Zamora.

Saturday, January 23

After breakfast at the hotel, they drove back to Ixtlan where they heard the testimonies of Areli and Lorenia



Sibaja, two girls who are natives of Ixtlan. Bro. Roy lead in the testimony of Areli, and Bro. Chuck lead in the testimony of Lorenia. Both spoke in Spanish, and Sis. Jan Heinold translated.

In the evening after a short service explaining baptism by Bro. Marshall, Bro. Chuck baptized Areli and Bro. Roy baptized Lorenia. Bro. Chuck had the prayer of consecration. After a time of fellowship everyone returned to their quarters for the night.

Sunday, January 24

The morning Bible class was conducted in Spanish while the four elders visited the other Sunday School classes.

The dedication service was held in the evening with Bro. Dave speaking on I Kings 8:56-63 and then Bro. Wendell spoke on Ephesians 2:19-22 and Ephesians 3:14-21. Bro. Marshall had the dedication prayer. After more fellowship, the elders went back to their hotel to spend the night.

Monday, January 25

This morning, Bro. Marshall, Sis. Jan and Sis. Jenny Kellenberger met the Americans at the hotel for a farewell breakfast. After parting they drove back to Guadalajara for the flight back to Dallas.

Before parting, Bro. Marshall gave thanks to God for the blessings of the weekend and asked God's continued protection on the return journey of those who came from the USA.

In Retrospect

As the brethren who attended this important service, which had the endorsement of the Mission Committee, looked back on what they had seen, heard, and participated in, they recalled the following scripture.

*This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous
in our eyes.*

PSALM 118:23





APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

Mexico Board Activities

Medical and Construction

The World Relief work in Mexico is divided between medical and construction. The medical arm consists of two trips per year, Lord willing. The AMMAR group that we work with in Juarez wanted to help poorer people deeper in Mexico.

Working together, the past November and again in March, plans are to go into Mexico to medically assist the Mexican Indians in the Copper Canyon area. In November, 2,082 patients were cared for. The Lord certainly provided, keeping all safe, especially while traveling on the rough back roads.

The people of Juarez planned the trip, arranged the accommodations, and 23 Mexicans were involved in the medical assistance trip with us. The example of those whom we view as nearly destitute wanting to be of service to others is a wonderful testimony to us. The Mexican government was instrumental in helping and assisting with facilitation of the trip. It is a blessing to enjoy the support of the governing party at this time.

March trip is being planned

In March, the medical team is again planning to return to the Copper Canyon. This time, they are expecting to see approximately 5000 patients. Many of these people earn less than \$20 per month, so medical care is virtually nonexistent. This area has a strong Catholic influence and in the past were not friendly to our involvement. Thankfully, at this time, the door seems to have been opened.

Summer medical team planned

We are again scheduling a late summer medical team for Juarez. If interested, contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann at

309/385-1082. Pharmacists and dentists are especially needed for this trip.

Construction team projects

The construction teams continue in Juarez. The AMMAR group decides who needs or deserves a new home or bathroom and gives us direction in all the construction projects. Five building teams are scheduled at this time for 1999. These teams will be working to provide decent shelter for those in great need.

Amid such widespread poverty, our efforts seem small and insignificant. However, when we consider the responses of those who have received our assistance, we are humbled and encouraged. Our friends in Mexico tell us that they pray for their American friends on a regular schedule. Amid the lack of luxury, they find time to specifically pray for us. Can we with a pure heart say the same to them?

Government regulations easing

The easing of government regulations has been a blessing for the delivery of good to Mexico. A semi load of medical and building supplies was delivered in October. Later, a load was shipped to El Paso to be distributed to the Mexican Indians in the interior. Two more loads were shipped in February.

Consumer goods and computers

The February loads contained corn to be used for human consumption, canned goods, cereal, clothes, bicycles, computers and additional building supplies. Thanks to a generous donation of nearly 40 computers, the Mexican people are planning to not only have computer classes for the school children, but to plan to use them for adult

instruction as well. Education seems to be a key for helping to break the poverty cycle.

Bicycles are gratefully received

The response to a used bicycle drive was overwhelming, and to date over 100 bikes have been shipped with approximately 30 more to be shipped on another load. Most of the trucking has been donated by brethren or those acquainted with the work in Mexico. If you have a tractor-trailer CDL license and would be interested in helping with this work, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 219/597-7330.

Work team to Agua Prieta

This March, a work team is scheduled for Agua Prieta, a border town south of Douglas, Arizona. There is a large influx of refugees from the interior of Mexico coming to the border in hope of a better life. This team plans to build several small homes for some of the refugees. There is an organization established there that will help us and arrange our supplies.

AMMAR funding continues

We continue to fund the AMMAR group in their efforts in the child lunch program. This project has been ongoing for the past eleven years, and countless children have benefited. Community children are fed a delicious hot meal three times each week after listening to a Bible story and singing.

The blessings received by going on a work team are unexplainable. The simple joy of intense fellowship with Apostolic Christian brethren from across the land is truly a taste of Heaven. Returning work team members often comment that being willing to lend our talents to those in need brings to us bountiful blessings.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As winter draws to a close, we at ACHH are excited for the upcoming spring. As flowers bloom and landscapes liven, we are once again reminded of how blessed we are to have a Creator who has painted our lives with such natural beauty. Here at ACHH, we are filled with March gladness, as our residents begin to take advantage of the warm weather. As we begin to shed those layers of winter clothes, many of our residents are beginning to train for the Special Olympics, which will be held in late spring. Other extracurricular events for the month include a local pancake supper and a Hazelwood open house celebrating Mike Bodtke's 60th birthday.

As always, we appreciate everyone's prayerful support and would like to thank all volunteers for their selfless efforts during these cold wintry months.

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Brenda Fiechter

Value. We are all concerned about our value. Who do we compare ourselves to? And on what standard? We were recently challenged, at our February retreat, to keep our focus on God for our

sense of value. Genesis 1:26-27 states we are created in His own image. "In the image of God created he him." So, we are made like Him and He ensures salvation so we may be more like Him in Spirit. "Nevertheless, he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known." (Psalm 106:8). Here is the beginning for our sense of value. We are given opportunities to "make His mighty power known". Are we using our opportunities? Paul writes many principles and examples to improve our lives by serving others, thus making God's power known. Next, we need to identify that Satan is a liar, and some specific behaviors identified in God's Word (Eph. 5:3-7 & Col. 3:5-10). Our sense of value is directly affected by our conscience. God has set up a wonderful plan for our lives from the beginning to the end. Are we going to use our opportunities to make God's power known, or our fleshly desires? It makes a difference on our sense of value!

Please continue to pray for us as we minister directly with children and their families to instill value in their lives. Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf along with their assistant, Sis. Lisa Waibel, welcome Dustin S. into their home. In foster care, Victor has moved in with Walt and Sis. Cheri Snodgrass, Jonathon with the Colberts, Bridget with the Letz's; also Travis, Chelsea, and Joseph are now with Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Kipfer.

This brings the Foster Care Department of Gateway Woods up to 28 children in placement. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Baumgartner, being assisted by Sis. Terri Mueller, are doing a fine job of lining all these

children up with foster-parents and following up with them.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand, along with their two boys, Demetrius and Sebastian, have taken the baton from Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter and are now the full-time houseparents. Please pray for the Wiegands, their assistant, Sis. Jill Gramm, and the children in their care, that transitions will be smooth and comforting. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda, along with Kyle, Shannon, and foster son Bill, have moved to the Leo area and are developing a Home-based Care Department for Gateway Woods. May God grant the perseverance and vision it takes to start a new program.

With the Wiegands moving into the houseparent position, we have an immediate need for Alternate Houseparents. We also have positions available for a Business Manager and a Counselor. Please prayerfully consider these positions for yourself or others in your contact.

Bro. Tim Sauder, our administrator, had extensive back surgery this month. The surgery was successful, but please pray for solid recovery during the long healing process. We praise God for the progress so far, and are thankful for those who are filling in the gap while Tim is gone from work.

In conclusion, may we accept from God, as well as give to others:

Grace (undeserved help)

Mercy (undeserved forgiveness)

Peace (knowing that God is in control during the storm)

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Joan Reinhard**

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small, All
things wise and wonderful, The
Lord God made them all." (Hymns
of Zion #207). This is our month
to study the color yellow, taking
care of our bodies, and animals. It
is always refreshing to view the
creation from a child's perspective.
The animals and creatures, that
the Lord created, each have such
unique beauty. What a wonderful
God we have! He gives us the re-
sponsibility of taking care of the
creation, and we are part of His
creation!

We are already thinking about
and getting ready for summer.
Most of our students will be with
us in the summer and we plan to
add a few school-agers, too. This,
along with staff vacations, is going
to keep us very busy. We would
love to have some extra volunteer
help this summer. We can provide
accommodations for individuals or
small groups and we would en-
courage you to let us know as soon
as possible when it would work for
you to come, so we do not overlap
groups. Thank you in advance and
come and learn to enjoy some time
through the eyes of a three-year-
old. A little piece of your heart will
remain here. "Whosoever there-
fore shall humble himself as this
little child, the same is the greatest
in the kingdom of heaven. And
whoso shall receive one such little
child in my name receiveth me."
(Matthew 18:4-5)

Thank you to those who have
helped us with our sponsor pro-
gram. We greatly appreciate your
support and the children are truly
benefiting. Come visit if you can.

For those of you who would like
more information, we have a small
sponsor program here for those
families who do not have the
means to pay the full tuition for
their child to attend Preschool. If
anyone would be interested in
sponsoring a child through their
preschool years, please contact Sis.
Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838
or call the Preschool at (256) 233-
0591.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

Last month we welcomed Sis.
Erin Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis.
Beth) to our congregation. This
month we are pleased to announce
her engagement to Bro. Andy
Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy)
from Morton, IL. The good news
for us, though, is that Bro. Andy
plans to move here after the wed-
ding and continue his education at
the University of Alabama in
Huntsville. Sis. Erin will continue
teaching at the Preschool. Con-
gratulations to them both and we
wish them the Lord's blessings as
they go through these changes.

The weekend of February 6-7,
we had a group of young brothers
and sisters (mostly from Purdue
University) come to spend a few
days here. They worked on Satur-
day on a couple of service projects
here to help some of our church
people. This help was very much
appreciated and their cheerful
willingness was a testimony to all.
Thank you each one who came.

"And the King shall answer and
say unto them, Verily I say unto
you, Inasmuch as ye have done it
unto one of the least of these my
brethren, ye have done it unto
me."

Matthew 25:40

We ended the day on Saturday
with an all church singing and it
was a real blessing to join our
voices in songs of praise to the One
who has given us all things.

We had some other visitors this
month from Bloomington, Mor-
ton, Peoria and Tremont, IL.
Thank you each one for coming
and including Athens in your
plans.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Draw nigh to God, and he will
draw nigh to you. Cleanse your
hands, ye sinners; and purify your
hearts, ye double minded."

James 4:8

We have been blessed with six
visiting ministers from January 20
through February 14 and give
thanks to each dear brother who
came: Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor,
MO), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Paul
Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Doug
Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Roger Ab-
erle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro.
Jon Lehman (Bern, KS).

Elder Bro. Jon Lehman came to
help our Elder Bro. Jon
Kokanovich read the Memorandum
letter on February 7.

Our Sunday School classes (Jr.
High and High School) enjoyed the
President's Day weekend in Tuc-
son with their Sunday School
group. We thank them for the
Christian fellowship.

Sis. Linda Zollinger was hospi-
talized for knee surgery. Joe and
Dottie Schumacher also need our
prayers as do our lengthy list of not
feeling well brethren.

Our folks find many things to do

at the World Relief weekly meetings—come join and share the work.

Phyliss Blunier Schacherbauer died January 16. Funeral services were at East Resthaven Chapel with our Apostolic Christian ministers officiating on January 21. Our church choir sang. Many relatives, including 12 brothers and sisters, came from out of state for her funeral. We extend our sympathy to all her family. God has promised not to forsake us in our time of need!

On February 9, Ella Trent Gibboney died. Her memorial services were held February 13 at Grace Bible Church, Sun City. She is survived by her husband, Dean; Bro. Ed Trent and family, among other relatives. Ella showed her love for the Lord in many ways. She will be missed.

We are looking forward to Justin and Stephanie Gramm's testimonies and baptisms on February 20-21. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise Gramm.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer became first-time parents on February 5 when Kara Justine was born. Her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO). Great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina Dotterer. May God bless baby Kara and her parents.

Our prayers are with our Elder Brothers as they convene for the Winter Conference. PLEASE preserve our churches so they are a House of God—not a house of horror.

Your Silver Lining donation is due in March. Your reporters are

collecting. Please make checks for the Silver Lining to the Apostolic Christian Church. Thank you.

God is our strength and refuge. He will see us through our bad times. Talk to Him—He cares for you!

Notes of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your love, prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, food, to the ministers, to the choir and the meals and food committee during our sister Phyliss's death and funeral. We are most grateful for your kind deeds done in Christian love. May God bless and be your Rewarder.

The brothers, sisters and families of Phyliss Blunier Schacherbauer

We wish to thank you for your prayers, love and numerous kind deeds done for us during and after our knee (Gaylord) and hip surgery (Sis. Shirley). Everything is very much appreciated; the prepared meals were a Godsend, and the lap comforter is truly a real blessing to aid healing.

*God's love and blessings,
Gaylord and Sis. Shirley
Blunier*

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges**

"Man of sorrows," what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Lifted up was He to die,
"It is finished," was His cry,
Now in Heaven exalted high;
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

As Easter approaches, we

should reflect back on our lives before our salvation, and be thankful for all the Lord has endured for us, when He left Heaven as sacrifice for our sins, paying a price we could not pay.

Providing the ministry for our congregation the last month were Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bert Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We appreciate their love and service so much and pray God will reward them richly.

We will miss Bro. Arnie and his wife, Sis. Marj, who have returned home after staying in our area around a month.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). Bro. Wendell Gudeman was here as we hosted the Sunday Schools from Altadena and San Diego, CA and Phoenix, AZ. He was the guest speaker in Sunday School in the afternoon. We appreciate the words of wisdom he had for the students and the love he has for the young people of our church. May God add His blessing to all of the brethren who traveled through Tucson this past month and shared God's Word with us.

As I mentioned, we were privileged to host many young people President's weekend for activities and fellowship. We hope they enjoyed themselves as much as the rest of us did! It was a beautiful weekend with sunny weather and temperatures in the low 80's. Such

a blessing because the students spent most of their time outdoors over the weekend. Special thanks to the Sunday Schools from Altadena, San Diego and Phoenix for making the trip to Tucson and to our Superintendent, Bro. Steve Bauer, and his wife, Sis. Maria, for their work to make the weekend such a blessing.

This past month held many blessings for the Tucson church but I think we would all agree that the day Mindy Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) decided to repent would have to stand out above all else. Mindy is a sophomore in high school. I'm sure she would desire our prayers that she could grow in grace and faith during her conversion. In a small church like ours, we sometimes go years without a convert and we forget what a blessing it is and what cause it is for praise to our Heavenly Father.

Our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, was hospitalized recently. He is home now and was able to assemble with us in church, where I know he was happy to be. We are thankful he is up and around and on his way to a full recovery.

We have missed our Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr who have been under the weather recently. A particularly severe strain of flu and infections have been going around lately. We pray God will restore their health in full measure. We look forward to having Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge back with us each Sunday. Each member in Tucson is needed and appreciated!

Winter has been even less evident in Tucson this year than normal. We continue to have temperatures in the 80's and no cooling in sight. The days are ab-

solutely gorgeous with clear skies and bright sunshine. It has forced us into the closet to dig out some warm weather clothing and put our lightweight jackets (usually kept out for those "cold" evenings in the 50's) towards the back of the closet. I dare not complain but I wouldn't mind being able to wear a sweater just one more time before summer gets here!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

"March". In my dictionary, it not only means a month in the year, but also: "To walk steadily and rhythmically forward in step with others. To proceed directly and purposefully, to advance."

We as children of God are called to march in His army, loving our enemies and doing good to those who persecute us. Eph. 6:12-13 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..." And what action do we take once we have put on the armor? We march forward! A couple of songs come to mind when we think of marching: "We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion..." and "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war..." Notice that neither of these songs say anything like "meandering to Zion", or "cowering as to war". We are to march boldly, putting our faith and trust in the strength of Him who is our Deliverer.

On February 14, our friend,

Doris Kaisner (Graf), passed away. We extend our sympathy to her sisters and brothers, Bro. Clarence Graf, Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach, Bro. Virgil Graf, Lucy Griffith, Sis. Judy Crockett and Dale Graf.

On February 21, Bro. Bob Crockett's (Sis. Judy) mother passed away in Arkansas. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bob and his dear family.

Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley) has undergone cancer surgery. The surgeon was unable to remove all of the small lesions from his liver. In man's eyes this is bad news—but our congregation and believers around the country are standing together before the throne of God pleading for the life and health of our dear Bro. Jeff. Chemotherapy will be administered directly to the liver, and a major change of diet will help his body to heal and fight the disease. Greater than man's efforts, God is sovereign. In Him alone we put our trust!

On January 24, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) here to help present the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Robert Miller (Portland, OR) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) during the month of February.

Now, with God's grace we shall take up His armor and march on! "Thou therefore endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 2:3)

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

This past month we have been blessed with more winter visitors, which we appreciate so much.

Among them were ministering Bro. Mike Rieker and his wife, Sis. Carol (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Bob Miller and his wife, Sis. Pearl (Portland, OR). We pray the Lord will bless each of them for their willingness to be used for our edification.

The weekend of February 13-14, the Bible Class traveled to Tucson, AZ for their annual Sunday School get-together. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) spoke to the Arizona and California Bible Classes. He warned them that the longer we wait to repent, the harder our hearts become, just as concrete becomes harder and harder the longer it sets. We want to thank the Tucson congregation for their love and hospitality.

As we approach the Easter season, may we take time from our busy schedules to discard from our thoughts the world's celebration of Easter and to reflect upon our loving Saviour's death and suffering upon the cross of Calvary.

Golgotha

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

Thou, Lord, has for me devoted
soul and body, life and all;
So there shall be consecrated
all I have both great and small,
All my efforts and endeavor
to Thy service and Thy call.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"My son, let not them depart

from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion; so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

Proverbs 3:21-24

According to the Vine's Bible Dictionary, Biblical wisdom is "the ability to discern modes of action with a view to their result" and "applying this wisdom to every situation in life." Discreet is defined as "of a sound mind, self-controlled, and prudently." If we keep these, we are promised safety, absence of fear, not stumbling and sweet sleep. We also will have life for our souls and grace to adorn us. May we continue to strive to keep wisdom and discretion.

We are thankful for God's direction revealed to our Sis. Marisa Wirz and Bro. Mike Schumacher (Oakville, IA) as they have announced their engagement. Bro. Mike's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Elizabeth Schumacher (Burlington, IA) and Sis. Marisa's parents are Oscar and Catalina Wirz and the late Sofia Sremacde Wirz, all brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church of the Nazarenes in Argentina.

We are thankful for our visiting minister, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), last month and for all the other visitors we enjoyed fellowship with. We appreciate the extra efforts brethren and friends make to visit our congregation.

Please continue to pray for us as we work to complete our church building. We are thankful for the many volunteers we have had to

help us, including those that worked to make the trim which has now been installed. May God bless your efforts and work. We are also thankful for the extra efforts of Bro. Orin Reufner who is on the National Building Committee and Bro. David Fortenbacher, who is our local building coordinator.

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

Mark Ramseyer

heart: noun. 1. The hollow muscular organ...that pumps blood...thereby supplying the entire circulatory system. 3. The vital center of one's being, emotions, and sensibilities. 4b. Capacity for sympathy or concern; compassion. 4c. Love, (excerpts from the American Heritage Dictionary). The Denver church seemed to have a lot of heart in the past few weeks.

On February 4, Bro. Verne Lehman celebrated the 4th anniversary of getting his new heart. At that time he had a limited time to live if he did not receive a transplant. Apparently God still had some work for Verne to do and realized that His message could be spread more effectively through Verne continuing to live, so God provided a way for Verne to get a new heart and to spread His message. Although the way has not always been easy, Sis. Leona, Verne's wife, has provided extra strength and encouragement. Since then, Verne has ensured

that most every visitor to the Denver church and many others in his daily activities and other Apostolic Christian churches, hears of the miracle that God has performed for him. Verne is helping all of us remember that even though God may not have given us a second physical heart, He has given us a completely new spiritual heart, and we owe Him our lives for saving ours.

A couple days later the church celebrated the 25th wedding anniversary of Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (the actual anniversary was February 3). Both were surprised as they came into the dining room to hear "Happy Anniversary" being sung and saw cake and punch served. The whole church enjoyed sharing in the joyous occasion and the added time of fellowship. The anniversary helped us all realize that a union of hearts with God involved will last and last.

Recently our church heard of the new complications of Sis. Kris Bauman (Goodfield, IL), daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene Le-man of our Denver church. For two years, Kris has been battling, with the help of her husband, Bro. Ben, to remain healthy. This latest news informed us that her cancer has returned again. We were all discouraged and prayed for God's direction and strength for Ben and Kris and their families. We also are looking forward to them taking a trip to the clean air of Colorado so we can share our compassion and love.

Although modern Valentine's Day is certainly a commercial holiday, with the right frame of mind and focus we all can celebrate it as

a Christian holiday. What better way to share the Gospel than to let others know to whom we have given our heart. If Jesus hadn't shown His love by dying and shedding His blood for us, we certainly would be incapable of showing true love to others.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

Precious Owen William was born January 21 to Bruce and Karyn Kloter. His brother, Benjamin, has a new baby to love. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter and Al and Margaret Krause. May God direct their hearts to teach both their children of His loving ways.

"Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine..." (Zion's Harp #209). Our congregation witnessed the baptisms of five dear souls. We welcome Bro. Steven LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri), Bro. Nathan Hoffman (Bro. Michael and Luann), Bro. Alan Schulz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill Welti into the fellowship of Christ. Our hearts rejoice in God's loving mercy and grace afforded to those who are willing to serve Him.

We thank our dear loving brethren who serve us on the pulpit. Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the testimonies and baptisms. Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) has also been in our midst. We so appreciate our loved ones who are willing to be used as instruments to impart to us God's will.

"Just over the river, just over

the river, I'm told is the city of God..." (Hymns of Zion #197). May God be with the family of Sis. Dorothy Barton who passed away on January 20. She leaves her beloved husband, Bro. Norman, and daughter, Sis. Judy Stomberg (Bro. Ron). May He comfort and console each family member.

Our welcome extends to Justin Scheitlin (Remington, IN) who will be with us for a short time. May he experience the love of the Rockville brethren as he congregates with us.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"For, lo, the winter is past,...The flowers appear on the earth."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

It is February as I write this. We have had temperatures around 70 degrees, but sleet followed soon after. Hopefully as you read this, our winter will be gone, usually a few weeks before the midwest. We invite you to come East to enjoy our springtime flowers and Christian fellowship before the crowds and heat of summer.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bros. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). The Sunday that Elder Bro. Kevin and Bro. Ben were here they shared the Memorandum with us. Other visitors this month were from Valparaiso, IN and Bay City, MI. We are glad to be here for those coming to this area for meetings.

Several in our congregation have been ill this winter. We pray that everyone will soon be feeling better and able to assemble with us again.

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. If you are making your travel plans for spring, please note we will meet only two Sundays in April (4 & 18), in May we will meet four (2, 16, 23 and 30). 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. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635.

FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE

Kevin & Kristine Krieger

We are constantly reminded of the sovereignty of God, as His plan unfolds for His children. This month was a month of sorrow for us as we bid our final "earthly" farewell to our dear Bro. Bill Klaus. Our sincere sympathy goes out to those by whom he is survived: his wife, Sis. Mary Ann Klaus, their two sons, Bill Klaus, Jr. and Ed Klaus, as well as his grandchildren. Bro. Bill will be fondly remembered in our congregation for the Godly example he was, in his devotion to His Saviour, and his cheerful demeanor during his extended illness. We pray that our Heavenly Father's healing

hand of comfort will be felt by all those who have been touched by Bro. Bill's life. Memorial services for Bro. Bill were held in Ft. Lauderdale on February 3.

We have also felt God's hand of healing this month. Bro. Roy Luginbuhl and Bro. Al Schneider were both hospitalized and we are grateful to have them return to worship with us after their recoveries.

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner was held this past month and we are always so appreciative of the efforts of our Sunday School teachers, without whom these occasions could not be a reality. Once again it was wonderful to hear the program, put on by our Sunday School children, as well as enjoy the Adult Choir's presentation. May God richly bless each one, whose sacrifices made this evening such a success.

We were also blessed this month with additions to our congregation! Sis. Natalie Stratton has joined us from our Taylor, MO congregation and will be with us for a short time as she completes her internship. Also, Scott Streitmatter has recently joined our congregation after accepting a job transfer with his company. We are so grateful for these additions as well as the brothers, sisters and friends who return each winter to worship with us. May God continue to grant us these blessings of increase.

As always, we so appreciate the visiting ministers who give of themselves to preach God's Word to us. Visiting with us this past month were our Counseling Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), and Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop,

MN) and Glenn Price (Sarasota, FL).

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Anjie Baum

Greetings to all. Our church building has been filled beyond capacity these recent weeks. We are so thankful for our visitors and the familiar faces of our winter residents. There has been more than 250 in our congregation, as opposed to our 25 in the summer months. We especially enjoy the worship singing when the sanctuary is full. Fellowship with those we haven't seen since last winter is also a great blessing to us.

Among our visitors have been many ministering brothers, and we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your willing service: Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL), and Bros. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL), Steve Ringger (Bluffton, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Will Schieler (Milford, IN).

Many of us gathered for the annual Valentine's Day singing at Barkley Square (hosted by Ray and Rosemary Piper, Milford, IN). As always, it was a blessed evening of song, poetry, and stories. Several couples who had been married over 50 years shared what they had learned about marriage, and everyone revered the Lord as the Author of love. There were some tears and some laughter, but most importantly, we all shared a common thanksgiving for the love in our marriages, our families, and among the Body of Christ.

This has surely been a month of wonderful fellowship and joy.

However, we want to remember prayerfully those who have struggled with the frailty of our human bodies. Bro. Carl Frautchie (Bloomington, IL) has suffered ailments stemming from pneumonia, keeping him hospitalized for several days. Sis. Ann has been feeling better and is able to spend her days with Bro. Carl.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Bro. Lynn Feller and his wife, Sis. Maryann (LaCrosse, IN). We miss you both, as we so look forward each winter to your warm smiles and the peace of God you openly share with others. Our prayer is that this peace will be your strength during Bro. Lynn's illness.

Also absent from our congregation this winter is Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Bauer (Cissna Park, IL) due to illness. We pray for God's Almighty Hand upon you with healing and comfort.

Certainly when one of our loved ones suffer, our brothers and sisters in Christ offer unconditional loving support. What a wonderful plan of our Heavenly Father to show us His compassion through each other.

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne,
we pour our ardent prayers:
Our fears, our hopes, our aims
are one,
our comforts and our cares.
We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

Hymns of Zion #156

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Rachel Sabo

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

Psalm 118:23

This past month our Sarasota young group were privileged to host the "Hands in Praise" group from Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Jamaica. These deaf teenagers "told" the Gospel story through skits, using music and sign language. It was surely an inspiration for us to continue our work efforts in Jamaica, either by sponsoring a deaf child or by going to Jamaica on a church work team.

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

Psalm 46:1

Unfortunately, we've had a number of hospital patients lately, including Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Russell Champ (Rockville, CT), Gabriel Streitmatter (son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne), and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter II. Also, both Bro. George Reardon and Bro. Ernie Koehlert fell and suffered broken hips. Bro. Ernie's accident happened just one day after we celebrated his 96th birthday. Let's pray for all these loved ones, as well as for Sis. Marie Reardon as she continues in rehab. We all miss having Bro. George and Sis. Marie assemble with us.

We sincerely appreciate the exhortation and encouragement brought to us by our home ministers and the following visiting ministers during the past month:
Elder Bros. Joe Stoller

(Princeville, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

This past month we held our annual business meeting. It was decided to split Sis. Brenda Stoller's Sunday School class into two classes. Bro. John Brewer will be teaching 6th-8th grade, Sis. Brenda Stoller will continue to teach 3rd-5th grade, and Sis. Sue Waldbeser will be teaching pre-school-2nd grade. As they seek God's guidance in teaching our children, may the seed of truth be planted to bear fruit in due season.

We were privileged to have Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Mike Leman (Denver, CO) with us. May God richly bless them for their willingness to minister the Gospel.

Fellowship is so important to the believer. We want to thank each one who worshipped with us and we encourage each one of you to spend time with us. Sunday Services are at 10:15 and 12:30. We also meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**Sheila McCoy**

We certainly could feel the presence of God's love as many in our congregation were able to be together for a delicious Valentine dinner on February 6. May we love one another as God commands. We appreciate those who made this memorable evening possible.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller were on an agricultural aid project with S.E.E.D. in Les Cayes, Haiti. The men on the team taught the S.E.E.D. students different courses on animal husbandry and held an animal clinic. The women painted at the school. The team was able to visit the nursing home that is financially supported by our Apostolic Christian Church.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

Psalm 41:1

Bro. Bill Schifferer and his daughter, Kenda, had also planned on going on a Haiti work project. But those plans quickly changed when Kenda had a seizure at the hotel in Florida the morning their flight was due to leave for Haiti. The change of plans was disappointing, but we are grateful Kenda's medical problems surfaced in the U.S. instead of Haiti.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord; all ye lands."

Psalm 100:1

Our Bible Class attended ACYF at Fairbury on February 7. It is such a blessing to hear the Illinois students from the southern area of St. Louis to the northern point of Belvidere, singing praises to God.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) as our visiting ministers this month.

We gratefully welcome two new couples to our Belvidere congregation. Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb are living near Rockford. Chad is working as a sales representative for Pfizer. Brian and Shannon Wettstein are living in DeKalb where Brian is a student at Northern Illinois University.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Carol Sauder
Janice Horner**

We rejoice with three young ladies who shared their testimony of faith and were baptized the weekend of January 16-17. Karen Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura), Alexis Hany (Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol), and Samantha Loy (Bro. Matt and Sis. Barb) inspired us as they gave their hearts to the Lord at a young age. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bros. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) were the visiting ministers who shared the weekend with us.

January 17 was also the evening of our monthly Hymn Sing. "For His Glory" and the three and four year olds sang praises to God.

Then on February 7, our church hosted a college welcome to all the area college students and their families. We hope that all the students will feel welcome in our Bloomington-Normal church as they were able to get to know some of us.

We are excited that another soul

is seeking salvation through Jesus Christ. Steve LaFont is an ISU student and has begun his walk with the Lord in our Bloomington-Normal Church.

We said farewell this month to Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb as they moved away for Chad's job. They will be attending the Belvidere Church.

Many prayers have been said this month for Stan Knapp (Sis. Tonei) and Bro. Carl Frautschi (Sis. Ann) as they have had health problems. We pray for God's continuous comfort to them and their families.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

We are thankful that God has directed our hearts as we selected a new ministering brother in Bradford. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa) was selected for this duty, and we pray that the Lord will be mightily by him and his family all the days he serves on the pulpit. Let us more earnestly pray for Bro. Brad and all of our ministering brothers that the Word of God may continue to come forth in all its truth.

We rejoiced with Sis. Kara Leman and Bro. David Blunier (Princeville, IL) and their families as we heard their engagement announcement this past month. Their parents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman and

Sis. Joyce Blunier (Princeville, IL). May the Lord continue to direct this dear couple's hearts and bless them as they make preparations for their wedding.

Bro. Jack Knobloch (Sis. Nancy) was selected to replace Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Helen) as church trustee and Bro. Don Duckworth (Sis. Delores) was selected to replace Bro. Richard Tanner (Sis. Marilyn) as usher when we held our annual business meeting in January. We thank Bros. Jim and Richard for their years of service and ask God to bless them. We also pray that God will bless Bros. Jack and Don and all those who labor in various positions in our church as they carry out their duties in the coming years.

We are thankful that Alyssa Duckworth (David and Sis. Dawn) is out of the hospital and recovering well from a respiratory viral infection. May God's healing hand reach out to heal her quickly and completely.

We again want to thank our visiting ministers for being with us this past month. They included Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL). We also especially thank Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for coming to help out as we heard the reading of the Memorandum in Bradford.

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein also was with us and expounded unto us the history of our Church in Europe on a Sunday evening this past month. We would also like to thank him for coming and for his labors.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Spring and Easter are yet some time away, but as this article is written in mid-February we still have forecasts for snow and cold weather. Although spring-like temperatures have made the mercury rise on enough days to give a hint of budding in a few of the early spring flowers and trees, we'll have to be content with looking for small signs of the renewal outside. We always have a small vegetable garden, and plant a few annual flowers. Last year, we added to the flower gardens with some perennials and expanded the areas we plant. We are anxious now to see how our plantings from last year have survived the winter and we anticipate some beautiful, colorful spring flowers. We've looked through the colorful garden book that has perfect pictures and found the seeds for those plants in a mail-order catalog. Now we've decided to start some of our own plants from seed. I'm not sure if this is an attempt to save a few dollars, teach our son some hands-on science outside the classroom, or just a way to feel that we are bringing in spring just a little earlier this year. Whatever our anxious motives, we're excited about the chance to see renewal and the start of life in our garden and flower beds and to take an active part in that process.

One of our students, Bro. Jonathan Hodel, of Roanoke, IL has a touch of love blooming in his life. He recently became engaged to Sis. Megan Zimmerman of Morton, IL. We pray that just as God will be breathing life and growth

into the springtime flowers, He will cause their love to flourish and grow each day. They plan a June wedding.

Our thanks go to visiting ministering Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) for attending and bringing the Word on a mid-week service. Although he was our only visitor in the ministry this past month, we have had many parents of our students, families of our regular congregation, and some others who just attended while in town for other reasons. We are always glad for visitors.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

We were blessed this month with several visiting ministers. Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) served us on February 7, and Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) served us on February 14, enroute to the Mid-winter Conference. Many thanks to these brothers. Our cup was overflowing.

Saturday, February 13, we enjoyed an evening of good food and fellowship provided by our Sunday School students. After a spaghetti dinner, the students presented a program based on I Corinthians 13 in keeping with the Valentine's Day theme. Each class focused on a different attribute of charity: patient and kind, unselfish, humble, truthful, has pure motives, hopeful. I was particularly touched by the Bible Class students' "Love in Action" focus in which they shared slides and experiences/lessons from their work trip to Jamaica last summer.

We want to extend a welcome to Sis. Christine Hodel, a newcomer from Washington, IL who has taken employment in the area.

We rejoice that another dear soul has answered the Lord's call to repentance. Susan Knobloch has made that good choice and we pray that she will build her faith on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

As signs of spring emerge in nature, may they serve as reminders of the coming Easter season and the new life it represents.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

As we are walking into the New Year of 1999, isn't it a joy to be walking with our Lord? We had our first Topical Bible Study for this year. It was on "Being Knit Together in Love" taught by Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL).

We had our annual meeting and election and we give our support and prayers to all those taking over the various duties. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bro. Mark Waldbeser, Sis. Andrea Maul and Sis. Cristela Martinez. Our new trustee will be Bro. Russ Walder.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman are enjoying their first grandson, Michael John. He is the son of Gerald and Sally Haas, Fairbury. Michael's middle name is after his Uncle John Edelman who passed away a year ago. Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts have another granddaughter, Ashley. Her parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise Weerts of Washington, IL. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufmann have a new great-grandson, Taylor

Plattner.

We are excited for Kara Hoffman and Josh Haley as they have announced their engagement. They are planning an August 7 wedding. Their parents are Merle and Elsie Eisenmann and Dana and Sandy Haley of East Lynn.

The angels in Heaven rejoice over every sinner that repents. We are grateful that Stephany Anderson has decided to seek the Lord in repentance. Stephany's parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee Anderson.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Bill Maul, Sis. Ernie Eisenmann, and John Eisenmann (Merle and Elsie) with a broken foot. Sis. Marie Kaufmann and Sis. Marie Laubscher have moved to Heartland Nursing Home. We are also thankful that Sis. Margaret Rudin is assembling with us after an illness.

We wish to remember Sis. Eldora Bonges as she has recently lost her brother, Albert Schini.

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) minister to us this month.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Sis. Beth Steffen for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Sandy Steiner
Glenna Rinkenberger**

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

II Cor. 6:17-18

The past month has been a busy and happy one. On January 27, we gathered together for the testimony and baptism of our new sister, Lucille Blunier. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder for the evening. Sis. Lucille has three siblings at home here. They are ministering Bro. Frederick Knapp (Sis. Marjorie), Sis. Mary Steffen (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Jerry Knapp (Sis. Nancy). We were thankful that so many of Sis. Lucille's family were able to be here for this most important occasion.

On January 30-31, we again came together for the testimony and baptism of Bro. Curt and Bro. Brad Wiegand. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) helped with the weekend. Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand are the thankful parents of our two new brothers.

We are looking forward to the continued growth of our flock as three more souls have been announced as having peace with God and man. These converts are Brian Zobrist, Julie Zobrist and Lori Knapp. Their parents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Luann Zobrist and Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay Knapp. We are looking forward to their baptism also.

We have been blessed with two new babies. Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser welcomed Jessi Lynn into their hearts and home. Alyssa is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Also welcoming a little daughter, Alexis Nicole, are Tony and

Rachel Nohl. We are all so very thankful that she has become a part of their family. Grandparents are Elaine Hartter (Eureka) and Steve Nohl (Tremont) and Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein. We pray that both these precious children will be raised in the nurture of God's Word.

Hospital patients were Sis. Sharon McClure (Bro. Bob) and Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary).

Visiting ministers were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). We always appreciate these brothers' willingness to be used on our behalf.

Our Sunday service has been changed to begin singing at 9:45 and pulpit service at 10:00 starting February 21.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Peggy Heiniger Norma Schambach

We are so thankful that Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) and Megan Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) have found peace with God and plan to give their testimonies and be baptized April 10-11. We are looking forward to another blessed weekend.

With open arms we welcomed three dear souls into the fold on February 13-14. Krystin Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia), Bryan Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), and Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy) testified how God called them, each in His own perfect way. One of them stated, "I could go to church every day." Do we still have this much enthusiasm to hear

God's Word?

Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) shared the weekend with us. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL).

Many gathered to tie comforters again this year as a World Relief project. Over a hundred comforters were made during the week.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Keith Kellenberger was chosen for trustee as Bro. Gary Steffen has finished his term. Bro. John Steffen will take Bro. Frank Schock's place as cemetery trustee. We thank the brothers for much time and effort they have spent on our behalf.

Those who recently needed hospital care were Sis. Gert Sauder, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Albert) Schambach, Bro. Lester Heiniger, and Bro. Bob (Sis. Lynette) Buckheister. May God speed their recovery and provide for their needs.

Hearts have been saddened as loved ones passed from this life. Sis. Jeannette (Bro. Earl) Moser mourns the passing of her brother, Robert Gerdau, of Dixon, IL. Sis. Ruth (Bro. Harvey) Schurter's sister, Sis. Edna Reed, from Kiowa, KS, also was called from this life. May God comfort each one in their time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

Once again we are thankful for two precious souls who heard God's call and answered. We are happy for Mark Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane) and Jacob Rocke (Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan). May God grant them grace to build upon the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

God's loving call is still going out today. If you have not tasted of His love and mercy, why not come today while there is yet time and grace?

Our hearts rejoice with Tammy Mayhall (daughter of Bro. Jerry Getz, Roanoke, IL), Jake Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora), Chris Wynkoop, and Molly Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) as they have confessed having peace with God and man and are waiting to share their testimony and be baptized the weekend of March 20-21.

Bro. Todd Martin (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen) and Sis. Joy Ellen Wettstein (Harold and Loretta) were united in marriage on January 31 at Washington, IL. Bro. Dean Martin of Washington (Roland and Sis. Deloris) and Sis. Becki Martin (Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth) were united in marriage on February 7. We rejoice with these two dear couples as they begin their new life together.

The Union of Hearts

Where God in truth abides,
where two join hand and heart,
we find a three fold cord
not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp #79

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Sis. Rachel Hodel who died January 17. Surviving are her children, six sons and five daughters, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May God comfort each one.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We thank them for lending themselves in God's

service and may He bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ernie) who had knee surgery recently, and also with Sis. Katie Blunier who was hospitalized recently. We are thankful for her speedy recovery.

At the time of this writing, our Elder brethren are meeting in Silverton for the Winter Conference. Special prayers have been offered on their behalf for an extra measure of grace as they discuss matters that are precious to our faith. May we do our part by being supportive of our dear shepherds and more obedient to the Lord's teachings. "But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. For mine Angel shall go before thee..." (Exodus 23:22-23)

Note: There was a size 8 petite Tan Ladies London Fog coat left at Goodfield Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 7. Someone took a size 12, the same color and style with black gloves in the pocket. If anyone knows anything about this, please call Verna Lott, 444-2293.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Milton Rocke would like to express their thanks and appreciation for the prayers, cards, food and other kind deeds shown to them at the time of Milton's death. May God bless you.

Wilma McCanless

Sis. Ruth Schumacher

Many thanks to my family, relatives, friends and neighbors for the prayers, cards, food and gifts dur-

ing my heart surgery and recovery. God bless each and every one.

Bro. Leroy Fehr

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr

Joann Zehr

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Matthew 6:34

Recently a ministering brother meditated on this chapter and reminded us that the Scripture does not say "take little thought for the morrow" or "take some thought..." but it says "take no thought." What a comfort this verse is in this time when many people are stockpiling food and supplies in anticipation of the problems predicted to happen in the year 2000. In the midst of the hysteria, we can remain calm, trusting that in every situation the Lord will provide.

"And they wrote letters by them after this manner...So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation."

Acts 15:23, 30-31

Gathering with our brethren at Forrest, we heard the Memorandum read to us by our Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker. Truly we rejoice for the consolation, especially when we are chastised and

admonished to a closer walk of life with God, "for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..." (Hebrews 12:6). Elder Bro. Charles also ministered to us on Sunday and we thank him for his efforts in serving us.

We are thankful to see a work of faith fulfilled among us as the engagement of Bro. Kurt Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys) to Sis. Kristen Koehl of Forrest (Barry and Sis. Rosemary) was announced. May the Spirit of God bind them together as they plan for their marriage.

Joining Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr's family is Clayton Jeffrey, born on February 12. Larissa, Kendall and Lynelle welcome him home, as well as grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

David and Deann Steidinger are rejoicing over a new little grandson. Steve and Debbie Vaughan became parents of Cole David on January 14. Blake is his older brother.

May the Lord comfort the family of Fred Aellig who passed away on February 1. Fred formerly lived in our area, but has been living in Morris, IL. His sister, Louise Hibsich, is part of our congregation.

Those who recently suffered illness or injury are: Bro. Melvin Hartman, Sis. Betty Bittner, Sis. Lillie Luthi and Joan Gaston. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

This, Too, Shall Pass Away

When some great sorrow,

like a mighty river,
Flows through your life

with peace destroying power,
And dearest things are swept

from sight forever,
Say to your heart,
each trying hour,
"This, too, shall pass away."

When fortune smiles, and
full of mirth and pleasure,
The days are flitting by
without a care,
Lest you should rest
with only earthly treasure,
Let these few words
their fullest import bear:
"This, too, shall pass away."

When earnest labor brings
you fame and glory,
And all earth's noblest ones
upon you smile,
Remember that life's longest,
grandest story
Fills but a moment in
earth's little while:
"This, too, shall pass away."
—*Lanta Wilson Smith*

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

Gathering together with our Fairbury brethren, we thank Elder Bros. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker for bringing to us the deliberations of the Elder Conference in reading the Memorandum on January 23. May we support our Elder brothers by accepting their wise words of exhortation and fashioning our lives in a more Christ-like manner.

We also thank ministering Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) for sharing the Word of Life to us. Let us be grateful, that God in His wonderful plan set aside a day of rest that we may worship Him.

Heeding the call of repentance

in her youth is Emily Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee). We encourage her to build upon the Solid Rock in humble and true submission.

Two children of Barry and Sis. Rosemary Koehl announce their engagements and upcoming marriages. Ryan Koehl and Michelle Campbell are planning a July 31 wedding. Her parents are Ken and Kathy Campbell of Winfield, IL. Also making known their engagement is Sis. Kristen Koehl to Bro. Kurt Slagel (Fairbury, IL). He is the son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys. May these couples let the Lord direct their lives in a close union of hearts.

Our prayers for God's healing are extended to Bro. Paul Zimmerman, Reuben Metz and Sisters Irene Traub, Jean Martin, and Peggy Young who have recently spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Jan Beer

"My heartfelt thanks to each of you who remembered me with your prayers, cards, flowers and visits during my surgery and subsequent recuperation at the Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka. Also, a special thank you to the staff who so kindly helped me regain my strength so that I could return to my home."

Sis. Marian Wiegand

We are thankful that Sis. Marian is able to assemble with us at church again. Our Sisters Florence Bauman and Elsie Hohlman continue to be confined for health reasons at the time of this writing. A visiting minister told us, "Other's needs provide us the

opportunity to do God's will for our life."

As a result of the entire Tom Lemman family being together, we had two visiting ministers on our pulpit on January 24. Bros. Tom and Mike Lemman allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through them to us. Thank you, brothers. Our prayers continue for Sis. Kris Lemman Bauman and her extended families.

On January 30, Jason Knepp and Ali Gerber were united in marriage. Sis. Trish and Bro. Roger Gerber and Sis. Ann and Bro. Bob Knepp are the loving parents. Our best wishes follow this dear, young couple as they walk together in love.

The annual business meeting of the Goodfield Apostolic Christian Church was held Wednesday evening, February 3. Our appreciation is extended to all who have finished their term of office for various duties, and our prayers are with all the new officers.

Bro. Frederick Knapp served us from the pulpit on February 7. We rejoice with him and his family as several family members within our fellowship have recently surrendered their will to the Heavenly Father. Thank you for speaking to us about faith, Bro. Frederick.

Four young men made beautiful music together on Valentine's Day for our Family Hymn Sing. Thank you for using your talent to honor God and bless our hearts, young men. Continue on. What a wonderful way to close out "love day", singing songs to our Lord and our Saviour.

We are thankful for the safe return of Elder Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp from the Elder Conference in Oregon.

May the words of this song serve as a gentle reminder to all of us. "Prayer is the key to Heaven, but faith unlocks the door. Words are so easily spoken, but prayer without faith is like a boat without an oar; have faith when you speak to the Master, that's all He asks you for, Prayer is the key to Heaven, but faith unlocks the door." (S.T. Scott & R.L. Sands)

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

We as believers surely benefit when we read the Scriptures at the table with our families. Often ageless biblical truths are underscored in our minds.

Just this evening our family read in the fourth chapter of James. This deals with our plans for the morrow; and what we might do next week or next month.

Many of us are prone to indicate what we will do in a few days as if it will certainly come to pass. Yet, we have no promise of tomorrow. The Scriptures warn us to always preface our intentions with "if the Lord wills".

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

James 4:14-15

This is a wonderful teaching. We always benefit when we read the Word and then (by God's grace) follow it.

We rejoiced on January 31 when three souls were added to the fold.

Bros. Luke Zeller, Jay Wettstein and Mike Butikofer were baptized, after making a covenant to be true and faithful until death. Their testimonies on Saturday evening, January 30, were inspiring. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was here to help with this work. Also preaching were Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL).

On February 14, the marriage engagement of Sis. Arianne Howell to Bro. Paul Gramm was announced. Her parents are Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell and Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to this couple.

A first child, Keaton Jeffrey, was born on February 11 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Haley (Schlipf) Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller, and the late Sis. Carol Stoller. May God grant this couple grace and wisdom in nurturing this newborn in the ways of the Lord as the years unfold.

On February 21, we enjoyed the visit of Bros. Kent Heimer and Dave Marquart (both of Taylor, MO). A potluck dinner was held on Sunday afternoon. We appreciated the labors of these dear brothers.

Sis. Gail Kiefer and Sharon Rinkenberger were hospitalized in February. Jack Sievers had surgery on February 22.

Bro. Eric Zehr was named director of our new Adult Choir.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

The Lord has drawn two dear couples together through His

great love. The announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Megan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue) to Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) from Roanoke, IL. Also announced was the engagement of Sis. Erin Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) to Bro. Andy Witzig (Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy). We wish God's richest blessings and guidance for these couples as they prepare for their wedding and for their lives together.

The Morton congregation was blessed with a visit from the Milford, IN choir on February 13 and 14. It is wonderful how hymns of praise can minister to us by giving us strength, encouragement, hope and admonition. Thank you, Milford, for bringing us blessings through hymns and fellowship. We thank the Lord for a weekend of "renewing old acquaintances" and for forming new and lasting friendships.

The evening of February 13, the young group hosted their annual pork chop dinner. Donations were contributed to charity and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The dinner was followed by our monthly Hymn Sing with Milford Choir singing their special numbers. We thank the young group for their efforts in making such a memorable evening.

Bro. Wilbert Funk was called to his eternal reward on February 14. May the Lord comfort his loving family. Surviving is his wife, Sis. Violette (Gramm); his two sons, Bro. William and Bro. Glen; his four daughters, Sis. Marian Funk, Sis. Sherry Smith (Don), Gail Williams (Clarence), and Jane Atuk (Richard). He has 19 grandchil-

dren, and five great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his brothers, Bro. Leo, Bro. Alwin and Bro. Roy; his sisters, Sis. Ella Schlipf and Sis. Louise Witzig.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers for the time they and their families spent with us. They were Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Nelson Beer and Dan Beer (Milford, IN). May God bless them for their service.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

Help to store in careful keeping
what this day we may receive.

Zion's Harp #203, vs. 6

Peoria Post Offices have flashboards to advertise the "Century in Stamps". They displayed 320 10 18 2031 at noon on February 14, the exact time left at that moment to the next millennium. Many are concerned with that date, either because of the Y2K problems or that we will be entering the seventh millennium, which is often referenced to God's day of rest after creation. Revelation, Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah are apocalyptic books. They give us a glimpse of the future, which we must approach in simple faith and comprehend according to the intellect God has given us. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer meditated on January 17 on Daniel, who had an excellent spirit and stayed in tune with God. No error and fault was found in him, which provoked Darius' princes and presidents to jealousy. They puffed up Darius with flattery until he committed such a terrible mistake that he spent the night fasting "and his

sleep went from him" (6:18). There is a God in Heaven Who can shut the mouths of lions. What can He do for us? He will see us through any situation which is before us.

Bad news are magnified and more devastating when they come from high places. On January 24, Bro. Ken Hoerr meditated on II Kings 22, which provides a pleasant opposite. How do you feel about your past? Josiah came from an evil background (Grandfather Manasseh, father Amon), but did that which was right in the sight of God. He was able to re-establish the temple and their heritage. Shaphan discovered the books of the law and brought them to Josiah, who rent his clothes and repented. Josiah did not say: "if only...!" but had a heart which was tender and "thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord" (verse 19) and as a result, God's grace was given to the nation because of one man's Godly life.

About 650 enjoyed the annual Pancake Supper put on by the Bible Class on January 23. The proceeds will be used to finance partially their work-team trip to CCCD in Jamaica early April.

Our patients were Simon Traub and Sis. Mary Lawless (both at the Skylines now), and Viola Leman and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr. Sis. Dorothy spent eight days at the Mayo Clinic and will be convalescing quite a while at home, and we are thankful to have her in our midst again. Also, Bro. Bob Miller was hospitalized briefly and we wish him a good recovery. Illness is not caused by God, only permitted by Him, as a condition of the world we live in, but all things

work together for good to them who love Him and ask: "What?" instead of "Why?"

Phyllis Schacherbauer (65), sister of Sis. Gladys Haefli, passed away in Phoenix on January 16 and we express our sincere sympathy to her family and the Blunier relationship. Sis. Lorene Joos' mother, Irene Rummerfield (91), departed this life on February 13, Carl Stickling (96) on February 20, and Fred Aeschleman (81) on February 26, all at the Skylines. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families, especially to Sisters Lorene Joos and Irene Aeschleman.

Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer, Roy Grimm, Dave Wiegand and Wendell Gudeman, accompanied by their wives, spent January 22-25 at Ixtlan, Mexico, to baptize 2 converts (now 16 members) and dedicate the new church building. We are thankful they had a safe trip and God blessed their work.

For our family night service on February 3, Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) presented a larger picture of the Y2K event than just the physical aspect. Computer problems are impacting millions of lines of computer programs and many objects with embedded, time-sensitive chips which don't have four-digit dates. He mentioned four possible consequences for 1/1/2000: Nothing at all will happen; political and economic chaos due to panic and nervousness of the people; the Lord will use it to bring about the end ("Taking the wise in their own craftiness", Job 5:13). **L** stands for the Lamb which will be Lord of all and the seven judgments will come from the Lamb, not a computer

problem; **A** ask people: are you ready?; **M** missionary efforts, and no matter what happens, God is concerned about us, not a Super-computer; **B** "Behold I come quickly"...God said three times to John in Revelation.

We may have to change the way we live. Be prudent, but not hoarding ("Wise as serpents, and harmless as doves", Matt. 10:16), preparing for our families (30 day supply of water, food, money, don't go into debt) and don't panic. God is our refuge and our strength. We should be the rock, with God in control, healing, caring, opening our eyes spiritually and talking to people. It could be the finest hour for the Christian Church. The Lamb holds the deed to the earth, not the computer, and controls what will happen at Y2K. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10).

A gallant role reversal (suggested by Bro. Mark Criss) at the lunch tables on February 14, Valentine's Day; let all the ladies eat first with the men serving an enriched lunch ala Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer. If it seemed quite a while before all the men could eat, it was probably just illusionary...or could it have been due to untrained male help or longer table fellowship by the ladies?...we'll never know for sure.

"In a blue moon" is colloquial to describe distant and infrequent events. "A blue moon" refers to a month with two full-moons, as this March, which will not occur again until 2018. Our ability to pry into God's universe, even so very limited, shows how knowledge has increased in the time of the end (Daniel 12:4).

Note of Thanks:

Words fail my children and me to tell you how thankful we are for the love shown to us in memory of Bro. Harold. Our brethren and friends have said prayers, offered words of strength, made and donated food, given many memorials, sent lovely flowers and plants, offered to help us in any way and shown us so much kindness, we are humbled. May each of you feel God's blessings. We love you very much.

Sis. Ardith Herrmann

Sis. Faith Herrmann

Derek Herrmann

Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Sheryl Martin**

"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and said unto his disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. An he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:39-41

Are we asleep when Jesus asks us to do something? Are we willing to follow Him until the end? Let us never forget the price that was paid when Jesus died on the cross for each of us.

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. David Blunier and Sis. Kara Lemman (Bradford, IL) was announced to the congregation. Bro. David is the son of Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale Blunier and Sis. Kara is the daughter of Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Lemman (Bradford, IL). May the peace and love of God reign in their hearts as they look to Him for His direction and guidance as they begin their future together.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice."

Phil. 4:4

Joy has overflowed in the hearts of first-time parents, Bro. Erik and Sis. Debbie Givens, as they adopted a daughter, Lacey Marie, on January 19. Lacey was born on January 13. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Janet Joos and Bertha Givens. May God grant His grace and strength as they raise this child in the fear of the Lord.

It is our prayer that Bro. Dave Reickert, Sis. Carol Martin and Ken Riley may feel the healing hand of God due to a stay in the hospital.

Willingly Endure

O willingly endure!
For God's Word doth assure,
That thou shouldst suffer still,
According to His will.

To suffer as God wills
Our life's design fulfills;
It leads to God's domain,
Christ's likeness to attain.

To suffer makes us pure,
Each trial we endure
Does good to us impart,
Makes us child-like at heart.

To be child-like and pure,
O, that alone is sure;
To please your Lord and God,
O may this be your lot!
Zion's Harp #156

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Linda Hodel
Boni Stoller

When a Christian dies
precious is the prize!
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when he dies.
When a Christian dies
his grief buried lies.
All distress and tribulation
In death's slumber finds
cessation.

When a Christian dies
his grief buried lies.
Hymns of Zion #248

We were saddened by the deaths
of several dear loved ones, but re-
joice that they could each be re-
leased from their bodily afflictions.

Our sympathy is with Willis
Hodel and his family upon the
passing of his mother, Sis. Rachel
Hodel, of Eureka.

We paid our last respects to our
Bro. Bill Klaus on Sunday, Febru-
ary 7. Our prayers and sympathy
to his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, and his
two sons, Bill and Ed, and also his
brothers and sister.

We gathered again on Saturday,
February 13 to say good-bye to our
dear Sis. Margaret Hodel. We will
continue to keep her children, Bro.
Ken (Sis. Kathy), Edie (Larry)
Yordy, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Ross) Gin-
grich and Lucy (Randy) Koehler,
and all of her grandchildren in our
prayers.

We bid a fond farewell to our
dear Bro. Melvin Rocke on
Wednesday, February 17. We
know his wife, Sis. Mae, as well as
his children, Sis. Carol (Bro. Rol)
Rumbold, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Eva)
and Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Brad) Bauer,
and grandchildren will really miss
him. We will continue to hold them
up in prayer.

Funeral services for Agnes Fehr
were held Friday, February 19 at
Remmert Funeral Home. Our
sympathy to her children, Don
(Erma), Ruth (Duane) Bachman
and Peggy (Charles) Jording.

We are so happy to have Sis.
Carol Schwab back worshipping
with us after many weeks of ab-
sence. We've had many others who
have spent time in the hospital and
we want to remember them in our
prayers. They are: little Noah Eck-
mann (Troy and Jennifer), Steven
Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb),
James Byrd Sr. (Bro. Jim's father),
Sis. Ruth (Slim) Hodel, Sis. Cheryl
Wacker (Jim) and little Nathan
Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb).

Believing the Lord has led them
together, the engagement of our
Bro. Jonathan Hodel and Sis.
Megan Zimmerman from Morton
was announced to the congrega-
tion. Their parents are Bro. John
and Sis. Linda Hodel and Bro.
Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman of
Morton. We pray they will look to
God for guidance through this

time of growth and adjustment.

It is always a joy to have visiting
ministers with us. We thank Elder
Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and
Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO)
and Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL)
and their wives for lending them-
selves. We also appreciate Bro.
Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) for his
thought provoking Bible study,
"Command the chariot to stand
still". It was so good for us to hear
as we live in such a busy world.

Dillon Getz is now the proud big
brother of little Danielle Rose,
born January 22. Her happy par-
ents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Crystal
Getz. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry
and Sis. Marge Fischer and Bro.
Merlin and Sis. Jan Getz, all of
Roanoke.

Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha
Braker are thankful and happy at
the arrival of little Adam James
Bucher. He is the first child of Bro.
Jim and Sis. Kim Bucher of Indi-
anapolis. His other grandparents
are Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois
Bucher of Valparaiso, IN.

We end our news this month on
a very joyful note as we have sev-
eral dear young souls who have
begun their walk with God. Our
prayers are with Holly Knapp
(Derek), Ryan Leman (Bro. Wayne
and Sis. Julie), Jacob and Joshua
Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie)
and Kirby Leman (Bro. Don and
Sis. Colleen).

Notes of Thanks:

A very sincere "thank you" to
each and every one of you for your
prayers, visits, cards and food
since our surgeries, while in the
hospital and since we could return
home again. Your kind love and
caring will always be remembered.

May God be near and bless you always!

Gaylord and Shirley Blunier

We truly thank you for your love and kindness shown to all of us on the passing of our dear sister, Phyllis Blunier Schacherbauer, of Phoenix, AZ. May God bless each of you always.

Her Brothers and Sisters

A special "thank you" to everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, telephone calls, food, visits and who in any way helped me through my difficult days of illness and surgery. May God bless each one for their love and concern.

Sis. Carol Schwab

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee Kaiser were blessed with a new baby boy on January 20. His name is Lance Joseph and he has a sister, Morgan, and a brother, Lucas. His grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA).

Jean and Dennis Snyder welcomed a son, Duke Hartley, on January 21. His older brothers are Jason and Matthew and grandparents are Sis. Phyllis Lang and Sol and Bev Snyder.

Dakota Matthew was born to Shawn and Sarah Lennington on January 23. He is their first child and his grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister and Mike and Paula Hartman (Conqerville, IL) and Tyler and Cheryl Lennington.

Fred and Ruth Endress wel-

comed a new grandson on January 24. Their daughter, Rosemary, and her husband, Ed Litwiller, are the thankful parents of Luke Edward. Luke joins his sister, Lindsey, at home.

On the evening of February 6 our congregation assembled for the reading of the Memorandum. We really appreciate Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) coming to Tremont to assist our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder. May God grant us submissive hearts to heed the exhortations that were so lovingly brought to us.

This past month our visiting ministers were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). May the Lord continue to bless these brothers for their willingness to share His teachings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ron Wagenbach (Sis. Liz) as he is presently hospitalized with pneumonia.

On February 14, Bro. Nelson Koch (Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Mary Knobloch (Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor, Lester, IA) were united in marriage. Our prayer is that the Lord will lead and guide them in their new walk together.

Our Sis. Helen Bolliger was called Home on February 4. We extend our sympathy to her brothers, Ralph, Raymond, Ben, and Wayne Bolliger; and to her sisters, Sis. Anna Waibel and Verna Melton.

We wish to extend our prayers and sympathy to Jerry and Sis. Melba Hangartner in the passing of Melba's sister, Phyliss Schacherbauer (Phoenix, AZ).

May God grant all those who are sorrowing His comforting Spirit.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

Love. The word brings to mind many images. Some people may immediately think of romance, such as is seen at Valentine's Day. Some may think of love of family, or the deep love between a husband and a wife who have grown old together. Some may think of love in generalities, such as the love of mankind, or the love between friends. God has demonstrated His love to us in many ways, including those mentioned. But God's love is so much more than that. We cannot comprehend the richness, and the depth of God's love. Our human minds cannot fathom a love so intense that it required the sacrifice of God's perfect Son, Jesus. We cannot imagine that Jesus also loved us so dearly that He willingly let himself be cruelly slain by the horror of crucifixion. The Bible, of course, speaks much about love. I Corinthians 13 is known as the love chapter, but the rest of the Scriptures are full of descriptions of the love that comes from the Father, who is love. True love as described in the Bible always is a sacrificial love. As we read about the earthly life of Jesus, we see love in action. May we always seek to understand what the true love from God is, and then may we go out into the world with the intent to show that love to others. This is our witness of what God has done for us in our lives.

The Washington congregation has been witness to love in the

form of two weddings. The first was that of Sis. JoEllen Wettstein and Bro. Todd Martin. The parents of the bride are Harold and Loretta Wettstein of the Washington congregation, and the parents of the groom are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin (Eureka, IL).

The second wedding took place in Eureka as Sis. Becky Martin joined her life with Bro. Dean Martin. Parents are Bro. Roland and Sis. Delores Martin and Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin (all of Eureka, IL). We wish both couples God's richest blessings in their new life together.

A new life to love also arrived at the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise Weerts on January 21. Ashley Nicole joins sister Brittany in the Weerts household. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts (Cissna Park, IL). Welcome little Ashley, and may the Lord keep His arms around you all of your life.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). Thank you both for lending yourselves to the ministry of the gospel.

We received an update of World Relief activities through an informational meeting and slide show. So many good things are being done in many parts of the world. To watch pictures of people who have so little, but have such love on their faces is truly humbling for those of us who have so much, and who take all of our material blessings for granted.

Carl Stickling died February 19 at the Peoria Apostolic Christian

Nursing Home where he had resided for some time. Carl brought much joy to those who cared for and sheltered him. For many years, he lived with his brother and sister-in-law, Bro. Ben and Sis. Louise Stickling, in their home in Peoria. After both of them died, Carl was taken to live on the farm with Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach. Any time one visited the Wagenbach home, Uncle Carl would be there. Though somewhat shy, one could engage him in conversation quite easily. His memory of life on the farm in the earlier part of this century was quite clear, and interesting to listen to. Jesus tells us in the Scripture to become as little children. Uncle Carl was one of God's special people who truly remained a child all of his life.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Beth Aschliman
Catrina Rinkenberger

"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?"

Psalms 27:1

Those rejoicing in the light and finding salvation are Matt Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene), Elise Maller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Pat), Melissa Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb), Wendy Nestle (sister to Sis. Annette Clark [Bro. Brian]), Audra Gerber (Bro. Rex and Sis. Lavon).

We also witnessed the baptisms of Bryan Gerber (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb), Matt Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Susanne), Vince Pfister (Al and Becky), Erin Frauhiger (Bro.

Dean and Sis. Holly), Jami Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon). Assisting Elder Bro. Ed with baptisms on February 7 was Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

We also enjoyed having Bros. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN).

On January 17 we observed the wedding ceremony of Bro. Cameron Fry (Bro. Denis and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Jenni Frauhiger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene).

Celebrating engagements are Sis. Tonya Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) to Bro. Blaine Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann); and Ryan Aschliman (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie) to Brandy Girod (Sis. Carla).

We are saddened at the tragic death of 20-year-old Sue Ellen Gerber (Bro. Lee and Sis. Jenny). Our prayers are with her brothers, Doug L., Eric (Lori), and Christopher. Sisters are LeAnn and Renee Gerber. Grandfather, Bro. Obed (Sis. Henrietta) Gerber, is also mourning her death.

Our sympathy is also with the family and friends of Sis. Effie Bertsch. She is survived by three sons, Sam, Herman Jr., and Homer; one daughter, Sarah Otis; and one sister, Rosella James.

Grieving also at this time is Bro. Paul (Sis. Mildred) Schladenhaufen as his earthly brother, Roger, was laid to rest.

Sis. Marlene (Bro. Tim) Ringger will miss her father, Bro. Albert Schini, but will look to her Heavenly Father for comfort.

Recuperating and thankful for your prayers are Sis. Martha (Bro. Luster) Heyerly, Sis. Mary Moser,

Sis. Dorothy (Kaehr) Gerber, Catherine Neuenschwander (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Mary Jo), Bro. Harold (Sis. Ellen) Geisel, Sis. Marci Neuenschwander (Bro. Ted and Sis. Deb), Bro. Carroll (Sis. Louise) Gerber and Duane Agler (Jim Agler's father). Visiting our church often and now requesting our prayers for an extended period of time is Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Troy) Reimschisel of the Chicago, IL congregation.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Lori Steffen
Rhonda Maller**

Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Markley welcomed their third child, a son named Austin Linn, born on January 27. Dylan and Paige welcome their little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schladenhaufen, Dick and Debbie Colkman and Gary and Ruth Markley. Our prayers are with them as they strive to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. What a precious responsibility we as parents have!

The Bluffton area mourns the loss of Suellen Gerber, the granddaughter of Bro. Obed and Sis. Henrietta Gerber. At the age of 20, her life was cut short by a tragic auto accident. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family as they strive to carry on without their daughter, sister and granddaughter.

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise) had emergency open-heart surgery this month in Sarasota, FL. He had triple bypass surgery and also had his aorta valve replaced. Bro. Carroll and Sis. Louise appreciated the prayers of their church

family during this difficult time and wish to thank everyone who remembered them. Sis. Essie Isch and eight-month-old Zachary Bucher (Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli) also spent time in the hospital this month. We're thankful they are feeling well again!

As our Elders meet to discuss the concerns facing our churches, we pray that God will bless them with the wisdom and discernment they need in order to make the decisions that confront them. May we always support them in our prayers and show them we love them by encouraging them and striving to live our lives in accordance to the Word.

As we were reminded in Sunday's message, Jesus is the captain of our salvation. We need to be persuaded that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39). What a mighty God we serve!

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy**

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way."

Psalm 37:23

Desiring God's will, Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) has moved to Rittman, OH to teach at Heritage School.

May God's comfort be upon Bro. Don (Sis. Pam), Bro. Ron (Sis. Diane), Sis. Janet Overmyer (Bro.

Roger), and Louise Topp. Their father, Jake Vogt, died on January 24.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Amelia Schini whose husband, Bro. Albert, went to his reward January 27. Sis. Emilie Anliker (Bro. Elmer) was his sister, whom we also remember.

May God be near to Sis. Carol Huber who lost her sister, Eleanor Fisher.

Sincere thanks goes to Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) for assisting with the reading of the Memorandum. We have much to be thankful for in our precious church. We also thank Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) for bringing forth the Word of Life with zeal. We sincerely thank Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) for presenting the marriage seminar to us. God was glorified.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracey Gudeman with a son, Caleb Matthew, on January 31. His brother, Samuel, and grandparents, Norm and Sis. Mary Putt and Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman, are thankful.

Two more lives have been changed by the grace of our Lord. We rejoice that Miranda Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Alivia Metzger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene) have been announced to have peace.

Bro. Nathan Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Sara Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) are engaged. May God bless this very special time.

Note of Thanks:

We thank all who visited our loved one and prayed with him

during his illness, and those who came to sing to him. Also for the flowers and food at the time of his death and the countless kind deeds. He loved his church family. He always said, "I love everyone." Your love and caring made it easier for us.

Sis. Amelia Schini and family

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Lauretta Schafer**

"Not now but in the coming years..." Our hearts go out in sympathy to Bob and Heather Schini. Bob's grandfather and adoptive father, Bro. Albert Schini (Remington, IN), passed away January 28. May God strengthen each of us as we are handed the "mantle" to take care of the next generation.

There is joy in the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Kim Bucher. Their first child, Adam James, was born February 12. Grandparents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Bucher (Valparaiso). Uncle Reg and Aunt Lora (Braker) Wuethrich are also of our congregation.

We heartily welcome Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich and their daughter, Ellie. They moved from Roanoke to Lafayette and are planning to make Indianapolis their home church.

Newly elected positions filled for the church are the new trustee, Bro. Jeff Dotterer, and new ushers, Bro. Scott Klopfenstein and Bro. Bruce Schafer.

Two dear souls have been announced for baptism. They are Heather Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lynn), and Emily Bollier (Bro.

Ron and Sis. Edie).

February 13 was a special evening for our congregation. Bro. Corey and Sis. Erica Gerber and Bro. Matt and Sis. Missy Ackerman prepared and served a delicious dinner to approximately 60 people. It was a time of fellowship and enjoyment.

Every time we gather around the Word of God, it is as though we were gathered with our church family around an earthly table laden with food. God serves us with the most nutritious food for our soul. He serves a balanced diet for our spiritual health. Do we pick and choose what we eat, or do we try all that He serves? May we always approach the table with a hearty appetite and may we be very grateful for such a satisfied feeling of nourishment at the end of each spiritual meal. God truly cares for us. Ezekial 2:86, "...open thy mouth and eat that I give thee."

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"Give a little love to a child, and you get a great deal back."

—*Ruskin*

Dru and Diane McClanahan have a lot of love to give their new little grandson. Mark Anthony England II was born to Mark and Jenny England, plus John and Carol Ailes, being Mark's great-grandparents, are also delighted with his birth. "Lo, children are an heritage from the Lord." (Psalm 127:3). Our church family rejoices with the happiness this child brings into the McClanahan family.

Sis. Lucille Nuest spent a short time in the hospital, and we are thankful to have her recovered and back at church.

Ashley Elcock (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) has been undergoing tests at Riley Children's Hospital. Our precious children touch all of our hearts as they wrestle with ill health, and we thank God when they start to feel better.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller flew to Philadelphia to explore treatment for the cancer that has invaded Bro. Lynn's body. Ongoing prayers arise for our dear brother and sister in the Lord.

In some way or other
the Lord will provide:
It may not be my way,
It may not be thy way;
And yet, in His own way,
The Lord will provide.
Then we'll trust in the Lord,
and He will provide...

Gospel Hymns #7

May the comfort that the Lord is providing fill the hearts of all who are distressed, burdened with care, afflicted, tossed and torn from the battles of life — whatever cross is being born.

Flying across the great blue sky is our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lyla, as they attend the Elder Conference in Oregon. Our thoughts, prayers, and support go with them during their trip and during the Elder meetings. God bless the efforts of our Brothers.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

After missing services on January 3, and several mid-week serv-

ices because of heavy and drifting snow, we were happy to be together again on January 20 for our topical Bible Study. Bros. John Stoller, Lynn Stieglitz and Brace Wieland presented a thought-provoking study on Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16, "unity of the Spirit" "one body, one spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father". Romans 12:1-21 (verse 5) "So we, being many, are one body in Christ..."; I Corinthians 12:31, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." They exhorted us to think of our purpose and continued contribution to "the Body", our church. What improvements can be made in the years ahead? We appreciated Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) as he concluded with remarks on I Cor. 13. He said living up to this chapter is not easy.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). Bro. Jeff presented a Marriage Seminar on February 12-13 and stayed for Sunday. It was all very timely for Valentine's Day. Of course, we do not need special days for practicing love. We thank them for their love and sharing with us. We welcomed those who came with them.

At our February 7 family sing, we were encouraged with a quartet "Renew" from Bluffton, IN. Thanks for taking time to share with us.

We were in continual prayer for the many who were hospitalized this month. Bro. John Stoller was in an auto accident, but released the same day with no serious effects other than a beat up body.

Sis. Andria Moushon has returned home and is attending services again; Bros. Tim Sauder and Marvin Fischer went through back surgery. Bro. Tim also was back in church, but is moving slowly. Bro. Pete Maxfield had surgery and has returned home. "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 136:1).

Two new babies arrived this month. Hope Joan Fischer was born on February 3 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne. She joined siblings, Sis. Laura, Peter, Bethany, Andrew, Philip, Talitha and Charity.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman and little sister Breana, welcomed Noah Thomas on February 8. Congratulations and the Lord's blessings on both families.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer

Marguerite Hoerr

Several of our members had surgery recently. Bros. Art Haab and Bob Hoerr, and Sisters Eleanor and Mary Ann Beer. It means so much to report they are all experiencing a successful return to health. The recovery period from surgery, major or minor, is full of challenges and those challenges are made so much easier if we keep reminding ourselves to be positive realists. We think of Matthew 9:29 where we are reminded "According to your faith be it unto you." These challenges are met so much easier when we feel the love of family, church family and friends. Knowing we are on the receiving end of prayers makes positive reality easier to attain.

This past month the Milford

congregation has been bountifully blessed with visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) came to assist Bro. Jesse in reviewing with us the church Conference deliberations. The same Sunday Bro. Brace Wieland came from Leo to minister to us. Bros. Randy Gasser and Keith Beyer accompanied the Detroit Choir when they favored us with their beautiful singing. The love that prompted the visits of these brothers, their wives and families, blessed us in a beautiful way.

Our Milford Choir, under the leadership of Bro. Lee Beer, enjoyed going to Morton, IL by bus and reported the blessings they experienced with friends and families of the Morton congregation.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Rochelle Ward

"He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honour."

Proverbs 21:21

We were blessed to have Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) with us for our January Bible Study. Our topic was "A Good Name is Better Than Riches".

Our dear Bro. Albert Schini (Sis. Amelia) was called to meet the Lord on January 27. May his family feel the comforting arm of our Saviour through their time of sorrow.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40

On January 28, fifty people from our congregation traveled on a bus to Bluffton to package food for Romania. Eight hundred boxes were packaged with canned goods, soaps, health items, and other non-perishables. We appreciate all who gave their time and effort to help those less fortunate.

The angels in Heaven rejoice as another soul has been called to repentance. Jeremy Scheitlan (Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori) has begun his walk into a new life in Christ. We give Jeremy our love and support as he turns his back on the world and finds the joy in serving the Lord.

As we approach the Easter season and the coming of spring, we are reminded of the wonderful gift of salvation. Just as the earth renews itself, we too can renew ourselves in remembering the hope of everlasting life given to us there on Calvary by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note of Thanks:

We thank all who visited Albert and prayed with him during his illness. Thank you also for the flowers and food at the time of his death and for the countless kind deeds. He loved his church family. He always said, "I love everyone." Your love and caring made it easier for us.

Sis. Amelia Schini and family

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold

Sue Beebe

The South Bend congregation was grateful for the service of Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) who was kind enough to lend himself and preach the Word. We

know the Lord will bless him and all who serve the Lord as ministers and Sunday School teachers.

Sis. Mildred Meister has been recovering at a nursing home in Bremen. We all pray for a complete recovery and that the Lord will lift up her sister, Ernestine, during this time of hardship.

Recently we were told of a little boy (five years of age) in our community who has developed a cancer in the stomach. And, I guess, with children of our own, I had to stop and think how an event such as this would really help a person to arrange their lives in a more appropriate fashion. We get busy, a natural tendency I suppose, and forget what is really important. This not only applies to our health and that of our families, but to our eternal salvation. Do we get too busy to keep in mind what is really important?

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Cheryl Bucher

Hope Bucher

We rejoice with Kelly (daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia Thomas) and her husband, Paul Sommer, as they celebrate the birth of their precious little bundle from Heaven, Sophia Anjonette.

Our annual business meeting was held at the end of January. Among the many things we discussed at our meeting, we are pleased about a couple of changes involving our youth. One decision was to invite the children in front of the church to sing with the leaders before the afternoon service. So far, the children have shown great enthusiasm, and they are eager to get into church early to sing songs of praise to the Lord.

We are also planning special activities for our children on Wednesday nights. We plan to begin our first three month session in March and will meet two times each month to work on World Relief/Service projects, learn Bible lessons and sing songs. We are looking forward to this opportunity to teach our youth more about God's plan for our lives.

We thank Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us last Sunday. We appreciate having him and his family with us for the day.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman

Mary Beth Lehman

"Behold God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation."

Isaiah 12:2

We rejoice that Tiffany Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) is trusting in the Lord's strength as she accepts His salvation through Jesus. It's encouraging to have prayers answered as we often lift up those we know and love to the Lord for Him to supply their need.

We continue to pray for those who have had surgery or are suffering with illness. Both Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel have had surgery this month and are thankful to be home again.

God continues to bless us with His Word. We appreciate our visiting ministers, Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) for encour-

aging and challenging us in our service to our King. Bro. Todd had our Bible Topic evening on Proverbs 22, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

After three weeks of weather delays, we were able to have our annual business meeting. We thank all of those who have completed their terms, and continue to pray for those continuing or beginning new terms. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord..." (Col. 3:23).

Easter will soon be here. What a joyful time as we rejoice in Jesus' resurrection! How our hearts long to have more souls answer His call. Jesus died for you and me; what will we do for Him?

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Judy Gehring
Karla Gerst**

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: **I was sick, and ye visited me:** I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:34-36 & 40

As we think of the brethren that have been hospitalized recently, may we always remember to include them in our prayers and to take the time to go visit them.

There is certainly a blessing in it for all of us. What a wonderful fellowship we share!

We also appreciate the fellowship of the brethren who are able to visit us from other congregations. We're thankful that ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) could include us in his travels this past month. May God bless all those who give of themselves to bring forth the Word.

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

Zion's Harp #207

IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

"And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection...And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."

Mark 15:7,15

In our day and time it would seem so illogical to let a murderer go free, but as you can see in the days of Jesus, the people would rather a murderer be released and an innocent man be crucified. Are we willing to stand up for Jesus, or are we like Pilate, wanting to give the world what they want, even though we know it is wrong? May we at this Easter time remember

God's greatest sacrifice, His Son, and live our lives the way God has commanded us to live.

We would like to warmly welcome Mark and Braden Stork (Preston, MN) who are assembling with us. It is such a blessing to our congregation to have more souls added to our small fold.

We are thankful that God has brought Bro. Mike Rinckenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) to minister unto us. May they feel God's richest blessings for this loving act of kindness and for traveling the many miles to worship with us.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA). We are thankful for the Lord's traveling mercies over these brothers and their families and the loved ones that accompanied them as they came to share the Lord's Word with us.

Spending several days in the hospital was Sis. Dawn Moser who was seriously ill. During this time the Lord chose to take their unborn "bundle" back to Heaven. We pray for God's healing hand, physically, spiritually and emotionally for Bro. Tom, Sis. Dawn and family.

Also spending a few days in the hospital was Joel Funk (Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura). We are thankful for the healing hand of the Lord for little Joel.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Sharon Gerst**

We were again blessed with many visitors this month. We are thankful that God granted us Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) to share the Word of Life with us.

Our prayers go with Bro. Eric Spangler as he moved to Alto, MI. We appreciate the support Bro. Eric has given our church during the time he spent in Iowa City. May the Lord's guidance and love always be with him.

IOWA, LESTER**Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold**

It is such a privilege to hear God's Word spoken to us in its truth and purity. Sincere appreciation is extended to our brethren as they allow the Spirit to work within them. Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS), with the assistance of Elder Bro. Dennis, read the Memorandum letter from the Brotherhood Conference. We extend a thank you to Bro. Charles and his wife, Sis. Karen, for being with us and hope they will come again to visit us.

Steve Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther) and Mychal Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) have been announced to have found their peace with God and man. With thankful hearts they await to bring their testimonies and to experience baptism in the near future. We rejoice with them and their families.

Several from our congregation traveled to Tremont, IL for the

wedding of Bro. Nelson Koch and Sis. Mary Knobloch on February 14. Sis. Mary (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie), originally from Lester, has been employed in that area for some time. May God bless the marriage of this dear couple as they establish a Christian home together.

Two sweet little babies were born this past month. Lucus Hunter is the name chosen by his happy parents, Bro. Kyle and Becky Knobloch. He is welcomed home by his brother, Bobby, and sister, Tara. Grandparents are Gib and Sis. Vicki Knobloch. Also Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer rejoice with the birth of Jessica Louise. She joins her big brother, Jayden, and is also adored by her grandparents, Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Great-grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi.

Many dear souls have had to spend time in the hospital this past month. Little Jessica Louise (Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer) contracted a virus a few weeks after she was born and is hospitalized. Bro. Bob (Sis. Cindy) Leuthold, Bro. Wilbert (Sis. Helen) Knobloch, and Bro. Ronald Kellenberger submitted to surgery. Bro. Edward (Sis. Amelia) Roemen, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Ella (Bro. Ernst) Metzger and Bro. Fred (Sis. Etsy) Metzger spent several days confined to the hospital for various medical problems. Bro. Fred has almost completed his radiation treatment for his pancreatic cancer. We are glad to see Sis. Marlys (Bro. Butch) Doorneweerd is able to be with us each Sunday

as she undergoes radiation and chemotherapy for colon cancer. Bro. Denis (Sis. Jill) Meyer is also receiving chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant for his battle with lymphoma. Many prayers have been offered on the behalf of these dear souls and may they feel the continued support and love of all those who care.

**IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner**

Greetings of love from Oakville!

Welcoming into their hearts and home their firstborn child are Bro. Brent and Sis. Karen Eberhardt. They have named their new little daughter, Brianna Nichole. Also thankful for her safe arrival are first-time grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner, as well as her paternal grandparents, Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt (Burlington). May the Lord bless this dear family as they strive to raise their little girl with His guidance and direction.

We rejoice in the announcement of Bro. Mike Schumacher, Jr. to Sis. Marisa Wirz (Kitchener, Canada). May the Lord be near these dear ones as they prepare to be joined in Holy Matrimony.

We want to thank Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) for ministering to us this past month. May the Lord richly bless him for being a willing servant.

**IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr
Berniece Banwart**

Our prayers go out to hospital patients, Bro. Walter Banwart, Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandy) Knobloch,

Bro. Rick (Sis. Karen) Kellenberger, Bro. Bill (Connie) Zaugg, Alice Marie Metzger, and Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm. Many others of our loved ones have been confined to their homes with various illnesses. We pray that God will bless them with returning health if it is His will.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) spending a weekend with us. He assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in the reading of the Memorandum. It is encouraging to hear our Elder brothers expound on different topics of concern within the church. May we do our part by being supportive and obedient.

February 6 was a beautiful winter day for the wedding of Jodi Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice) and Cory Berkland (Jeff and Jo). Jody's uncles, Elder Bro. Wayne (Sis. Kathy) Fehr and Bro. Leland (Sis. Mary) Plattner (Zapata, TX), performed the ceremony. We wish Cory and Jodi God's blessings as they begin their married life together. They are making their home in Urbana, IL.

The Promise of Easter

"Because He Lives We Too Shall Live"

We need these seven words above
to help us to endure
The changing world around us
that is dark and insecure,
To help us view the present
as a passing episode,
A troubled, brief encounter
on life's short and troubled
road—

For knowing life's eternal
because our Saviour died
And arose again at Easter

after He was crucified
Makes this uncertain present
in a world of sin and strife,
Nothing but a stepping-stone
to a NEW and BETTER LIFE.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

JAPAN, SHIODA
Willis Ehnle

Each year we have our own church conference on February 11. This year it was held at our Shioda Church. Bro. Akito Inoue and I spoke on the Memorandum pertaining to the two Elder Conferences held in the States last year. In the afternoon we had a discussion about matters which particularly concerned our churches in Japan.

Sis. Misawa's husband passed away the latter part of January. A group of us from our church visited her and her family the night before the funeral. He had been ill for a number of years and Sis. Misawa sometimes missed church because of taking care of her husband. Their eldest son made arrangements for a Buddhist funeral, which is one of the problems faced by believers in Japan.

On January 24 we had the proving for Akihiro Ito here at our Shioda Church. The following Sunday afternoon, we had the baptism for Akihiro with the support and encouragement of the believers from our three small churches. We pray that God will bless him and guide him, for His glory.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Andrew & Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! At the end of January, we, the Klaus family, arrived back safely to Japan,

for which we were thankful. It felt a little warmer here after many days of below freezing temperatures in Illinois! We brought with us Andrew's brother, Mark Klaus (Athens, AL), and our church enjoyed a day of fellowship with him out in the country church of Shioda on January 31. That was a very special Sunday as our young medical student, Akihiro Ito, was baptized. Many from our church in Tokyo came for the special and blessed event. We joyfully welcome Bro. Akihiro into our church and pray that he will continue to live committed to Christ and be a shining light to those around him. Christians are few in this land, but it seems that young people are showing more interest in Christianity these days and with Bro. Akihiro being a university student, he is right in the middle of an open mission field. Pray for him.

Many traveled back to Shioda again on the holiday of Japan's Constitution Day, February 11, to attend the annual brother meeting. The morning was spent going over topics talked about at last year's Brotherhood Conference in the U.S. In the afternoon we discussed many issues and concerns that we members have pertaining to our churches here.

Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue attended the winter Elder Conference in Oregon this year and arrived back safely in time to meet travelers from the U.S., Bro. Andy Aberle's brother, Bro. Tim, and his wife, Sis. Candi (Tremont, IL), who were able to worship with us on Sunday, February 21. We appreciated Bro. Tim's afternoon Bible study on the parable of the Good Samaritan, once again pro-

voking us to think of what we should be doing to help our "neighbor". This reminds me of a poem by Helen Steiner Rice that I read recently which spoke to my heart.

Do not sit and idly wish for
wider, new dimensions
When you can put in practice all
your good intentions,
But at the spot God placed you
begin at once to do
Little things to brighten up the
lives surrounding you.

KANSAS, BERN
Jill Hartter
Holly Meyer

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Elder brothers this week as they strive to work for unity and the welfare of the church at the winter Conference in Silverton, OR. Their love and concern for us as a body of believers was again demonstrated in the reading and exhortation of the Memorandum on January 23. We were able to share the evening with the Sabetha congregation. Assisting one another were Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and John Lehman (Bern, KS). We thank these Elder brothers for their efforts. We appreciated Bro. Gary Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) coming to assist Bro. Galen Rokey in Sunday services this month. How blessed we are when we can lean upon one

another to share in our earthly labors.

We want to continue to remember Hal Pritchard in our prayers as he has moved from the hospital to the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, KS. We thank God for his improvements and pray the Lord be near him as he continues to battle his illness. Others that have been in the hospital have been Bro. Ed and Sis. Leola Lehman, and Bro. Harvey Grimm. May God continue to be with them.

Little Matthew Roger, born to Sis. Colleen and Bro. Allen Meyer, remains in the hospital after making an early arrival into this world on February 11. We pray that he can continue to grow and be able to join his family at home. We are thankful that Sis. Colleen has been able to return home after several weeks of bed rest in the hospital. Big brothers, Benjimen and Grant, welcome Matthew as do grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Jeannie Meyer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS). Another family rejoicing in the miracle of birth is Greg and Sis. Carol Renyer. Cameron James is welcomed home by Clinton, Cabriel, Geoffry, Gessica, Garrett, and Caitlyn. Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey and George and Clela Renyer also rejoice in the safe arrival of their new grandchild.

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord,"

Psalms 122:1

Our benches were full as several young groups joined Bern and Sabetha for President's Day weekend. We are thankful for so many

who traveled the distance to take part in the special fellowship we have.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Joleen Sinn

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Psalms 127:3-6

Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen Sinn opened welcoming arms to Caleb Oliver on January 26. Big sisters, Amy, Breona, Carla and Heidi, stand in line to cuddle him. But especially thrilled to meet little Caleb was big brother, Joel, who's been waiting through four sisters to get a little brother.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jennifer Stewart
Laura Wagenbach

Our dear Sis. Edna Reed passed away this month after many months of illness. What a blessing it is to know her suffering is now over and she can find peaceful rest.

Verda Tanner has been moved from the hospital to a rest home in Alva, OK. Our prayers are with her and may the Lord continue to bless her recovery.

This month we held our annual business meeting. We appreciate those who had the opportunity to serve this past year, and thank the newly elected brothers and sisters for giving of themselves to fulfill

these duties.

We were privileged to have in our midst a visiting minister this month. Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) came to share God's Word with us. We are always thankful for the words we hear from those who lend themselves in the service of the Lord. May He richly bless them for their efforts.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

Julie Bahr

Sarah Somerhalder

Our annual election was held on January 17. Our deepest thanks and appreciation to those who served faithfully in the various capacities of God's work. We ask for God's wisdom upon each one willing to fill the needed positions.

What a precious privilege to be given the opportunity to be a Godly influence to our precious grandchildren. Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorthy Schrader have been given that responsibility to a new wonderful grandson, Hans Josef, born December 3 to Bro. John and Sis. Sara Schrader (Wichita, KS). Sis. Kathleen Gallatin is the maternal grandmother. Then on January 22, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch were blessed with the same privilege to a wonderful new granddaughter, Jessi Lynn, born to Sis. Jennifer and Bro. James Kieser (Congerville, IL). Jessi has a big sister, Alyssa. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL).

Our loving sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Jeffrey Frieden and his sister, Marilyn "Suzie" Groom, in the loss of Marilyn's husband (Bro. Jeffrey's brother-in-law), Jeff Groom, from

Corbeth, OR. May God be their comfort in this time of sudden tragic loss.

Our congregation will be saddened and surely miss Bill, Kayla and Foster Holland from assembling with us. Bill has taken the director position of a physical therapy business in Liberal, KS. Though we will be quite a few miles apart, we pray God will keep them in His care. We welcome them back to visit us whenever possible.

It was so enjoyable to have the Bern and Sabetha single groups come and be with us for a weekend. What a blessed time of fellowship and blending of our voices in singing. May the Lord bless each one!

We welcome back to our assembly our retired Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and his wife, Sis. Clara, as they spent time in Zapata, TX.

Our prayers are with the Elders as they gather this week for the mid-winter Conference. May we ever hold up their arms and support them as they endeavor to preserve our precious faith.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Brenda Grimm

Mary Kay Wenger

We were truly blessed as the Sabetha and Bern congregations gathered together January 23 for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assisted Elder Bros. John Lehman and Eugene Marti in bringing forth much exhortation and encouragement from this letter.

Our visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). May

the Lord bless them for their labors of love in His service.

We rejoice with Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Christy Meeks (Jerry) as they have found peace with God and man and look forward to their testimonies and baptisms on March 13 and 14.

Our annual business meeting was held January 26. We appreciate the efforts put forth by those who have held offices in the past year and we wish God's blessings on those who are continuing or filling new positions.

As our Elder Brothers meet in Silverton this week for the mid-winter Conference, we pray that they may feel God's nearness as they discuss concerns of this day that face the church. May the Holy Spirit direct them to fulfill the Lord's will in all things. May God's healing touch be upon Sisters Clara Steiner, Irene Aberle and Esther Terry who have had surgery or spent time in the hospital this month.

Leona Grimm has heeded the call to repentance and we wish her God's nearness and much grace as she builds a firm foundation on Jesus Christ.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger are happy for a new grandson. Joshua Scott was born January 24 to Scott and Trisha Gibson of Topeka, KS. He has one sister, Whitney (age 3), to welcome him home.

Thankful first-time parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly Grimm with the arrival of Micah Douglas on February 10. Micah's grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf (Morris, MN).

Our prayers are with Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter as their new little grandson entered this world about 6 weeks premature. Matthew Roger was born February 11 to Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer (Bern, KS) and remains in the hospital at this time.

We wish God's blessings on Myra Aberle who has announced her engagement to Jared Hartter. Myra is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle and Jared is the son of Alan and Sally Hartter.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and his wife, Sis. Susan, visited our congregation in January. We appreciate the willingness of our visiting ministers to bring us a gospel message.

Work is progressing on our dining room addition. The brickwork is now complete and the sheetrock work is in the final stages. Our local brothers have been helped by brothers from the nearby congregations. It is heartening to see college students and those home on leave working on the project. We are grateful to the craftsmen who gave of their special talents, especially those who traveled the miles to help.

Our thoughts and prayers of comfort are with Bro. Glenn Funk and his family as they are experiencing their loss of his father, yet rejoicing in Bro. Wilbur's heavenly rest.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Michelle Oesch Kristen Plattner

Companioned years have made them comprehend
The comradeship that lies beyond a kiss.

The young ask much of life—they ask but this,
To fare the road together to its end.

—*Roselle Mercier Montgomery*

Fifty years of marriage were honored and celebrated by Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough with an open house on February 6. We are thankful for their lasting vows to each other and wish them many more blessings in their walk together.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Ephesians 6:13-18

Our Elders recently gathered together at the Elder Conference, working together to preserve this faith that is so precious to us. Heavy is the load they must oftentimes bear as the world pushes harder at making inroads in our

faith. May we each do our part by praying and being steadfast in our faith, so our enemy will find his path continually blocked by heavenly powers.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel Peggy Jackson

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?"

Romans 11:34

Recently our community experienced three very tragic deaths: one a young woman in childbirth; another, a young 15-year-old basketball player from a local high school; and third, a 40-year-old devoted husband and father in a tragic work accident. At times like these, we wonder as to God's plan, we wonder how these tragedies could be part of His will, and yet we know that nothing happens without His knowledge and without His "...thoughts which are to usward..." (Psalm 41:5). Imagine, His thoughts are ON US even when the circumstances of our lives hurt so much. But we say, "Lord, why me? Why this situation? Why this pain?" It strikes me that Jesus had none of these questions in the Garden of Gethsemane; He knew that He would endure torture and ultimately death for sins that weren't His own. If anyone had the right to wonder why, it would have been Him, but instead He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt" (Matthew 14:36). In one sen-

tence Jesus acknowledged the power and sovereignty of God and submitted Himself to it. What an example for us as we struggle with the tough things in life: the pain, the tragedies, loved ones who are lost, the fear and the frustration. For the believer who chooses submission to the will of God, we can know great peace and joy even in the midst of all of that, because Jesus walks beside us and He has already been there.

We have had many things to rejoice in this month and we know that Heaven is rejoicing too. Anna Marie Bishop (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger) has expressed her need for a Saviour and has begun on the road of repentance. We rejoice with Anna Marie and her family and pray that she will feel God's love and strength in the journey ahead.

We are so excited to announce the births of two little ones to our congregation. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Kaiser welcomed home Andrew Joseph. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Lorraine Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner (Detroit, MI). Alan and Vicki Schlatter were blessed with a daughter, Carlie Rae. Carlie is welcomed home by big brother, Travis. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret Schlatter and Steve and Sally Walczak. We rejoice with these two young couples and pray for God's nearness in the lives of their children.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Carol Wackerle (Silverton, OR) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray for God's loving guidance as they begin a mar-

riage centered upon His will. Our congratulations are also extended to Bro. Greg's parents, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle, and to Sis. Carol's family as well.

We had several spend time in the hospital this month. They were: Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie), Anna Marie Bishop (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger) and Sis. Inez Grew (Delor). We pray that each one will be encouraged by God's nearness and His healing touch.

May God go with each of you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes
Kristie Meyer

After several very snowy weeks, the roads were clear enough for our choir to travel to Milford, IN for the last weekend in January. It is always wonderful to be able to visit with our brothers and sisters from other congregations. We appreciate the love and hospitality that is so freely given.

We were fortunate to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) from our Washington, IL church with us to share in the reading of the Memorandum. We are very blessed to have a body of ministering brothers who are in agreement and who keep up the traditions of our faith. In these times of uncertainty, it is so important to be able to have the solid rock of our faith to support us through all times, good and bad. Also with us for the weekend was ministering Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario).

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner were blessed with the birth of their first grandson, An-

drew Joseph. First-time parents are Sis. Jane and Bro. Dan Kaiser (Bay City, MI).

We recently held our church business meeting and new brothers and sisters were voted in to fulfill several positions. Bros. Steve Wieland and Lucas Frank are our new ushers; Bro. John Gleichman is our Gateway Woods representative; Sis. Beth Knochel is in charge of the kitchen; Bros. John and Alan Gleichman as parking lot attendants; Sis. Bonnie Bedolla and Sis. Crystal Ramsier are our new Silver Lining reporters; and Bro. Jim Barton was renewed in his position as representative for the Home for the Handicapped. May the Lord bless these brethren for accepting these important responsibilities.

MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

Delores Sauder

We recently had our annual business meeting to discuss issues of our church. We pray for those who have been given added responsibilities and thank those whose terms have expired.

A new Christian home is being established in our area. We welcome Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Natalie Freed who were recently married in LaCrosse, IN. Bro. Jeremy has found employment in the area.

Our prayers are for Bro. Ray Schmidgall as he is recovering from knee surgery.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Nancy Wulf****Dianne Kellenberger**

What a blessed privilege it was to hear the Memorandum on January 23. Truly we need to watch and pray for the days are evil and deceptive. We plead for our children and loved ones to come and taste and see!

We are grateful for our visiting ministers who shared God's teachings with us. They were Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and also Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

We pray for our Elder brethren as they meet for their mid-winter Conference, that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We extend our condolences to the family of our dear Sis. Rose Ann Schott who went to meet her Lord on January 18. She is survived by her husband, Terry Schott, Breckenridge, MN; many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; her parents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Anna Nohl (Morris); her two brothers, Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Joyce) Nohl (Mission, TX), Bro. David (Sis. Eileen) Nohl (Morris); and her sister, Lucille (Harland) Stueber (St. Paul, MN). What a comfort it must be to her family that only a short time ago she came to truly know her Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Earl Kussatz was called to his Heavenly Home on February 1. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Minnie (Moser) Kussatz; two sons, Curtis and Arnold; and one daughter, Kathleen O'Keefe; and grandchildren.

May God comfort Sisters Nettie and Naomi Nohl and Bro. Henry

Nohl in the passing of their brother, Eli Nohl, who died on February 6.

We also pray for Sis. Barb Schmidgall (Bro. Gilbert) in the death of her mother, Mary Kepner.

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

Psalm 127:3

Chandler Pace was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie Gramm on January 27. Excited siblings are Alexis, Whitney and Tanner. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm and Vera Jones.

Our congratulations to Lisa Schmidgall who received her LPN degree. Lisa is the daughter of Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda.

Those recuperating from illness or injury are Samantha Schmidgall (Bruce and Penny), Bro. Floyd Schmidgall (Sis. Vi), Angela Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandra) and Fonda Koehl (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon).

Easter is fast approaching and we are reminded of our Saviour's shed blood and death on the cross, and then His resurrection. Let us give our all to Him, who gave His all for us.

Note of Thanks:

It is with deep appreciation we want to say thank you to all our relatives and friends for all the visits, phone calls, flowers and gifts, and most of all the prayers throughout Bro. Earl's long illness and passing. We want to thank the ministers who conducted the service and all those who came to be with us during this time of need.

*The family of Bro. Earl Kussatz,
Sis. Minnie, Curtis (Joan) Kus-*

satz & girls, Arnold (Jeanne) Kussatz & family, and Kathleen (Anthony) O'Keefe & family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Carol Ann Messner****Becky Braulick**

"But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

Ezekiel 33:6

We pray for God's special guidance as our Elders meet for their mid-winter Conference in Oregon.

"And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

John 12:23-24

As Easter approaches, let us remember the true meaning of Christianity through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. How thankful we are for Jesus dying in our place!

It is finished! Christ is slain,
On the altar of creation,
Offering for a world's salvation
Sacrifice of love and pain.
Lord, Thy love through pain
revealing,
Purge our passions, scourge our
vice,
Till, upon the tree of healing,
Self is slain in sacrifice.

—*Gabriel Gillett*

Hospital patients this past month were Bro. Tim Schmidt (Liz), Sierra Rose (Bro. Clint and Sis. Maggie Schmidt) and Michael Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny). We are thankful for their recoveries.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

God has truly blessed us this past month. Sis. Janelle Sinn from Ft. Scott has joined us in Kansas City. We are thankful that God has directed her to our area and we pray that she will feel welcome by her new church. Our young group in Kansas City continues to grow exponentially, and we pray that they will grow spiritually, as well.

We rejoice with Komari Neal as she has recently begun a new life in Jesus Christ. What joy we feel when we see a soul come to the Lord in repentance! We trust the Lord will bless and guide her along the pathway of life.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We are thankful for his service and pray he and his family will visit us again.

Today, from Jude, we heard a lot about murmuring and complaining. We were reminded of what happened to the children of Israel when they murmured. It is very easy to fall into a negative mindset that is conducive to murmuring and complaining. Let's be on guard.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Kristi Huber

Our congregation has been listening to this past year's Conference tapes. It is a blessing to gather and hear the concerns and exhortations of our dear Elder brethren. Our prayers will once again be with our shepherds as they meet together for the mid-winter Conference at Silverton, OR.

We were thankful to have Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) with us this past month. We were also blessed with many visitors the weekend of February 6-7 for an invite weekend. Among those visiting were ministering Bros. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), and Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Ft. Scott, KS). We pray that God will bless each of them for their labors on our behalf.

Bro. Dale Marti (Sis. Corrine) has been a surgical patient this past month. May God's healing hand rest upon him and grant him a quick and complete recovery.

The home of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy Marti was blessed with the arrival of Alex William on February 2. Welcoming their baby brother are Nicole, Christopher, and Elizabeth. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti and Mabel Connors.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers to St. Louis were Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington,

IL), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). We were richly blessed by the messages and the fellowship of these dear brothers and their wives and the rest of our many visitors. We are thankful that recently the weather has been mild and hasn't hindered travel.

The message one Sunday dealt with pruning. St. John 15:1-2 read, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Have you ever seen a vine or tree that has just been correctly pruned? It looks drastic, painful, almost pathetic! But the results are very gratifying, and one can especially appreciate the results if one follows the progress of the plant over a period of time. Would my life or your life benefit from some pruning? We pray that God will help us to remove what would be better off out of our lives so we may be more fruitful.

Our Bible Studies are well attended, and are felt to be of great spiritual benefit. We are currently going through the Beatitudes one by one. "Blessed" are we to have these opportunities to carefully delve into the Scripture.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Peg Haerr

We at Taylor welcome Bro. Todd and Sis. Lisa (Hoerr) Bryant from Peoria, IL. They are presently living in Nebo, IL.

May God's healing hand rest upon Bro. Allen Massner (Sis. Rosie) and Pauline Shoemaker as

they have experienced illness in the last month.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"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. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

John 15:10-14

On February 7, we had a singing at Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda Graves' home.

On February 12, we had a work day at church for World Relief, and then a potluck supper in the evening.

Sis. Edna Sturtze had a stroke on January 14, but she is improving. Bro. Lowell Virkler (Sis. Celia) fell and broke some ribs, but he is getting along good. Amos Bush had surgery on his hip to remove the metal plate, and is doing good. He is the son of Joseph and Linette Bush. Bro. Niles Farney had surgery and is in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand upon these loved ones.

Bro. Albert Schini, brother-in-law of Sis. Carolyn Virkler, died January 27. His first wife, Sis. Lorene (Sis. Carolyn's sister), died in 1957. He then married Sis. Amelia Scharlack.

Sue Ellen Gerber (Bluffton, IN) died in an auto accident on February 6. She is the daughter of Bro. Lee and Sis. Jennie (Schulz) Gerber.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

Susan Kataniz has turned to the Lord in repentance and received peace with God. May she continue to grow in grace and we look forward to her testimony and baptism.

Sis. Audrey Graf and Sis. Johanna Fortenbacher were hospitalized and have been able to assemble with us again for which we are thankful.

Bro. Eric Spangler (Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail) moved from the Iowa City area to Grand Rapids, MI and will be assembling with the Alto congregation.

We appreciated the inspiring messages given us recently by Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH).

We also appreciated all our visitors from our neighboring congregations as well as those from more distant churches. We hope you will always feel welcome to assemble with us.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

Our visiting ministers for this

past month were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

On February 14, Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) shared the duties on the pulpit during our Invite-A-Friend weekend. We want to thank each one for coming and making it a blessed weekend. We always appreciate visitors.

A World Relief night was held on February 5. We are thankful for those willing to help prepare items used for those in need. Those who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship together.

Charlotte Kufchak (Greg) was hospitalized this past month for surgery. We are thankful to see her back at church.

This past month our water heater quit working, leaving me to warm bath water on the stove. There are many times that we take the conveniences of our day for granted and we don't realize how blessed we are until they are gone.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

The bitter cold beginning of January sure made 50 degrees feel warm during the latter part of the month. Being somewhat homebound for a few days during the storms brought to realization how much we take for granted. May we all be as spiritually prepared for the Lord's return as we materially prepare ourselves when potentially unfavorable weather is fore-

casted.

Our convert, Lee Rose (Sis. Inez), was baptized February 6 after church services. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and several others gathered together at Hawthorne Court, the health care facility where Lee resides, for the special service. How comforting it is to know that God is still working in the hearts of man today.

Peg Bauman was in the hospital for a short overnight visit this month. We are thankful God's healing hand has again been present as Peg is back in church and feeling much better.

January 28 was a special day as Jesse Aaron was born to Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter. May God give them much wisdom as they strive to raise their son to love and serve our Heavenly Father.

OHIO, LATTY
Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjoes

This past month our congregation heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Keith and Connie Krzesiniski, Gretl Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) and Brent Steiner (Sis. Andrea). We welcome our new brothers and sisters in faith and wish them much grace in the future. Sharing the Word with us during those weekends were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

We rejoice with Jeff and Jenny Ross as they have found forgive-

ness and have peace in their hearts. May they hold onto that peace for the rest of their lives. We look forward to hearing their testimonies sometime in the future.

After much prayer, a new minister was added to our pulpit. May the Lord be with Bro. Todd Stoller, his wife, Sis. Pam, and their family. May they feel the love and support of the congregation as Bro. Todd begins his new responsibilities. Bro. Steve Sinn (Sis. Joy) will take Bro. Todd's place as Sunday School teacher.

May the Lord grant His healing touch to those who have been in the hospital and had surgery this past month. We wish Bro. Dwain Laukhuf (Sis. Wanita), Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam), Sis. Beulah Stoller and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon) a speedy recovery.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer

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

Hymns of Zion #218

Bro. Ollie LaRue was called Home to be with Jesus. We will miss him, but are thankful that he is safe from the world's temptations. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to his family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Leora Bocka and Sis. LaVersa Sabo. They both had surgery this past month. May God

heal them if it would be His will.

Sis. Laura Ramsey (Bro. Ed) has finished her chemotherapy treatments. Please continue to pray for her. The patience our Father in Heaven has given her is so encouraging to us.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Lucy Gasser
Lynda Beery

Sis. Lucy Gasser is thankful for a new granddaughter, Emma Sophia, born January 30 to her son, Alan, and daughter-in-law, Becca, of Toronto, Canada. May God bless all parents with wisdom as they raise their children.

Bro. Milan Baltic was in a serious traffic accident for which he needed to be hospitalized for a time. Wayne Beery, Sis. Anna Blough, and Mabel Goodwin also spent time in the hospital. We wish them all the blessed nearness of our loving God.

May our Heavenly Father comfort Sis. Gerri O'Brien who traveled to Connecticut to spend time with her father before he passed away. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent and other family members as his sister, Ella Mae Gibboney of Sun City, AZ, passed away recently.

We are glad to have Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Francesville, IN) in our midst. She is employed in our area and worships with us.

We can never be thankful enough that we have such free access to God's Word in our country, and that we have faithful ministering brothers who bring it to us in truth. May God continue to bless and encourage our home

ministers and also Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) who visited us recently.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

"...We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 9:28

With prayerful hearts our congregation has elected brethren for special church offices: Bros. Dennis Miller and John Figel for the office of trustee, Bro. Andrew Figel for usher, and Bro. Dana Indermuhle for treasurer. Our heartfelt thanks go to those whose terms have been completed for being so willing and patient in their duties, especially to Bro. John Figel who has served several terms as treasurer.

God has blessed Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ) with a precious baby girl, Kara Justine. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO). May the Lord bless and guide this dear family always.

Sis. Renee Miller has graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and has also majored in Accounting. We pray that God will continue to guide her footsteps in the future as well as He has done in the past.

A special thanks to our visiting minister this month, Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), and his dear wife, Sis. Lynell, for attending to our spiritual needs. May God bless

them for their kindness.

Our prayers will continue to be with Sis. Hazel Riggenbach as she has suffered a broken arm. May the Lord comfort, heal, and strengthen her with His loving hand.

Sis. Rosella Figel has for some time been battling cancer and has been hospitalized for the past two months. We pray that the Lord will be nearby to give her comfort and ease her pain, for her illness is at times profound and difficult to bear.

Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) and her family was in sorrow over the death of their long time friend and former employer, Dr. Frederick Large. We pray that God will also comfort and strengthen all who were saddened by this loss.

"...Sometimes I am tossed and driven, Lord;
Sometimes I don't know where to roam.
But I have heard of a city called heaven,
And I started to make it my home."

-Traditional Spiritual

Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) has heeded the call of the Lord, and has found the grace to repent. She now believes that God has granted her peace, and she desires to become a sister in Christ. We look forward to witnessing her testimony and baptism as the Lord wills. Our prayers will be with her.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Isaiah 52:7

We have been blessed by many visitors again this past month. Our special thanks go to those who have ministered the Word to us: Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Doug Harmon, and Walter Rager (Toledo, OH), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

On January 30, we met with the Rittman congregation to hear the Memorandum of the 1998 Brotherhood Conference. We appreciate the labors of our Elders on our behalf. Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted our local Elders, Bro. Henry Dotterer and Bro. Andy Stoller.

Three couples have made vows of faithfulness to one another in recent weeks. On January 24, Bro. Seth Beard (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee, Toledo, OH) and Sis. Faith Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois) became one in the Lord. January 30 was chosen by Jeremy Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Bonnie Calhoun to give their wedding vows. On February 13, Doug Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay) and Melaney Carraway became husband and wife. We pray the Lord will bless these unions, and they will feel His direction as they establish their homes.

The report of another soul turning to the Lord in repentance

makes any day better. We were happy to hear that Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) has answered the Lord's call and is seeking true peace of heart and mind. Beth Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) and Kathy Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) have found this true peace and wish to enter a covenant with the Lord at some future date.

Bro. Ben Maibach (Linda) and Bro. Don Stoller (Sis. Luzelda) have recently been hospitalized. We lift them up to our Heavenly Father in prayer, as He never tires of our petitions.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"And I will give you pastors according to mine own heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Jeremiah 3:15

We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) with us to share in both the ministry and the reading of the Memorandum. As we are fed with the knowledge and understanding inspired by the Spirit, may we be obedient followers of the Word of God.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn Beard and their family in the death of Geralyn's mother, Vicki Fierbaugh. In times of sorrow, our God can provide comfort to meet our every need.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup
 On January 19, Ken and Camie

Knecht were blessed with a healthy baby girl. Kaitlyn Lorraine is also welcomed home by her big sister, Jessica. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Randy and Linda Plummer (Canby, OR). We wish Ken and Camie God's blessings and guidance as they raise their precious children.

Among the things accomplished during our recent business meeting were: the election of Bro. John Kinsinger as teacher for our Bible Class, replacing Bro. Bill Berg; and the election of Bro. Mark Gallup as trustee, replacing Bro. Denny Martin who was moved on to the position of head trustee. May the Lord guide and direct them as they assume their responsibilities. The congregation surely appreciates their efforts.

On Saturday, February 14, the Portland congregation assembled in Silverton with our brethren there to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Let us not take for granted the precious unity of faith in our church and may the Lord grant us all the grace and humility to follow and not serve self or give in to worldly things. We deeply appreciate the Elder Body as a whole and their efforts on our behalf. Our gratitude in particular to our Elder Bro. Art Metz and the visiting Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) who presented the Memorandum to us. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to serve.

We do thank all our visitors who made the effort to come our way. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR)

and Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI); and Bros. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The annual business meeting was held Saturday evening, January 16, in the Sunday School assembly room as is our custom. Those brethren chosen for duties for the coming year are: Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Edith) - Trustee; Bro. Curt Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) - Sound System; Bro. Greg Wackerle (Sis. Carol) - Usher; and Sis. Diane Kuenzi (Bro. Myron) - Dinner Committee. A sincere prayer of thanks for those who have completed their terms of office and a prayer for God's direction and grace for those beginning to serve. And a reminder that the prayers of the congregation are as necessary to the peaceful, successful operation of the church as are the actions of those given the responsibility of office.

God has granted Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadel another little blessing. Her name is Malinda Nicole and she arrived on January 30. Trever and Kiersten welcome their new little sister, too. Grandparents are Norman and Maryann Stadel (Silverton) and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler (Owatonna, MN). All were thankful that Grandma Virkler could come out to spend a couple weeks helping out. May our Lord Jesus be their ever-present Helper in every need in raising their dear little family.

January 31 was the wedding day of Bro. Greg Wackerle (Bro.

Sam and Sis. Lorraine, Bay City, MI) and Sis. Carol Dietrich (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Betty). They were thankful for family and friends visiting from near and far on this, their very special day. Here for the occasion was Elder Bro. Andrew and Sis. Maxine Virkler (Bay City, MI). Bro. Andy had the afternoon service followed by the marriage ceremony by Elder Bro. Art Metz. A reception was held nearby at the Central Howell School.

Thankfully all of our hospital patients are again able to assemble with us, each one thankful to be restored to good health or at least well "on-the mend". They were Bro. Jeremy Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann), Walter Klopfenstein (Karen), Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) and Alice Gehring (the late Bro. Lawrence).

Saturday night, February 13, we were blessed, edified, chastened, lovingly warned and much encouraged as our beloved Elders read to us and meditated on the Memorandum of the Elder Conferences of 1998. This, practically on the eve of the 1999 Mid-Winter Conference, reminds us of how much sincere prayer, effort and time our Elder body invests in the spiritual welfare of the Church. We pray that they will never tire or despair of being our "Watchmen on the Wall". Our Elder Bro. Art Metz was thankful to have Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) all here for this important work of the Lord.

It was a joy to recently hear that Brian Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis.

Joan) believes he has found the peace with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that he has been seeking in his repentance. This brings to four, the number of converts that will have opportunity to bring their testimony before the brethren on February 27, Lord willing. The others are Jill Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan), and Tyler and Kelsey Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann). "Think what great honor and glory the Lord will render Him who from childhood and till his last years did surrender all to the Lord;" (Zion's Harp #168).

Our visiting ministers this past month include the above mentioned Elder Brothers and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). As early arrivals of the Mid-Winter Elders' Conference which takes place this week, we were thankful they were willing to serve on our pulpit as well.

Reminder: March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. You may put your contribution in the box marked for Silver Lining. This would also be a good time to make any additions, deletions or address changes if needed. You may give these changes to your Silver Lining Correspondent at any time, but this would be a good time to update any Silverton information. Thank you.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Merle and Bev Rocke

"Christian Friendship" (Hymns of Zion). Our Christian friendships are so very special and though they may be older, younger, far away or some that we may see everyday, we feel that

warm and lasting friendship that we cherish close to our hearts. We certainly do feel that here in our little church when we have visitors come and visit us from afar. It is a special blessing that we have and are so thankful for. May it be something that we shall always cherish. Our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was with us on January 31 for our annual business meeting. We appreciate our Elder brothers and all the time that they labor in our behalf. We pray that God may bless them and the brothers and sisters that labor with duties within the church.

We were saddened to learn that Brian and June Crockett will be leaving our little congregation as they will be relocating in Cleveland, OH due to Brian's job. We wish them God's blessings along their pathway of life. They will certainly be missed in our little church.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

"For with God, nothing shall be impossible."

Luke 1:37

This past month, we welcomed ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). We thank these ministering brothers for their efforts in traveling and being with us as well as our other visitors from Cissna Park, IL and Roanoke, IL.

We wholeheartedly welcomed Bro. Marty Rumbold (Roanoke, IL) to our congregation this past month. Marty was transferred with his job and plans to be with

us for several months. We wish him God's blessings during his stay in Nashville.

If you are in the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Our services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and tape services on the other Sundays. Please contact one of the numbers below if you plan to be with us as this will assist with meal planning, and there may also be Sundays when all of us are traveling. The following churches are scheduled as follows: Cissna Park, IL (April 11); Tremont, IL (April 18); Sarasota, FL (May 2); Detroit, MI (May 16); and Bluffton North, IN (May 30). Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TX area).

TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder

We are grateful to those who travel many miles to worship and bring God's Word to us. Visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH), and Bros. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Larry

Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, 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 at the Comal County Senior Citizens Center in New Braunfels. 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.

Visitors are always welcome. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (409) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Viola Perdelwitz
Melva Messner

May we in perfect love be found
When we Thy table, Lord,
surround;
Keep soul and body purified;
Thy blessings, Lord, be
multiplied
Upon this feast.
Zion's Harp #200

It was indeed an inspiring mes-

sage that was brought to us before we partook of Holy Communion. We were renewed in Spirit and love as we greeted our brethren anew on Sunday p.m. on January 31. Our Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder and our ordained Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner served us.

We so much appreciate our Elders and our ministers for taking time to serve us. Our visiting ministers this month were: Bros. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Michael Bauman (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) and Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL). Also, retired ministers, Bros. James Hoerr (Sis. Virginia, Peoria, IL) and Harry Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

We wish our sincere sympathy to Bro. Lloyd Nohl. His sister, Sis. Rose Ann Schott (Terry), was called to her Heavenly Home. Her funeral was in Morris, MN.

January 15 was our annual church cleaning day. We wish to thank our visitors for their help.

Note of Thanks:

Our special thanks to everyone who had a special part in helping us celebrate our golden wedding anniversary. It was very much appreciated. God bless you.

*Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina
Rufener*

Bro. John and Sis. Viola Perdelwitz



Sermon continued from page 2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:1-3). We think about ourselves made in the image of God and think of the magnitude of love that there was in that thought that God had when He Created man. "Let us make Him in our own image," we can read in the Scripture. (See Genesis 1:27). That is a precious thought—God knew us in the very beginning before we were even created. Whenever we get to thinking that maybe God doesn't understand, let us think about this verse. Everything that was made, Jesus made. He was there with the Father and He made us in His own image.

It says, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." (John 1:4). In the Lord Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men. What does it mean? We see a lot of names of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is called The Word. Here He is called The Light. He is called the Son of Man. He is called the Son of God. Jesus the Christ, He is the Light of men. Without Jesus in our lives, we cannot understand really the meaning of human existence, nor the destiny of human existence. Jesus is the One that brings light to life.

Three years ago and four days, we lost a little girl, seventeen, and even though we know that God is in control, we know that God is the giver of life, that God has the power to take life and we understand this. From a child, I have been taught this, but still there is that human inclination to ask why. What for? What have I done wrong? Where have I failed? We tend to turn inward and that is a long road, beloved.

Yet, when we look at Jesus and we look at the end of things and we trust God for a mass of plans

through Jesus Christ, then it sheds light. Then we can be encouraged. I don't know how people do it who do not have that faith that God is Almighty and that Jesus is the giver of all good and perfect gifts. In Jesus, in the sacrifice of that Innocent Lamb, do we have life, and Jesus is the Light of men.

Jesus is the answer in every situation, and Jesus brings life. John wants us to understand here those thoughts and those things.

I remember just a couple of weeks ago, there was an old man in our church who came to church pretty regularly. His wife was a Christian and yet he would kind of stay outside. He would come and we would shake his hand and say, "Greetings!" and he would just smile. He loved to talk about fishing and you could visit with him. It seemed like he enjoyed being there, but whenever you would talk to him about his salvation, he would just get stiff. He did not want to talk about it.

Then in the past three or four months, he got cancer and began going downhill. His body began to decrease. Some of the brothers would take turns taking him to Indianapolis. Sometimes in an emergency, he would take the ambulance because his health was just failing him. These brothers loved him and they would ask him about his salvation and he would say, "Talk to somebody else about that." Or, "Go talk to Brother Wendell." He would kind of push it aside. It just made him a little "edgy" but there came a day when he called and said, "I want to be baptized."

It was such an interesting picture to me as we see that when Jesus comes into a heart, things change. Instead of being ridged as when we talked about Jesus in those days, he would talk kind of like with just a breath. He couldn't quite talk out loud. When you would ask him a question about Jesus, his eyes

would just light up and he would just become so interested in what you had to say.

He wanted to be baptized and he wanted to be baptized right now. We kind of decided that it would be nice to do it in the morning. His family was coming to visit him and it would be nice maybe to let them be there. He said, "Can't you do it tonight? Can't you do it tonight?" Instead of kind of resisting and walking away, it was like, "I want to do it now!" That is the Light of the Lord Jesus, isn't it?

The Bible tells us that when we accept and obey the Lord Jesus and keep His commandments, then the Father will honor us. We can't come to the Father unless He draws us. But isn't it precious to be drawn to the Light, to have the desire to be in the Light? It wasn't always that way in our lives. We kind of liked darkness at one time, but to love the light is a precious, precious thing. It is the drawing of the Heavenly Father.

Brother Wendell asked him, "Do you recognize yourself as a sinner?" "Oh, yes, I was the worst of sinners." Isn't that something, beloved, when the Light shines into our heart, we recognize that those sins are understood as ugly? Before we hid them, they didn't seem to be anything important, but we let that Light shine in, the Light of Jesus Christ, and those sins became ugly. That is a precious thing, dear ones, only through the Light of God.

David said, "Search my heart and try me, try me!" (See Psalm 139:23). Do we have that kind of courage today, that kind of faith that we would ask God to try us? Try me!

A couple of days ago (I hope my son doesn't mind me telling this) I wanted my son to drive the van back to the back and empty that trash in the van. It is a little ways around the shed back to the back. I happened to

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 45

go through the shed and I was coming out and opening up the back door as he was coming by. He didn't know I was there, but when he got on the straight-of-way, he just had to punch it. A little gravel spun out there and I had to kind of chuckle to myself that he was going to try it out. That is the way we are, young people, we have got to try it out. We have to see what this thing will do, so we try it out.

When we ask God to try us, to punch it, to push the accelerator, try the brakes, will I stop when you tell me to stop? When we ask God to try us, that is what we are asking, isn't it, for Him to try us? Lest there be any wickedness in us and that he could see that that Light could shine in and that He could search out if there is anything that is not right or not pleasing in His sight that we could change.

He said, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." (John 1:5). I remember a time in my life when the Light was shining and I did not comprehend it. I didn't really let it shine. How can we do that? You shine a light in a dark room and that beam is going to go across the darkness. The only way we can shut it out is to turn our head or turn our back and don't look at the light. That is what we do, isn't it?

Anyone who is exempt from this beautiful life is exempt because of self-exemption. When we turn our head and when we refuse to comprehend, it is a simple truth.

Then he starts talking here about John-the Baptist. It seems that John had this desire to go back to the foundation. In all the gospels, they use parables which are so precious. The Lord Jesus used parables to an earthly story with a heavenly meaning because there were so many that did not understand. If they really had a desire to see what God was speaking in the Spirit, they would

listen to the earthly story but they would catch the heavenly thought. They would begin to pick up on that and would have a desire to search it further.

Nicodemus, who was a perfect example, came to the Lord Jesus by night. He wanted to know more about what this prophet had to say. Yet, in John's gospel, it seems that it goes one step further. He is talking to Christians and non-Christians who have a desire to look into that Spirit of God. He likes to go back to the beginning. He wants to build that foundation.

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe." (John 1:7). Anytime the Apostle John mentions the name John, it is John the Baptist. John never talks about himself, does he? He calls himself the disciple that Jesus loved. Here we see John the Baptist and his attitude, as we read here together, as one who is not worthy to unloose the shoe latches of the Lord Jesus. May we have that humble attitude, dear ones.

Last Sunday in our Bible class, my brother had a topic about the catalyst. He works at Eli Lilly and they work with chemicals all the time and this thought came to him about how you can take two chemicals, mix them together and they never do lose their identity. The molecules just hang on to their identity. They are ridge and you can mix them all day long and all year and they won't change. They are two compounds mixed together but they don't flow together. They keep their identity.

Then he used a catalyst—an iodine catalyst—that he put in the jar and it just steamed up and so forth. The catalyst remained the same but both of the beginning compounds lost their identity and became one compound together. That example is being Lord Jesus Christ as one

compound, one example and how God is available in Jesus Christ, as John says in the gospel, "Whosoever will." Then you and I as the other compound.

You and I made in His image, who in our own selfish way, love to retain our identity, just like those molecules that are ridge and we can mix with the Lord all of our life. We can go to church, pray and do good kinds of things for the Lord until we use the catalyst of humility and humble ourselves before Him and let ourselves be exposed and break down that we might be united with our Heavenly Father.

So it is here, when the Light shines and he says, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light..." (John 1:6-7a). Dear ones, what is our purpose? What is your purpose and mine? As Christians, may we ever bear the witness of that Light. John says, "I am not worthy to unloose His shoe latches." Remember when He came, they said, "Who art thou?" If someone asks us who we are, and they say, "Well, I am the president of such and such and I have a construction company." No, that is not really who we are.

Who are we? He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (John 1:23). This world is a wilderness. It is not my home. I have an eternal home in heaven and I am looking forward to that place. I am a voice crying in the wilderness.

I don't want to get ahead of the story here, but what was he crying? He was crying about a Saviour. The prophets in the Old Testament—Jeremiah, Isaiah, they didn't really have a nice report to tell, did they? They told about the sins of the people and they cried out that if they did not change their ways, they were going to lose their lives. They would cry out against sin. Beloved, we cry out today against sin but we

have a message that is precious, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist came crying to make the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to clear the paths. Sometimes when we start a construction site, the first thing that we have to do is to build a road back to the place so that when we bring the big trucks in, we have a way to get in. That is what John the Baptist did. He was clearing the road, but he was not that Light.

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9). In Him, we have life. We do live and move and have our being. "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." (John 1:10). This is such a sad thought, beloved. As we think in our lives how we rejected Christ at one time and then when we think of a great God that created all the things in the world. He made us precious and He gives us every good thing we have. He gives us every earthly possession and heavenly possession that we have. Then when we puny men turn our back on a great God, that is just heart-breaking, isn't it, beloved? It says that the world knew Him not.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Then this verse twelve is so precious, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:11-12). We read here in verse ten, "The world knew Him not." We can read in John's gospel that to know the Father is to have everlasting life. In order to have everlasting life, we need to know the Father. How do we know the Father? It is through Jesus Christ...it is through this precious Word. Jesus came that we might know God because He is God in the flesh.

We read that here, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among

us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). If we could just talk about verse twelve, "But as many as received him..." What does it mean to receive Jesus? We hear a lot today about accepting Christ. That is another way of saying it perhaps, but what does it mean truly to receive Jesus? In order to receive Jesus, we know that God cannot tolerate wickedness. In other words, they can't dwell in the same place. So if we have wickedness in our heart, we have to get rid of that wickedness before God can come in, when we receive Jesus.

Last night we were received into a dear brother and sister's home and we were received with such kindness. We even slept in their own bed, which I felt bad doing. I would have rather slept on the floor than do that, but yet, the hospitality, the receiving of love and giving the best, and treating with love, there is no expression so precious as that as we share with each other. I should not say there is no expression so precious because there is a lot of expressions in life that are so precious. It was a wonderful feeling to be received in that kind of love.

Now when we receive Jesus Christ, we give Him our best. We give Him our life. Jesus died for us and gave His life for us. It says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God..." (John 1:12). Sometimes we think, "I just can't do that." But when we receive Jesus, we have the power to become the sons of God, and it says, even to them that believe on His name. Such a precious, precious verse. The promise is to whosoever will, isn't it?

May we tell that story and be like John crying in the wilderness, there is one coming, and He is coming again. There are two mountain peaks in the Bible. One is the cross

and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the other is the coming of the Lord Jesus. We need to be crying that as John the Baptist did, the coming of the Lord Jesus.

In verse fourteen, we read, "...full of grace and truth." In another place we read, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17). The law was precious. We read in the verse before, "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace," (John 1:16). You know how love builds.

In our relationship with husband and wife, how over the years, love builds. At first it is kind of a romance kind of love, and yet, the love begins to be more internal and more spiritual and it builds grace upon grace. That is the way it is for our love for Christ—grace for grace.

In the Old Testament they had the law, and there was grace in the law. There was forgiveness there, and yet, that was only a part of what God wanted to give to you and me, through the Lord Jesus Christ, grace for grace.

Truth. There is nothing so important as standing for the truth. Standing for the truth is more important than life itself. In our individual lives, how peaceful it is to keep the truth, to dwell in truth, and to keep up that standard of being truthful. Because we know that when we are untruthful, when the old devil perhaps brings deception, it seems like that builds also.

One thing deserves another, but truth is grace for grace, it builds. We know these things and happy are we if we do them. We realize that there is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience. When we dwell in truth, God can give us that peace that passeth all understanding. We owe Him a lot of thanks. May we praise Him together.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

(12/7/41 - 8/14/45)

Members & Friends

Date set for veterans of WWII
Gathering at Latty, Ohio.

June 5-6, 1999

(55th Anniversary of D-Day)

Make Plans Accordingly

Further info will be sent in the
future to those who mailed in cards.

Others interested call

941-756-2887 or write to:

WWII Veterans, 713 E Perry St,

Mexico Work Teams

Medical - Creel

March 23-31

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann

(Princeville)

(309) 385-1082

Construction - Juarez

March 27-April 3

Contact Bro. Bob Meyer

(Bluffton North)

(219) 824-3236

NOTICE

In anticipation of dedication
and open house, we are collect-
ing names and addresses of
those who live in the Atlanta,
GA area. Please submit to:

Tom Waldbeser

2910 Maple Vista Ln.

OPENING FOR DIRECTOR OF NURSING AT CEDARS RETIREMENT HOME, LEO, IN

We have an opening for a Director
of Nursing.

Requirements: R.N. background,
managerial skills, love for the elderly.

For more information, call:

Bro. John Klopfenstein

219/627-3934

or write:

15028 Reservoir Rd, Box 8

Leo, IN 46765

USED EYEGASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being estab-
lished in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr.
Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller.
Used eyeglasses are needed to
support this effort. Please send
your used prescription eyeglasses
(with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller

817 S. Locust

Pontiac, IL 61754



HAITI/JAMAICA WORK PROJECTS - 1999-2000

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

COUNTRY	GROUP	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAP.	FULL
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 4-12	Kingston	(*)	Deaf School	40	0%

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

(*) = Held for possible Bible Class Participation

At this time all the work team slots have been filled for the 1999 season, with the exception of the one listed above. As the project dates for the year 2000 become available, names of volunteers and/or Sunday School Groups may be registered for future reference by the Caribbean Board of the World Relief Committee.

- 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.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. Continue to bring used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle, or Gospel Hymn Books to:

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

**BUSINESS CAREER
OPPORTUNITY**

Gateway Woods has an opening on our office staff team for a brother or sister who would manage our financial operations. We are looking for someone who desires to serve in a ministry that heals children and reunites families, rather than in corporate America. This is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. If you have been trained in the areas of accounting and/or finance and possess good analytical, organizational, communication and computer skills and are interested in using these skills in a ministry setting, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 467-2159

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499

**BIBLE DISTRIBUTION CENTER
MOVED TO BLUFFTON, IN**

The Bible distribution center at Leo, IN has been closed and a new center opened up in Bluffton at a location adjacent to the Bluffton Distribution Center. By mid-December, it should be staffed on a part-time basis, with an answering machine and fax in place to receive incoming calls when no one is there. *Contact: Bro. Leon Gerber, 1254 S Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714, 219/824-5587.*

**Counselor Needed**

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Master's degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

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

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

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
219/565-3499

**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.

**ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS**

We're going through some changes with our Houseparent Staff this winter. Bro. Todd and Sis. Carol Schrock will be leaving Gateway Woods this November after six-and-one-half years. Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer are planning to take over their house, with Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman (Goodfield, IL) joining our team as Alternate Houseparents.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter are planning to leave Gateway Woods in February of 1999 after seven years together as Houseparents. As Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand plan to take over the Fiechter House, we have another opening for Alternate Houseparents.

We pray at our Staff and Management Meetings that God will move in the hearts of those that HE wants to be here. He already knows how things will turn out and we rest in that. If you are interested in any of these positions, please prayerfully consider these openings and contact the Gateway Woods office at 219/627-2159. Each of these positions offers competitive wages and benefits.

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

Tim Sauder, Box 151, Leo, IN 46765, (219) 467-2159
Phil Stettner - Counseling Elder, (219) 565-3499



An Analysis

Those of us who have had the privilege of reading the Geistlich Diary—an account of Swiss Bro. Henry Geistlich's 1866 visit to America—have been both inspired and intrigued by his trip.

Because we learn from history, this analysis is intended to draw insights from his experiences that might benefit the church today. As we look back, it often helps us see ahead.

The Man

Very little is known about the personal life of Bro. Henry Geistlich other than his being an Elder at the church in Meilen, Switzerland. He was ordained in 1852, and served for 32 years until his death in 1884. His date of birth is unknown.

He served as Elder for five years under the tutelage of Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich; and was very likely a product of the zeal inherent in the first generation of this newly-formed denomination. The motto of those days was to serve the Lord "whatever the cost might be."

It's assumed that if he was ordained Elder in 1852, he was a minister prior to that, and a lay member previous to being selected for the ministry. That would place his conversion possibly before the early 1840's, when a split occurred in the Froehlich churches. Obviously, Bro. Geistlich remained loyal to Bro. Froehlich.

The fact he was sent to America (to review the churches) lends credibility to his stature as a leader in the Swiss church.

The Purpose

By 1866, the new European church was barely a generation old. The fact that some members were settling in

America was significant, and the prospect for a new beginning in a new land was of concern to the leadership. Because the church was far-flung across the mid-and Eastern portions of the United States, a visit from a European Elder—to check the pulse and general welfare—was wise. Bro. Geistlich performed this task.

He came to America when the church here was only 19 years old. There were approximately 14 congregations. At that time, there were five Elders presiding over the churches.

The Spirituality

This diary reflects a man who walked closely with God. His daily entries almost always listed Scriptural references. He had a wonderful understanding of Old Testament verses. It seemed his whole being was yielded to God. He reflected often on God's power, and the promises of eternal life. He perceived a great separation between the church and the world.

The Lesson

Bro. Geistlich's many diary entries reflected a sincere, deep love for the existing brotherhood. Often, he was lonely for his family and the European brethren back home.

The many anxieties he had during his travels across the ocean were committed to God. When he trusted God in times of trial, his prayers were answered.

The fact that he saw the great hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ—and its monumental meaning compared to the shallow pursuits of earthly living—is a lesson from which we all can draw. His zeal for faithful living should spur us all on to greater devotion.

A Song By Brother Geistlich

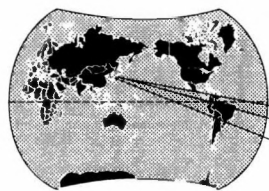
Can be sung to Melody 73 or 171
in the *Zion's Harp*

1. My parting hour is nearing swiftly,
As many friends have gone before.
Soon shall the thorny path be
finished
Which leads to rest on yonder
shore.
2. My angel oft-times comes and
whispers
That my allotted days are few;
That I must haste with prayer and
watching
If yonder goal I wish to view.
3. And should the night of death
approaching
Awaken fear or dread in me,
I'll trust and look to him with
courage,
Who promise me the victory.
4. O Jesus, Lord of my salvation,
Let death not find me unprepared!
But lead me by thy hand of mercy
Where peace and rest to me are
shared.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Attention to Readers:

*Lord Willing we hope to
publish the Geistlich Diary.*



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Wisdom Shall Die With You”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Job's three friends told him that he had sinned and that was why he was suffering. Job chided them, “No doubt...wisdom shall die with you.” (Job 12:2). His friends were too sure that they had all the answers.

This raises the question as to how certain I can be about what I say and believe. It is true that the only thing those of us who teach God's Word can teach with certainty is what is written in the Bible, not what we think about what is written there. Surely, we can give our interpretation but that is not for sure. Surely we can give illustrations to get our point across and we can speak of our own experience, but this is not where the wisdom nor the power lies. The wisdom and the power lie in God's Word itself.

Sometimes we feel too sure that we are right. That might be in speaking to our spouses or other members of our families, to our friends, and to our brothers and

sisters in Christ. We should say what we think but we should at least acknowledge that we are mere humans, not God, and that we might be mistaken. We should take a strong stand for what is right as it is written in the Bible, not just our opinion.

Socrates, a Greek philosopher who lived before Christ was born, listened carefully to the teachers of his day who gathered in the market place to discuss all the mysteries and the meaning of life. I was fortunate to learn about Socrates from a Polish professor who taught me World History. He was very dramatic and had been in the French underground during World War II. I sometimes ate lunch with this professor as he and I both needed a friend on campus. He was a man without a country because Poland became communist after the war and he did not want to return to his own country.

According to this professor of world history, Socrates listened to

all this discussion and then said, “The difference between me and you teachers is that I don't know and I know that I don't know, but you don't know and you think you know.” This didn't set well with the teachers and they had him condemned to death, a sentence that Socrates complied with by drinking hemlock poison.

I have always been impressed with Socrates' acknowledgment that he didn't have all the answers. This same thing is taught in the Bible, “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

I know for sure that wisdom will not die with me, and I don't think it will die with you, either. Perhaps you and I should both be careful about what we are sure of, unless it is plainly written in the Bible in so many words. Being too sure that “This ship can never sink,” sank the Titanic.

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Union City, NJ - 1892

The original name for the town, where the Union City Church was built, was West Hoboken. Late in the 1920's the name was changed to Union City.

1917 was a memorable year for the brethren of Union City because of a influx of brethren. A silk mill drew brethren looking for work. The company failed in the Great Depression and probably more than any other reason started the decline in brethren.

During World War I, Union City was a church where young men in training at Camp Mills or on their way to Germany could gather.

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