

A black and white photograph of a flowering plant, likely a morning glory, with several large, light-colored flowers and dark, heart-shaped leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a plain, light color.

The Silver Lining

The flower of the earth doth bring forth a testimony of the glory of our risen Lord.

April 1999

“BE STRONG IN THE LORD”

Sermon by Bro. Dan E. Stoller, Remington, IN

Romans 15:1-21

We find the value of the example of Jesus Christ here in this particular situation. I think it would be well for us just real quick to make a comment or two about the preceding verses. It would be interesting as we consider these verses where it talks about the faith that each of us have.

It says here in verse twenty-three in the preceding chapter, “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23). Here again, beloved ones, it is talking about our own individual faith.

Then it goes into the next chapter talking about the strong and the weak. It would appear to me, as we look at this particular chapter here, that we are not necessarily to look at one another to determine if they are weak or if they are strong. In fact, that would be simply in error.

But let us see what it says here, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1). That verse would imply, as I would see it, that we would know our strengths. In like manner, we would know our weaknesses. I think that would be pretty obvious there.

“We then that are strong ought” or have a responsibility, “to bear the infirmities of the weak...” (Romans 15:1). It doesn’t say who is best; it doesn’t matter. That is the undertone here that would be implied, I believe, as we would think of strong and weak. We would think strong better and weak not

so good. Maybe the characteristics of being weak and strong, but, beloved ones, it would be quite evident that all of us are strong and all of us are weak, but just in different areas.

So we see here as we go down through this chapter, with that in mind, that we are all strong and we are all weak, and the value then of applying this Scripture to our lives. Here again the times when we are strong, we are to bear—forbearance. What is forbearance? Is that one of the fruit of the Spirit? I believe it is. We are to forbear “...the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.” (Romans 15:1). Like I mentioned, that follows on the heels of that verse, “...whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:23).

So then as we consider our strengths, we wonder sometimes why we have them. Why are we strong in a particular area? Why are we able to deal with a particular situation and handle it quite well? We could enumerate and it would hardly be worth the time, but there are many reasons why we might be strong. Just like there are many reasons why we might be weak. They are not excuses. We see that as being a human logical thought process.

I am weak because... In other words, I have put the blame on some other person or some other situation. I am weak because my mom and my dad had that problem and I inherited that problem. So, dear ones, that is not what the Scripture wants us to do. That is an incorrect way, in my opinion, of

looking at being strong or weak.

Beloved ones, we just have to recognize that we are who we are by the grace of God. There is another Scripture, and I believe it is in Romans. I think I just mentioned it a Sunday or so ago, who are we that have been created to say to the Creator, “Why have you made me so?” When we were young, or maybe when you are young in your teen-age years, you are so inclined to wish that you

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 1999

It is I; Be Not Afraid

We are living in a time when knowledge, wealth, length of life and inventions designed to make our lives easier are at historic highs and all indications are that they will be continually increasing. Science is delving deeper into the mysteries of life, striving to conquer disease and to discover the secrets of longevity. Medical procedures that could not have even been dreamed of only a few years ago are becoming routine. The things that man strives for to bring comfort and security in this life are more readily available than at any time in history. With all of these advances that are designed to make our lives more secure, one would think that there would be an element of security for mankind.

In spite of all of these apparent advances, there is more instability, emotional distress and insecurity than ever. Sometimes even those who profess faith in God find themselves in the midst of fear. Even the disciples found themselves in such a situation as they were traveling by boat toward Capernaum. They had just witnessed the miracle of Jesus feeding about five thousand men with only five loaves of bread and two fishes. They had been in the presence of the very Son of God. They had seen His power and had heard His message.

Yet when a storm arose they became afraid. When they saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were even more fearful. But Jesus "...saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid" (John 6:20).

What is it that causes mankind to fear? There are a variety of situations such as physical danger, the unknown future, etc. that can cause fear. However, from the very beginning of man's time on earth, sin has no doubt been the greatest cause of fear. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God and took the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge that was in the midst of the Garden of Eden, Adam said "...I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid" (Gen. 3:10). This was the beginning of fear.

There are many examples in the Scripture of fear brought on by sin. Joseph's brethren, when finally confronted by their sin "...could not answer him; for they were troubled at his pres-

ence" (Gen. 45:3). When the Children of Israel had left Egypt and were wandering in the wilderness, God warned them of the fate that was in store for the disobedient when He said "And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (Lev. 26:17).

Sin brings fear even from things that should not cause fear. The Psalmist wrote "They were in great fear, where no fear was:" (Psalm 53:5) and Solomon wrote nearly the same thing; "The wicked flee when no man pursueth" (Prov. 28:1).

Man will go to great lengths to try to escape the fear brought on by disobedience to God; "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord..." (Is. 2:19). Jesus also told His followers of the desire that men would have to escape the fear of judgment; "Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us" (Luke 23:30).

It is not necessary for mankind to live with this fear that is a result of sin. From the beginning of time, God's plan was to bring peace and order to a world of chaos. At the very beginning of the scripture we read "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep..." (Gen. 1:2). In the six days of creation, God brought perfect order to the universe. He created a perfect place for man to live. The perfection was destroyed by sin. After the fall of man, God promised a way for peace and perfection to be restored. God told the serpent in the Garden of Eden "And I will put enmity...between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). A Saviour would come and restore peace and take away the sting of death. The apostle Paul wrote "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is the victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:55-57).

Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from sin and to relieve us of fear. At the announcement of His birth the angels said to the shepherds, "Glory to God in

the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Lk. 2:14).

Jesus taught us how to escape fear and destruction when He preached the message of repentance and conversion. He said "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3) and "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

In His Sermon on the Mount (Matt. chpts. 5-7), Jesus provided additional instruction to His followers that would help them live in peace with God and man.

Throughout His life Christ preached the message of peace and salvation. He taught us that if we sin we are the servant of sin, but we need not remain the servant of sin forever because "if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

After Christ told His disciples of His coming death and that they would all forsake Him, He went on to say "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). Even in His greatest hour of agony, Christ brought peace when He said to the repentant thief "...To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

After His resurrection when He appeared to His disciples He said unto them "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21).

There is no need for man to live in fear. God has provided us a means to live in peace. If we live according to His will we have the promise of peace in this life and eternity with Him. At the end of the Scripture Jesus said "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12). We must not wait to do His work because He said "...Surely, I come quickly..." (Rev. 22:20).



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

How God is Working in Haiti

As one walks the pathway of a believer, he often sees the way that God works in giving windows of opportunity to help others. When our work teams come to Haiti, they see the Spirit working in a wonderful way. A key ingredient is the prayers that accompany each group. When volunteers come to this land of turmoil, they soon discover they are not in control.

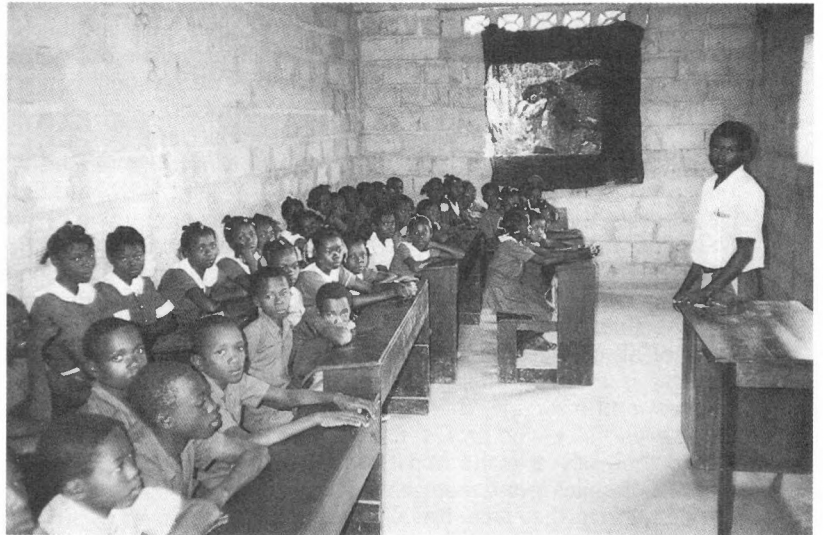
This causes most people to sincerely ask God for help. It's that humble plea that God always honors, often in ways that we don't expect, and in so doing, His name is lifted up and the faith of His people is increased. We have found that when we are truly thankful for what God is doing, His grace continues to flow. But when we start to complain or start feeling proud of what we have accomplished, it's just a matter of time before the fruit of the Spirit is not evident.

Construction teams give hope to parents

The MEBSH groups we work with try to provide schools for their children. They often struggle to even get a building big enough to house the students. If these groups construct the walls of a school, World Relief will finance the roof and send a work team to Haiti to install it. This makes it possible for many areas to improve their schools.

They usually go from a dark, overcrowded building to one with cement floors, better lighting, and room for the students

to work. Many teams also build school desks to give them a working surface. The schools struggle just to provide the basics, but they do a good job teaching the students about the Bible and the love of Jesus.



Students at school

When parents see that their children are being taught the Word of God and learning how to read and write, it gives them hope for a brighter future. Our teams work alongside of many parents. They usually witness a people with a strong faith that have overcome many hardships and are very thankful for what they have. Most teams can see the advantage of the simple life that Haitians live in which they have time to interact with their neighbors. They also see that real joy has very little to do with wealth and a lot to do with valuing the things God values.

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

ROMANS 15:13



Working on a roofing project

Haiti, a land of many needs

The Bible tells us that Satan is the author of confusion and this is very evident in the bigger cities here. The Haitian government has a long record of not following God and in many cases has openly worshipped Satan. As a result, life in Haiti, particularly in the cities, is very difficult. In general, the leaders in Haiti care more about their personal needs than they do about what is best for the masses of people. This has brought a lot of pain and suffering.

Christ ministered to the suffering multitudes while on earth. He has given us the opportunity to receive hope and joy, as well as salvation through obedience to the message of the scriptures. However, to do this, the Heavenly Father makes use of people who are willing to be led by the Spirit to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of those less fortunate than themselves. This is Christianity in action.

Sea containers from Bluffton

Containers from our Bluffton Distribution Center (BDC) arrive in Haiti regularly. The contents are delivered to the various outreaches that World Relief supports. Struggling with the bureaucracy continues to be a problem. This is probably our greatest frustration, not only in the Caribbean, but also throughout the world where we reach out with humanitarian aid.

A pickup and trailer are filled with medical supplies that will be delivered to a hospital about an hour and a half away. Another truck is loaded with supplies for a local nursing home. God is meeting needs through caring people.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:19

Agriculture team teaches improved methods

Each year several teams work on projects at an agriculture school. This school is teaching students how to raise vegetables and crops, as well as animal husbandry. Students are also taught the Bible.

This is a three-year college and the last year the student is in an extension program. The third year student is assigned to a village where he lives among the people and sees their life each day. He works with the residents of that village planting



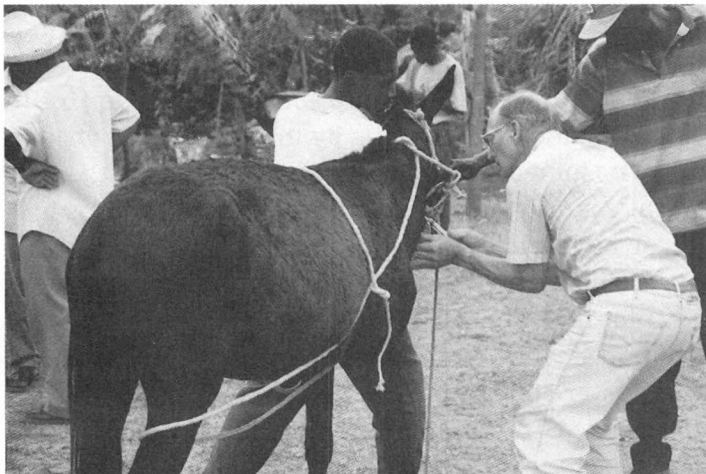
Finishing the installation of a well

years of hard work and dedication toward providing palatable water in an area of need. All has been done in the name of the Lord. Living conditions for many have been improved by all the wells we have drilled in Haiti.

All glory goes to God

God cares for the welfare of mankind and opens opportunities for believers to work. As we look at the results of our efforts, we can see how God has added His blessings to what has been done in imperfection. We have a wonderful heritage of faith, and we hope by God's grace to hand it down to those who will follow us if the Lord should tarry.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. HEBREWS 4:16



Veterinarian giving a shot to a donkey

demonstration gardens. They get to share what they have learned in the prior two years at school with the residents of the village. In this environment everyone works together to make the best use of available land, including the front yards. Our brethren and friends have seen beautiful results from this work.

Drilling wells for fresh water

Work teams recently visited an area where the community has waited nearly a decade for a source of safe fresh water. The last Apostolic Christian Water Aid team was able to make a lot of people happy when they helped drill through some hard rock to access clean water.

This was tried before without success. In the autumn a reconditioned drill rig was sent down to the Haitian team, and it was able to find water. This accomplishment represents



Home in the mountains

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Spring is coming and is greatly appreciated by the people that live in our Home. With the snowstorms, our people had to be in their homes more than in the past winters. We see the first signs of spring with the flowers popping up, lots of sunshine, and all of us wearing spring coats. The "sun" seems to lift our spirits; most importantly the real "Son" has the desire to lift our spirits as we ask Him. As we celebrate the passing of winter and the Easter season, we are humbly thankful for the death of the real "Son" of God for each of our sins. Our people are preparing for the season ahead by hosting Open House for families, preparing for summer vacations, taking walks and riding bikes, planning flower gardens, etc. The Morton Apostolic Christian Sunday School group participated in the All Church Easter Program by complimenting the song "The Old Rugged Cross" with sign language.

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Lisa Waibel

In a world that can be discouraging, frightening, wearisome and sad, I would like to encourage you! Christ already won the battle! He overcame death, He dealt with our sin at Calvary, and He wants to be

your friend walking with you wherever you go. There is an incredible verse in Romans that I don't remember having read before...actually, I probably just overlooked it. Romans 16:20 says, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Don't worry! Jesus will return and Satan will be bruised! And don't miss the word "shortly"! Another encouraging verse, Hebrews 10:24 says, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Are you encouraging your Brother? Are you encouraging your Sister? We have to work together! Life is not easy! We need to hold each other up rather than going our own way and forgetting about those around us. One final verse, Revelation 21:3, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Someday we will dwell with God and He will dwell with us in a more perfect way. Nothing will separate us from Love. He loves you and don't ever forget it. Be encouraged and be an encourager!

We have had a few changes here on our Gateway Woods campus over the past month. A hearty welcome to Eric E. who joined Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand's family and to Dustin S. who joined Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf's family. Also, three of our children have left our care. May God's grace be with Brandon K. from the Kipfer house, Kevin H. from the Graf house, and Bill A. (who left to be a foster son with former Houseparents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Brenda Fiechter). Bro. Kevin is now working with us

part-time as he researches and develops a Home Based Services program for current and former residents.

We have been blessed by Noah Thomas Bauman who was born on February 8 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee Bauman, our Alternate Houseparents. We also congratulate his big sister, Breana. We all have many lessons to learn from the little children in our lives! Let's be sure not to miss any of them!

Some of our staff were blessed to attend our second staff retreat at Pokagon State Park in February. We would like to thank Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) for speaking to us about Abandonment. How much deeper would our relationship with Christ be if we would totally surrender our all?

A hearty thanks to our volunteers. Bro. Jeff Waibel, Sis. Rachel Huber, Jana Meyer, Bro. Paul Zaugg, Dave Nusz, Sis. Rebecca Inoue, Vera Manz, and Jolynn Schmidtgal blessed us with their time and energy during their spring break (or their free time). We were truly blessed by your presence and your efforts on our behalf. May the Lord bless you!

Our Annual Representatives Meeting was held on March 20. It included tours of our houses and school as well as presentations about our various programs and needs. We're so thankful for all of our Representatives who faithfully serve us by informing and encouraging their congregations.

We still have open positions here at Gateway Woods for you to prayerfully consider. We have need of a Counselor and a Business Manager. If you have any questions, call us at (219) 627-2159. May God bless them for their willingness to answer His call!

May the grace and peace of God

be with you all!

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

Thursday, March 18, was the day for a field trip for all of the Preschool students. We went to a petting zoo to experience first hand the animals that we had been studying about. The children were able to feed many of the animals, including a lama, a pony, pigs, a raccoon, a porcupine, and some others. They especially enjoyed holding the bunnies that were in a small pen. After a picnic lunch and some play time on the small playground that was there, we all headed back to the Preschool for our much needed nap time. It was an enjoyable day for all and the weather cooperated nicely.

Our themes for this month are plants, taking care of our bodies (we did a last minute switch last month to put Easter's theme in March), and the color green. It is a great time of year here with things in full bloom, and the students learn much about God and His creation just from what is around them.

April 10 is the date for our Preschool Board Meeting. We ask your prayers for each of the board members as they travel here and make decisions that influence the daily activities of our school.

Summer time is coming, and we need to be ready. We have a great need for summer volunteers to come and help out in the Preschool while the regular staff takes vacations and try to get some extra work done. If you or someone you know would be interested in coming down to volunteer, please give us a call. We can provide accommodations for individuals or small

groups and we would encourage you to make your plans as soon as possible. Please call Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or call the Preschool at (256) 233-0591.

Thanks again to those of you who have helped us with our sponsor program. We still have children who are not sponsored, and if anyone would be interested, please give us a call to find out more information.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

Another Easter season has come and gone. Did we just let it go by in the blur of life without realizing the importance of the occasion? Even more important than the historical moment of the resurrection, is the hope it brings to each of us for the future. Do you long for the day of the Lord's second coming? Are we doing all we can to help others know what needs to be done to be ready to welcome Jesus as our bridegroom? May each one of us strive to be ready today for His return is near. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)

We celebrated Easter with a potluck supper on Saturday, March 27. We had games and activities for the children and we included all the preschool students also.

We have been having a singing once a month on the first Saturday of the month and we were glad to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker and their family from Bluffton here with us that weekend. We also had Eric and Retta Knobloch here for a visit this last month. We miss them all and always appreciate their visits. We also had some visitors here from Morton, IL. Thank you each one

for coming.

Memorial Day Weekend is coming up and we are getting ready for our 8th Annual Tennessee Singing. Everyone is welcome and invited to come. We plan to start the activities for the weekend at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Please let us know by Monday, May 3, if you are planning to come so we can get a good count for meals. The numbers to call are: Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035 or Bro. Tim Reinhard at (931) 424-5838, or you can e-mail treinhard@juno.com. It looks like there will be quite a few coming this year, so if you plan to come and need hotel reservations, we would encourage you to make them as soon as possible. The number for the Super 8 in Tennessee is (931) 363-4501 and there are quite a few hotels in the Athens area.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

We gathered February 20 to hear the testimonies of Stephanie and Justin Gramm. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) came to assist Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich.

What a joy to hear our two converts pour out their hearts from the beginning of their repentance. What a time to check ourselves and how we "measure up" to the five levels of repentance: adhere to God, cleave to God, have faith in God, rely on God, and trust in God.

After the baptisms on February 21, Sis. Stephanie, Bro. Justin and their parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise, greeted a church full of folks. Besides both sets of grandparents, there were greetings from 21 churches. A church dinner and

singing was held in the evening.

Our visiting ministers in February were Elder Bros. Dan Koch, Wendell Gudeman, and Ben Maibach, and Bros. Ken Wuethrich, Todd Feller and Gary Maibach. We enjoyed your being here and a loving thank you to all.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer on the death of his mother, Sis. Clara. They were in Fairbury, IL for her funeral services.

Also to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson on the death of his father, Lawrence. They went to Minnesota for his funeral. May God comfort all our loved ones.

Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer moved to Eureka, IL on March 2. Though we will miss these two pillars (1949) of the Phoenix church, we are grateful they can retire in good health. There are other Phoenix brethren in Eureka, thus some happy times will be shared. Our thanks for many years of serving God. We have wonderful memories of "the good ole days". May God's love keep us united.

On March 7, we heard the engagement of Sis. Nicole Baum to Bro. Todd Steffen (Washington, IL). We pray for God's guidance as our dear ones plan a summer wedding. Her parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum.

Bob and Arlene Farney welcomed a new grandson on March 4. Joshua Terrel Gore's parents are Dan and Karen. His three sisters are delighted, too.

Sis. Josephine Martin and Della were happy to welcome a granddaughter and niece when Joanna Ruth was born to Elizabeth and Ken Lacy on March 6. Joanna has three brothers who love their sister. The late Bro. Glenn Martin's

family tree is most grateful for God's gift.

Jeff Klopfenstein and Candice Rinkenberger were married at the Radisson in Chicago on March 13. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann performed the ceremony. His parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein. May you seek God's will and love in your lives.

How thankful we are God is just a prayer away.

Bro. Floyd Banwart had heart surgery, Sis. Eileen Maurer, Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Floran Klopfenstein had tests or medical procedures.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards, gifts and visits during and since my heart surgery.

In His love,

Bro. Floyd Banwart

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We have had such a mild winter, that when we had a couple days of snowfall the middle of March, we were thankful for the moisture it provided. It was beautiful, but so strange to see it on top of the blooming flowers and tree blossoms.

Bro. Henry Volz had surgery on his right arm and due to complications spent about a week in the hospital, and at the time of this writing is still in an extended care center. George Kornja, son of Sis. Elena, also spent a couple days in the hospital with possible pneumonia. We pray God will bless them with a full recovery.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemon have gone to Tucson to work for unknown length of time. We miss them assembling with us and hope

they will be coming back soon.

Our ministers this last month were Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and James Emch (Phoenix, AZ). May God richly bless them and their families for their service of love.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

The past month has been a busy and exciting one for the Tucson church.

We were privileged to host some energetic young brothers and sisters as they passed through Tucson on their way to a work project in the Douglas, AZ area. They happened to pass through on the weekend of our annual Pancake Supper. We still had some winter visitors with us and a visitor or not, all the men cooked up and served pancakes, sausage, apple-sauce and ice cream bars.

I can hardly believe that I am writing the following words, but for the second month in a row I am able to report that the Tucson church has a convert; actually, we have two converts! Last month I was able to tell you of the repentance of my niece, Mindy Bauer. She now has two young people to walk along the path of conversion with her.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman are the joyful parents of Carrie Kaufman who has decided to turn her life over to Christ. Carrie is their oldest child and is a college student. We are happy to have her living back in Tucson where we can see her every Sunday and even happier to see her start a new life as a Christian. We pray God will direct your steps as you begin your new life, Carrie.

We are equally happy to have our friend, Ben Gudeman, who has been coming to church the past few months, join Carrie and Mindy in repentance. Ben is working and living in Tucson and we hope we can be encouraging and uplifting to him as he begins a new life in Christ. Our prayers are with you, Ben.

This is truly a fun Silver Lining article to write because as I sit here, the wonderful news just keeps coming to my mind to report this month.

Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer were blessed to welcome two granddaughters this past month.

Morgan Elyse Wilson was born to Rob and Angie Wilson on March 3. Rob and Angie are first-time parents of a beautiful, healthy little girl.

Just as beautiful and healthy is Jessica Ann Bauer who joined the family of Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria Bauer on March 15. Stephanie and Allison are there to help Mom and Dad with Jessica whenever necessary!

We were also privileged to take Communion this month, as Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and our deacon, Bro. Loren Knapp, served Holy Communion on March 7. As always, we thank Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for making the familiar trip to Tucson. It is a blessing to take Communion with them and with each other.

Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) was in Tucson and served on the pulpit this month. May God add His blessing for Bro. Arnold's willingness to serve.

Sunshine and temperatures in the 70's have pretty much combined with all of our other blessings to make March a wonderful month for our little church!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

Christian love and greetings to all!

We who are committed to serving in God's army have a special consideration to make, when looking at the "Armor of God" (Eph. 6:14). We find a particular component that often is in need of sharpening:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

Because the sword or Word of God is so important in our spiritual walk, shouldn't we be refining our knowledge of it day by day? When David wrote, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11), he set an example for all of us today who constantly strive to be more in tune with God. Are we memorizing verses and passages that can shine as a light on our path? Do we want to know God better? Do we want to be like Christ? When we made our commitment to Jesus Christ, we answered "Yes!" to those questions, and the fulfillment lies in the Word of God. Let's encourage one another to search the Scriptures.

We were thankful to have visiting Bros. Randy Kellenberger and Ron Palitto come to share the Word with us this past month.

May each one strive with willing heart to utilize the Word that God has provided.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

Greetings! We were privileged to have ministering Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) visit our congregation this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their willing service on our behalf.

We rejoice with Yael Howard as she has related to us that she has found peace with the Lord. We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism.

This past Saturday evening we were so richly blessed to partake in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Klotzle was assisted by Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We wish to express our thanks to them and pray that God will bless them for their love and service to us.

Several other visitors worshipped with us this past month. We have certainly been blessed by their fellowship and visit.

The betrothal of Bro. Rory Strahm to Sis. Judy Zimmerman of the Gridley, IL congregation was made known to us. We look forward to having Sis. Judy in our midst and pray the Lord's will be done in their lives.

Words of farewell were expressed to Bro. Paul, Sisters Marilyn and Joy, and Hope and Faith Nenadov as they are moving to Illinois, and plan to assemble with the Eureka congregation. We wish them the nearness and blessings of the Lord in their move. We will surely miss their presence in our small congregation.

Our dear convert, Linde Zimmer, was hospitalized recently. She's home now and doing much better.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

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!

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

Zion's Harp #226

I believe God recognizes our proneness to forget. There are many times throughout the Bible where we are instructed to "remember". In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to set aside certain times to remember His goodness and deliverance from their enemies. We haven't changed and I believe that Easter is one of those special, significant occasions to remember God's goodness and His deliverance from our enemy Satan through the death and shed blood of Jesus and also His resurrection. May we take the time to "remember" and not get too busy with other activities this Easter season.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). It is a joy to have such wonderful Christian fellowship with our many visitors.

I failed to report last issue that on February 6-7 many of us were able to travel to Detroit for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) helped our Elder Bro.

Mark Bahr with this important service. May we have willing hearts to follow these teachings.

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.

Note: Donations for the Silver Lining are being collected this month from the Kitchener congregation.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Mark and Kelly Ramseyer**

Our 4-year-old daughter has been practicing her piece for the Easter program we plan to have March 21. It states:

Let me like Mary through the
gloom,
Come with a gift for Thee.
Show to me now the empty tomb,
Lead me to Calvary.

If ever there was a silver lining to bring hope after a storm, this has got to be it. A worse storm could not be imagined than having the Saviour of all mankind dying on a cross. After dedicating some of their lives to this unique leader and His message of hope, faith and love, the apostles watched as He died and had to wonder how His plan was ever going to succeed. What gloom! But what a bright silver lining when the tomb was empty just a couple days later. What wonder and hope! It is a joy to be led to Calvary and it's gloom, because we know the silver lining exists when we give our gift, our life, to Jesus.

Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn Martin brought their new son, Josh, to church this Sunday. Josh

is 4 1/2 years old and is being adopted by Mike and BethAnn, who hope to have the process completed in April. As we drove into church we saw Josh playing with his new brother, Benjamin, in the church yard. The scene warmed the heart as we saw how quickly brotherly bonds are formed. Josh seems full of energy and will certainly add some excitement to the Martin household.

Last Sunday we enjoyed the company of Jeni Schmidgall who has moved to the Denver area recently. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall, her parents from Morris, MN also were here helping to get her acclimated. Our doors are always open to welcome anyone who might join us. And although we probably can't take care of you as well as your parents, we'll do our best.

The last several weeks we have also had several new attendees from the community. Some have stayed for one service, some for one Sunday and others have returned for several weeks. At first it always seems easier to talk and gather with the friends we know so well and not make the effort to welcome new ones. But I always wonder if one or several of these are really angels. I wonder if God touched people's hearts to attend to see how our love of God, dedication to spreading His Word, and servanthood are progressing. I also wonder how we would welcome Jesus if He attended one of our services one Sunday. I have no doubt that if He showed up looking like many of the drawings in Bible story books, many of us would judge first and tend to keep our distance. (Let's be thankful that Jesus didn't first judge the apostles by outward appearances and

actions. Indeed, let's be thankful He doesn't judge us by outward appearances and actions.)

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

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

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Dave and Sis. Kim Schneider upon the birth of their daughter, Naomi Elizabeth, who was born February 22. Loving sister and brothers are Joanna, Joseph and Stephen. Grandparents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider and Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter.

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

Tenderly He draws lambs unto His side. We are thankful that Heather Lanz (Greg and Sis. Linda) has decided to walk with our Saviour. May she feel His nearness in the days ahead.

The Single Group was invited to Philadelphia, PA congregation the first weekend in March. It surely is a blessing to visit our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. May He reward them for their kindness and hospitality.

Our prayers are with Sis. Janet Goric as she recovers from surgery. May God be with her.

It is that beautiful time of year again as winter comes to a close and we welcome spring.

What a privilege it is that we are allowed to commemorate His death on Good Friday and His res-

urrection on Easter without persecution. May we never forget His agony or great love for us and submission to His Heavenly Father.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

St. John 3:16.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Elise Anne arrived March 2 to bless the home of Bro. Tyler and Sis. Terisa Reimschisel. Also rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Chicago, IL).

I save each monthly report on my computer and write over it for the next month's report. Last month this time I was reporting on the spring like weather we had been having; today we have the last part of our second "snowstorm" in a week. I know to hearty mid-Westerners six inches isn't a lot, but around here it is major. They are calling for 70 degrees in three days.

We have again been blessed with brothers who come to minister to us. This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL). Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH; Bluffton, IN; and Alto, MI. We hope to see more of you as the weather improves.

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 were so grateful that God blessed us with so many opportunities to fellowship together this month! It is exciting to realize that even in His Word, God commanded us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Our congregation was blessed in welcoming the Mortonaires on March 17. We had a large turnout and were so grateful for the sacrifices that were made that we could partake in such fellowship.

We also had the opportunity to take our Sunday School for the annual family picnic and bike ride at Shark Valley Park this past month. We see that God is working in the lives of our Sunday School students and are always grateful for the time that they spend with each other.

And lastly, we were so blessed to have our brothers and sisters from the congregations in Illinois stay with us for their Spring Break! We

always enjoy the college students coming to fellowship with us in the month of March and pray that God will protect them as they make their journeys between the two states.

Josephine Gudeman was hospitalized this month; however, she is in recuperation and we are grateful for God's healing power.

As always, we so appreciate the visiting ministers who come to share with us the Word of God. Visiting with us this month were Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Anjie Baum

The North Ft. Myers congregation would like to extend our gratitude to the many members of the Mortonaires (Morton, IL) for traveling such a long distance to worship with us in song. Our building was filled almost beyond capacity, and we certainly enjoyed your fellowship during the potluck dinner/barbecue.

Our thanks also go out to our visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN).

Thankfully, Bro. Carl Frautschi (Bloomington, IL) has returned to his home in Ft. Myers after several weeks in the hospital. We pray that his health will continue to improve.

We also want to remember our Sis. Marge Baumgartner (Bluffton, IN) in prayer as she is recovering from a broken ankle.

Beginning my walk with Christ, I had never considered the possibility that believers are faced with

hardships such as fear, loneliness, temptation, physical pain, confusion, impatience, anger...the list goes on. Did not our Lord Jesus also suffer these hardships? I suppose we would all remain a useless, cold, lumpy, gray mass of clay if we weren't being continually shaped, painted, glazed by the Potter's hand into His priceless, unique masterpiece. The difficult times are vital to our transformation, for it is then that we most long for the touch of our Master. As Christians, our difficult times can be met with joy because we have a Father who knows our frailties and still loves us. He hears us when we call out to Him (Psalm 34:17-19). We can be confident that no matter our present circumstances, through it all the Lord will be glorified.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

1 Peter 4:12-13

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Rachel Sabo

Frank and Angela Kiefer, Gideon and Oliva joyfully welcomed little John Kiefer into their family on March 4.

This month Sarasota gained a precious new baby, but we also laid to rest two dear brothers. Bro. George Reardon passed away on February 28. Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Marie, daughters, Sis. Colleen and Rosalind, and sons, Bro. John and Ron. We heartily welcome

Rosalind, as she has decided to move to Sarasota.

On March 7, Bro. Ernie Koehlert laid down his armor. We sympathize with Bro. Ernie's family, his sister, Sis. Edna Roscher, and his nephew, Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth Roscher and their children.

We also want to express our love and prayers to Sis. Beulah Funk (Morton, IL) in the loss of her helpmate. Bro. Leo and Sis. Beulah made Sarasota their winter home for many years.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalms 116:15

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our annual Sunday School bake sale, chili lunch, and auction a great success! We sincerely appreciate everyone's enthusiasm and support.

Under the leadership of Bro. Terry Miller (Sarasota and Gridley, IL), thirty people, including seven others from Sarasota, were privileged to go to Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Kingston, Jamaica, on a work team.

We rejoice with Russell Champ (Rockville, CT), our new brother in Christ. He was baptized in his home by Elder Bro. Doug Sabo. Let's continue to pray for Bro. Russell in his battle with cancer, that he can continue to draw grace and strength from the Lord.

In March we were blessed with a visit from the "Mortonaires". Thank you for sharing your musical talents with us!

Visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo,

IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL). May the Lord richly bless your willingness to be used in His service.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

Recently we were reminded of how much God cares for us; in small things and large things. Bro. Tom read the account in II Kings 6:1-7 of the man whose axe head fell into the water. The man cried to Elisha and Elisha knew exactly what to do. Verses 8-23 record the account of Elisha's servant becoming very fearful when the enemy came in search of Elisha. Once again Elisha was ready with a prayerful answer. He asked God to open his servant's eyes that he could see the host of heaven protecting them. May our minds always be prayerful that we would trust the Lord in all things rather than try to get through situations on our own.

What joy fills our hearts to see brethren arriving on Sunday mornings! We have been richly blessed this past month with many visitors. Thanks so much for your love and prayerful support. Among these visitors were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La-Crosse, IN) who were willing to minister God's Word to us. May God richly bless you for your labors.

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 Stol-

ler (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232, to let us know of your plans.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy

In The Garden of Gethsemane

Before the dawn of Easter

There came Gethsemane...

Before the Resurrection

There were hours of agony...

For there can be no crown of stars

Without Faith and Love and

Prayer,

And when we take our needs to

God,

Let us pray as did His Son

That dark night in Gethsemane,

"Thy will, not mine, be done."

—Helen Steiner Rice

Let us give thanks to our Heavenly Father, not only this Easter season, but daily, for allowing Jesus to be the propitiation for our sin.

We are grateful to Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) for being our minister the Sunday when both of our ministers were absent.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) presented a marriage seminar, "A Greater Love," on Saturday, March 6. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13). This Bible verse was among the many presented to lead us to a greater love. We are grateful that he and his family stayed for Sunday services. We want to thank Bro. Jeff for bringing us the "Word of Life". We know it must have been a tiring weekend for him, but we indeed felt showers of blessing.

We received additional showers of blessing that same Sunday, as Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) was our other visiting minister.

"There are friendships that we cherish, in our daily walk of life..." The weekend of March 13-14, we had invite-a-friend. We were able to be together for a hymn singing and a dinner after church on Sunday. We want to thank our friends who have found a place within our hearts for coming to visit us in Belvidere.

The ordination service for Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) to become our Elder was held Sunday evening, March 14. We were reminded that when Jesse was asked to present his sons before Samuel to anoint one as the next king after Saul, he didn't even include his youngest of eight sons, David. Yet it was David who was to be chosen for "The Lord looketh on the heart." Likewise, Bro. Ron is the youngest of eight sons. We pray that Bro. Ron will be bestowed with God's wisdom with these new duties so that our church will be found edifying unto God and that Bro. Ron will always be as David, "a man after God's own heart."

Ryan Mueller (Tammy) was a surgery patient this month. We are thankful that his shoulder is mending on schedule.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Carol Sauder

Janice Horner

As we approach the Easter season, may we become more thankful and prayerful as we reflect on the true meaning of Easter.

On a hill far away

stood an old rugged cross,
 the emblem of suffering and
 shame;
 And I love that old cross
 where the dearest and best
 For a world of lost sinners was
 slain.
 So I'll cherish the old rugged
 cross...
 Till my trophies at last I lay
 down;
 I will cling to the old rugged
 cross...
 And exchange it some day for a
 crown.

Hymns of Zion #168

We thank Bro. Dennis Kaufmann and Bro. Gary Ifft for their special educational meeting on the Y2K issue on February 24. They spent a lot of time researching this and presented information on the potential problems which could occur. We should not panic or be apathetic about this issue, but stay somewhere in the middle. Bro. Gary said to prayerfully consider what we should do to prepare for this. Those of us who have a hope in the Lord can rest in the confidence we are in His hands, and whatever comes in the future we know the Lord will not leave us or forsake us. This would be a great time to witness to the unsaved.

The Memorandum was held March 3. We thank Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for so selflessly giving of his time to be with us, and assist our home Elder Bro. Everett.

We have been encouraged to continue to remember Bro. Carl and Sis. Ann Frautchi, and Stan Knapp (Sis. Tonei) in our prayers through their battles with health, along with Sis. Tillie Nussbaum as she recovers. They need our prayers for physical well being, and

for spiritual strength. May each one experience a refuge and strength in our merciful God, who is a "very present help in trouble". May God's healing touch be upon them.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Kayleen Heiniger (Bro. Ron) in the passing of her stepfather, Bro. Leo Funk. May this family circle feel God's strength and guidance in the coming months.

Our family hymn sing was held on March 14. Thanks to all who came and participated.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid

Now it is accomplished!
 I'm no longer mine;
 Lord, I will forever and always
 be Thine,
 For Thou hast created and
 purchased me too,
 Baptized with Thy Spirit,
 Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

On March 13-14 we welcomed another soul into the Lord's sheepfold as we heard the proving and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Brandon Gudeman. His thankful parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman. We pray that the Lord will faithfully provide His grace to Bro. Brandon so that he may remain true and faithful to God. We are encouraged that God is still calling souls to Him, and we will continue to pray for the unconverted.

We pray that the Lord will extend His healing hand to Sis. Rachel Dietz (Bro. Barry), Alyssa Duckworth (David and Sis. Dawn), and Bro. John Tanner (Sis. Margaret), who had short hospital

stays this past month. We are thankful that they are all getting better.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) were able to visit us and share the Word with us this past month. We are also thankful that Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) came and taught a Bible study for us this past month. May God bless these brothers for their labors.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

We have added two recently married couples from Iowa to our church and we welcome them as they begin their lives together here in Champaign-Urbana. Cory and Jody (Fehr) Berkland are now here for Cory to do graduate studies in chemical engineering. Jody works as a dental hygienist. Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen (Bruellman) Schupbach are both employed in the area. Greg is working for an agricultural building company and Gwen works at the Veterans Hospital in Danville. The Schupbachs are at home at 2403 W. Springfield, Apt. T-7, Champaign, IL 61821.

The weekend of February 27-28 was a busy one for our college students. Each year, they host a church dinner and singing for their parents and our C-U church. Many of the students' families came for the day and helped fill the church. As a part of the singing, the student group presented a short program of songs. As a church, we thank the students for all they do for our church and for

the effort they put into such a nice weekend and we thank their parents for supporting the efforts of their students.

"...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:15

Our condolences go to Sisters Cheryl Mangers and Jeanne Metzger and their families. Their father, Bro. Dan Schlatter, of Forrest, IL passed on into eternity on March 7. Bro. Dan lived in Champaign-Urbana for a while before moving to Fairview Haven in Fairbury. We remember him as a gentle, quiet and Godly man with a loving spirit.

Visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL). Their time and efforts spent doing the work of God is appreciated.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

A beautiful garden...it does not just happen. It required regular attention from the gardener. This illustration was brought out during a wedding service this month. When the gardener of this beautiful garden moved away, the garden's beauty was gone, too. The weeds had taken over. The flowers no longer flourished. It lacked the care and nurturing it required in order to remain beautiful. Of course, this illustration was related to the marriage relationship, but it easily adapts to so many other aspects of our lives.

The wedding service I write of is

that of Candice Rinkenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon) and Jeff Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave and Sis. Louann, Phoenix, AZ) on March 13. We pray that God will bless Candice and Jeff as they together nurture their marital relationship.

We were nurtured as a congregation on February 27, as we listened to the Conference report. Our thanks go to visiting Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for assisting with the evening.

Young plants in the garden need special care, and we want to encourage Ben Gudeman (Dan Gudeman and Sis. Rebecca Gudeman) as he has come to the Lord in repentance. We want to assure Ben that although he is living in Tucson, AZ, many prayers from the Chicago church will continue to be heard in Heaven on his behalf.

We have the privilege to pray for another young soul in our congregation. Zachary William Plattner was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn Plattner on March 7. Anissa, Jonathan and Emily warmly welcome their baby brother to the family as well as grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS) and Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria Stahl. We pray for Bro. Craig and Sis. Raelynn as they strive to keep the soil of their children's souls ready to receive the seeds of faith.

Our singles group also had a special time of nurturing as Chicago hosted the Over 25 weekend on March 13-14. Many thanks to the visiting ministers who joined us for that weekend: Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL). Bro. Gary Tonner

(Bluffton, IN) also ministered to us this month.

Our prayers also go out to Sis. Anne (Bro. Rod) Anliker that she might feel God's healing hand following her recent surgery.

As the end of a garden's growing season approaches, it still needs tending. Old plants enrich the soil for the next growing season even though it is sad to see the vibrant color of life fade. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy and Katrina Schlatter at the passing of Bro. Jim's father, Bro. Dan Schlatter (Forrest, IL). May they be encouraged as they consider how the seeds of "Dad's" life can continue to grow to the Lord's glory.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Cheryl Eisenmann

Darlene Walder

Today is a lovely day. The sun is streaming in my office window as I type on my computer. The birds are anxious to get started on the building of their homes. Spring is just a few days away and I believe everyone loves the thought of warmer days. Winter is such a blessing to somewhat relax and not work quite so hard, but there is nothing like a warm spring day with flowers blooming and new life. It reminds us that there can be renewing of our Spiritual lives and we can look and see the wonders of God within us and around us. I found a nice quotation that fits perfectly. It reads, Take spring when it comes, and rejoice. Take happiness when it comes, and rejoice. Take love when it comes, and rejoice.

—Carl Ewald

We have been busy this past month with various church activities. We had a topical Bible presentation on Keeping the Church Holy in an Unholy World led by Bro. Ken Weerts, Cissna Park. Then we were fortunate to welcome Bro. Jeff Thames and his faithful helpmate, Sis. Brenda, to Cissna Park to do his Marriage Seminar. It was uplifting and convicting to hear the ways that we can improve in our walk with our helpmates and with our Heavenly Father. As we are in the ship of life in a very dark and cloudy world, Satan has a huge wave about to upset our boat, but as we look up towards the mountain, we see the cross and realize that Jesus has the power to push the wave that Satan tries to put over our heads under His foot. Other visiting ministers that we would like to thank for serving us are Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT). Bros. Roy and Alfred served us in reading the Conference letter.

Jesus became what we are that He might make us what He is. (Athanasius). Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser are indeed thankful that their son, Matt, has realized his need for a Saviour and has chosen the path for the Lord.

We are prayerful for those that have had physical set backs in the past month. Our surgical patients were Sis. Bev Knapp (Bro. Curt) and Sis. Joyce Bauer. We think of Sis. LouElla Jacob at Fairview Haven. She has been confined to her room with a rare virus and we certainly ask God's nearness on her behalf. Also Austin Maul (Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki) was hospital-

ized for a virus that took a toll on his little body. This family is also rejoicing over the birth of a precious son and brother, Mason David. His happy grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanne Maul and Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann. He also has a great-grandmother, Sis. Aldean Kaufmann.

Sis. Leona Walder has moved to Heartland Healthcare, Paxton, and Sis. Ernie Eisenmann has moved to Fairview Haven, Fairbury. Our thought for these Sisters is, We don't know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future. (Samuel Johnson)

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger
Sandy Steiner

Another soul has heeded the call to repentance. May God grant Aaron Ott (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) much grace to turn his back upon the world and give his whole heart to the Lord.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
 Lord, I will forever and always be Thine...

Zion's Harp #209

February 28 was a day of rejoicing in our congregation and among the angels in Heaven. After having heard their testimonies, we welcomed Lori Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay) and Julie and Brian Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) as our new sisters and brother in faith. We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) for their will-

ingness to be used of God on our behalf.

Bro. Curt Frank also stayed to share in the blessings of Holy Communion on Sunday evening. Remembering our Saviour's great suffering and His bitter death upon the cross reminds us again of the great debt we owe to our Heavenly Father. May we serve Him more faithfully and willingly in the year ahead.

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

Matthew 19:5

March 7 was the wedding day of Sis. Laura Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Kevin Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) of Francesville, IN. May God be with them as they walk life's pathway together. May God bless Bros. Steve Gutwein and Chris Wuethrich for ministering unto us.

Sis. Julie Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and Bro. Jaron Schlipf (Bro. John and Sis. Jill, Gridley, IL) took their wedding vows on March 14. May they seek to please God as they establish a new home together. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and Bro. Clark Stoller of Gridley for sharing the Word with us.

God again reminded us of the uncertainty of life when Bro. Gene Hartman was called suddenly from this life into eternity on March 10. Our prayers and sympathy go to his wife, Sis. Carrie; sons, Mike (Paula), Bro. Jim (Sis. Ree), Bro. Bob (Sis. Lisa) and Jay; and daughter, Sis. Mary Zimmerman (Bro. Loren) of Eureka. We pray that God will be especially near the

family through this dark valley of their lives, and may they feel His comforting arm and strengthening grace to continue onward.

Sis. Gayle Virkler (Bro. Dennis) and Rebekah Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) were hospitalized this past month. May God grant healing and strength as would be according to His will.

Lost: On Sunday, February 7, a long plain net veil with handmade tatted edge was accidentally placed in the pocket of a long red winter coat with gold buttons. There were leather gloves and a silk head scarf in the coat pocket also. If you are the owner of such a coat and were in Congerville church on Sunday, February 7, please check your pockets, or if you have found this veil, please call (309) 965-2250.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

Little Brittany Nicole was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Karen Schambach on February 17. She was welcomed by her sister, Heather, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker.

Two couples have made known their engagements and upcoming weddings. Charlene Schambach (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy) and Grant McWilliams of Marian, IL plan to be married June 12. Also planning a June 12 wedding are Rachel Cargill (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay) and Darren Richardson of Annapolis, MD. We wish them God's blessings.

The weekend of March 13-14 was a special time for our church.

Saturday evening we were privileged to share Holy Communion together. Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Nathan. Sunday evening, Bro. Ron Schambach was ordained as Elder. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) gave exhortation and encouragement to the church and Bro. Ron and his wife, Sis. Nancy. We are thankful that God always provides a shepherd to lead His flock. May God grant Bro. Ron the necessary grace and wisdom to watch over His sheep, and may we as sheep stay close to the shepherd. We are grateful to Bro. Nate for his untiring care for us.

We thank the many visitors who came to share this blessed weekend. Among them were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Curt and Ed Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Dean Steffen and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) also visited us this month.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

Even as the springtime flowers grow beneath the sun's warm rays,
 So the Lord by His own powers makes us garlands for His praise;
 He invites most lovingly:
 Little children, come to Me!
 All should truly know Him ever,
 call Him Brother, Lord and Saviour!

Zion's Harp #166

How wonderful it is to see God's creation and the beauty therein. The flowers are beginning to bloom, the trees are putting forth their buds and the grass is turning green. Everything is fresh and new and is bringing forth life after a season of rest. May we give God the thanks, honor and praise that is due Him for His blessings bestowed upon us. How thankful we are when we can call Jesus our Brother, Lord and Saviour!

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one." The weekend of March 20 and 21 we were richly blessed as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. Our new sisters and brothers in the Lord are Sis. Tammy Mayhall (Bonnie Getz and Bro. Jerry Getz), Sis. Molly Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris), Bro. Chris Wynkoop (Harold) and Bro. Jake Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora). May God grant each of us the Grace to walk together so that we may reach our Heavenly goal. "May Grace, each heart possessing, abundantly increase!" We thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler and his wife, Sis. Suzanne (Fairbury, IL), for being with us and helping with these special duties. Other visiting ministers with us for the weekend were Bros. Jeff Grimm and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Vernon Wettstein and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville). May God bless them for their labors on our behalf.

We are happy for Curt Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) as he has made the decision to repent. May God grant him Grace to build on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna) as he had an accident

at home that required some surgery. We are thankful that he was spared of a more serious injury.

This month we have had many loved ones who spent time in the hospital for illnesses or surgeries. Our prayers are with Bro. Ernie Fehr, Sis. Aldine Leman, Bro. Leroy Fehr, Sis. Loretta Wiegand and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman. Sis. Clara Hunzicker is hospitalized at the time of this writing. We pray God will be nigh to each one and heal them according to His will. May God's Spirit be near to each one that may be going through some affliction of the body that we are not aware of.

On February 28 we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Teri Martin (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta) and Bro. Brian Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda). May God bless their union of hearts and be ever present in their home.

We are always thankful for ministering brethren who visit us and bring forth God's Word. May God bless Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We hope that they will come back and visit us again soon.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary Zimmerman and children on the death of Sis. Mary's father, Bro. Gene Hartman, of Congerville. Bro. Gene was called Home suddenly on the morning of March 10. May God comfort them in their time of sorrow.

At Home, 'tis well!
Then let us hasten thither
Through pain and death
on to our homeland shore!
On, boldly on! When this short
life is o'er,
new life will bloom for us and

never wither.
Zion's Harp #170

We are happy to have assembling with us from the Phoenix congregation, Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer. Also assembling with us from San Diego, CA are Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov and their daughters, Hope, Faith and Sis. Joy. Bro. Phil, Bro. Sam and Bro. Mark moved here previously. We are glad that their family can be together again. May each one feel the warmth of God's love in our congregation.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Wilma Blunier on the death of her brother, Alvin Bauer, of Cissna Park. He died March 18. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber on the death of her sister, Naoma Kaufman, of Morton. She died March 17.

By the time this news is printed, we will have celebrated Easter.

Easter is when we reflect back on the time that our Lord and Saviour hung upon that cruel cross and shed His innocent blood for the remission of our sins. May we thank Him every day for His love for mankind! We rejoice that He has risen and is alive and His Spirit abides in our hearts. May it be our heart's desire to "live for Him who died for me".

My life, my love I give to Thee,
Thou Lamb of God who died for
me;
Oh, may I ever faithful be,
my Saviour and my God.

I now believe Thou dost
receive,
for Thou hast died that I might
live;
And now henceforth I'll trust in
Thee,

my Saviour and my God!

O Thou who died on Calvary,
to save my soul and make me
free,
I'll consecrate my life to Thee,
my Saviour and my God!

I'll live for Him who died for me,
how happy then my life shall be!
I'll live for Him who died for me,
my Saviour and my God!

Hymns of Zion #30

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

We extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Clara Maurer, 97, who passed away on February 24. Her children are: Ray (Forrest), Bro. Howard (Scottsdale, AZ), Larry (Glendale, AZ), Sis. Gladys Koehl, Sis. Dorothy Hoffman and Sis. Helen Zimmerman (all of Fairbury), DeLoris Thomas (Arlington Heights), and Sis. Wilma Honegger (Germantown Hills, IL). May the precious memories of their dear Mother be a source of comfort to them.

May God's healing power be with those who have been in the hospital—Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Helen) Zimmerman, Sis. Ruth Meyer, Bro. Richard (Sis. Colleen) Walter, Sis. Esther Hay, and Bro. Melvin Hartman.

Our congregation had two blessed weekends as seven dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized: Chad Welborn (Bro. Don and Sis. Phyllis), Janelle Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna), Hope Steidinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane), Shannon Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda), Jennifer Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona), and Grant and Joel Hart-

man (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary). It is always inspiring to hear of God's love and mercy.

A special thank you is given to Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. William Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) for ministering God's Word.

The home of Bro. Doug and Sis. Julia Moser was blessed with the birth of Wendell Scott on March 1. He has two brothers, Walter and Arthur, and one sister, Sadie.

As the Easter season approaches, may we remember the suffering and death of our precious Saviour and the price that was paid so that we can find forgiveness and have a hope for eternity.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker

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

Tabernacle Hymns #205

Let us rejoice that Christ, who walked on this earth as man and willingly died for our sins so we can be set free from the clutches of Satan, was triumphant over death and the grave. The earth could not withhold His glory and splendor as the heavy stone was rolled away.

Likewise, symbolic to Christ's burial, three young souls, after giving testimony of their faith, were baptized; burying their old nature and arising to a newness of life. Making a covenant to God to remain true and faithful all the days of their lives were Sis. T. Anne Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy),

and Bros. Jacob Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda) and Lucas Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb).

We are also thankful Marcus Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne) and Kyle (Monica) Edelman have heeded the call to repentance. May they surrender their all to Christ and build on His firm foundation.

We thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) in their willingness to serve us.

This time of year we witness new life in our surroundings. Enjoying a new baby boy in their home are converts, Eric and Michelle, and big brother Thane Schaffer. Ethan John's grandparents are Carlos and Marty Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Sally Schaffer. Joshua and Annette Coffey also welcome a new brother, Matthew Benjamin. His parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise.

On February 27, Maurice and Joy Zimmerman commemorated 50 years of marriage. May the special memories of family and friends bring joy to their celebration.

Our hearts were saddened with the death of Tess (Broquard) Crawford, a young wife and mother who battled with cancer the last year of her life. We pray for her husband, Tom, and two young sons, Connor and Cole; her parents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta Broquard; and siblings, Sis. Lorelei Gutwein (Bro. Alex, Daventryport, IA), Sally Bennett (Brian, Terre Haute, IN) and Wesley (Fairbury, IL). We also remember

her grandmothers, Sis. Clara Broquard (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold and her many other relatives.

As some are taken in the bloom of life, others reach a much higher age. We extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Dan Schlatter whose funeral was held March 11. His children are Sis. Cheryl Mangers (Bro. Dennis, Champaign, IL), Sis. Jeanne Metzger (Champaign, IL), Bro. Jim (Sis. Kathy, Chicago, IL) and Tom (Barb).

Sis. Gladys Koehl has our sympathy with the loss of her mother, Sis. Clara Maurer (Fairbury, IL).

Also saddened is Sis. Aldine Wackerle in the death of her stepson, Melvin Wackerle (Michigan).

Spending time in the hospital were Julie (Mark) Schambrook and Luke Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie). May the Lord provide for their special needs.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Jan Beer

Our monthly church calendar reminds us that the first Monday of the month we can go to CAM in Roanoke and help pack clothes that are to be sent to other countries. On the first Tuesday of each month, we can go to the church and work on World Relief projects. The first Wednesday evening of the month, Bible Study is held. The third Thursday of the month is set aside for Adult Choir practice. On the second and fourth Friday evenings of the month, a Bible Study is conducted at church for the young, single members of the church. The second Saturday of every month it is the Goodfield congregation's turn to sing at the Eureka Home. For several months of the year, the second Sunday eve-

ning is set aside for Family Hymn Sing. By participating as much as we can, we are fulfilling Scriptures that advise us to help the needy, study the Word, forsake not the aged and speak to one another in songs. We thank all the ministers, World Relief coordinators, song leaders and committee members for using their God-given talents to help make these activities available to us. We thank the Lord for each opportunity He gives us to learn more about Him, worship and serve Him.

It seems that very few folks in our fellowship have escaped a bout with one of the strains of the flu that has been in our area in the last couple months. A respiratory flu has led to pneumonia for some, while others have a lingering cough that lasts several weeks. There has been a definite increase of "stiff arm" and decrease of the greeting kiss during this season of illness! We are thankful for all who have been able to reassemble with the congregation. Sisters Clara Hunzicker, Elsie Hohulin and Florence Bauman have our prayers as they are confined due to illness. We continue to pray for Sis. Kris Bauman and her family as she bravely wages the war on cancer. Doubtless, there are other dear ones in our fellowship who are ill or who have been ill in the last month of whom I am not aware.

March 6-7, Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) was in Goodfield to help Bro. Wes read the Memorandum and serve us from the pulpit. Your exhortations were very much appreciated, Bro. Henry. Thank you and Sis. Martha for traveling from Rittman in rather unpleasant weather to be with us. God will surely bless you.

A Bible Study for our Adult

Friends was held the first three Sunday mornings in March at the Fellowship Hall. Thank you, Bro. Wayne Wiegand, for your service.

Our thanks to the Princeville congregation for hosting our Bible Class students on March 13-14. We hope many precious memories were made among our young people.

Our final Family Hymn Sing of the season, held March 14, was a great example of "saving the best until last". After some congregational singing, our Junior Choir read a few Scripture passages to us and sang; then the younger Sunday School children followed suit. After they had finished their selections, all the children sat on the floor at the front of the Fellowship Hall and everyone sang Sunday School songs together. The four brothers leading the children in singing involved the grandpas in one particular song, much to the delight of the grandchildren! The children beamed at us singing "their" songs, while we beamed back at them with love and joy. Thank you, brothers, for investing your time and talents in our young people, and thank you, Sis. Joyce, for creating the Sunday School Songbook for us. The enthusiasm of the children was contagious and the joy of praising God in song, as a family, filled our hearts.

Saturday, March 20, was an exciting day for about 150 souls in the Goodfield fellowship. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) presented the Greater Love marriage seminar to us. God has given Bro. Jeff the gift of communication and we appreciated him using that talent to communicate to us from the Bible God's design for the marriage relationship. Our thanks to Sis. Bonnie Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL)

for providing us a delicious lunch. Thank you, Elder Bro. Wes, for inviting Bro. Jeff to Goodfield for this stimulating presentation. It was an intense day-long session, so we were especially grateful for the booklet he prepared for us to take home. May God give us the grace to not only hear, but to do!

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

God's presence is felt among us as He directs the lives of those who seek His will. Bro. Jaron Schlipf was married to Sis. Julie Schrock in Congerville on March 14. He is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf. Sis. Julie is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville, IL).

On March 21, Bro. Shannon Witzig was united in marriage with Sis. Sharon Kieser (Bloomington, IL). His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig. She is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL).

We wish these two newly married couples God's richest blessings. They sought the Lord first in their lives, and now God has directed them in life's second most important step. As they continue to submit humbly to God, each couple's happiness will be enduring.

On March 21, Sis. Judy Zimmerman was announced to be married to Bro. Rory Strahm (San Diego, CA). She is the daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman. Bro. Rory is the son of Lois Slach. We wish them well in this endeavor.

On Wednesday evening, March 17, Bro. Wes Knapp was here to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. Again, it was

heartening and beneficial to be advised of the discernments of the Elder brethren. Our task, in humility, is "to obey them and submit" (Hebrews 13:17).

Our Elder brothers watch for our souls, and some day must give an account. By God's grace may we make it easy for them "that they may do it with joy, and not with grief."

Two souls were in the hospital. Bro. Dave Steffen (overnight) and Sis. Viola Witzig.

Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) was a visiting minister during the month.

On March 4, Grant Mitchell Kiefer was born to Bro. Rich and Sis. Gail Kiefer. He is their third child. He has two sisters, Ashley, 13, and Brittany, 10. Grandparents are Bro. Richard, Sr. and Sis. Lucille Kiefer; and Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari (Bloomington, IL). May God bless them in raising their dear children.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Sis. Hazel Ferguson was called Home on February 20 at 99 years of age. Surviving are her daughters, Mary Lehman and June (Jack) Anderson; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 15 great great-grandchildren. May the Lord comfort and bless her family.

Bro. Leo Funk died on March 9 at the age of 89 years. May his family find comfort in God's promises. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Beulah; three sons, Ross, Donald and Merle; two daughters, Donna (Robert) Gee and Roslyn (Steven) Hibbs; one stepson, Gary Rumbold; two stepdaughters, Sis.

Kayleen (Bro. Ron) Heiniger and Sis. Debra (Bro. Dennis) Wells; two brothers, Alwin and Bro. Roy; two sisters, Sis. Ella Schlipf and Sis. Louise Witzig; 10 grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and 8 step-great-grandchildren.

Bro. Chris Rassi died on March 11 at the age of 84. Our prayers are with his family. They are his two sons, A.J. and Kenneth; his two daughters, Mary (Clifford) Waldbesser and Jane (James) Blosser; his four brothers, Benjamin, Alphonie, Clarence, and Daniel; his 12 grandchildren and his 22 great-grandchildren.

We rejoiced as two precious souls gave their testimonies of what the Lord has done for them in their lives. Jessica Putman (Cindy Villa and Dennis Putman) and Paul Grimm (Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky) were baptized on March 7. May they continue to maintain their close walk with Christ.

We wish to thank Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to our congregation. May the Lord richly bless all the ministering brothers that give of themselves so selflessly.

Notes of Thanks:

My sincere thanks to everyone who remembered me in prayer, sent cards, gifts and phone calls while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Eli Leman

The family of Sis. Hazel Ferguson wishes to express our appreciation and thanks for your expressions of love and sympathy shown to us during our mother's

passing. May God richly bless you.
Hazel Ferguson Family

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

The Family of Wilbert Funk

The following was submitted by the Wilbert Funk Family:

My Father's way may twist and turn

My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go
astray,

My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may
seem

That day will never break,
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much new I cannot
see,

My eyesight far too dim,
But come what may I'll simply
trust,

And leave it all to Him.

For bye and bye the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.

Through all the way, tho' dark to
me

He made not one mistake.

"For to me to live is Christ, and
to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

We welcome Joseph Kummer, Matt Nelson, Amy Beth Herman and Kyra Klopfenstein into our brotherhood and wish them God's grace on their future pathway to Heaven. They gave their testimonies on Saturday, March 6, and were baptized the next day. The previous Sunday, Bro. Ken Hoerr had meditated on Genesis 3, where the first promise of a Saviour is made. Everything was perfect in paradise, but Satan twisted it and many became deceitfully evil. The serpent did not crawl on it's belly then, but was something beautiful. The Bible keeps us from sin, and sin from the Bible. We have the responsibility to go to this Book so we know what's in it. Jesus did not get into a conversation with the Devil, but said to him: "What does the Word say?". Eve got into a discourse, instead of ignoring him and talking to Adam. He created the illusion that Eve didn't have to do what God said because "you will be like God", but we are to be in subjection to God, not equal to Him (Genesis 3:5). Today we make an array of choices every day...should I? Should I not? Disobedience to God brings consequences which Satan never mentions nor explains. Bro. Dave Obergfel added that God took away the fig leaves because they did not provide cover, and made them coats of skins from animals (Genesis 3:21), whose blood was shed. Humanity went from the best of times to the worst of times, but Paradise will be restored and we have an opportunity to be in Heaven.

In his family night service on March 3, Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) made an analogy to

the conquest of Mt. Everest in his topic "Climbing a Spiritual Mountain" by comparing it to Noah on Mt. Ararat, Abraham on Mt. Moriah, Moses on Mt. Sinai and Jesus on the Mt. of Temptation. Are we willing to be dedicated, sacrifice all, focused only on the goal and even risk our life in our spiritual climb? Have the same zeal for Heaven and our soul's salvation as for a physical ascent? Bro. Ed lead us through various phases of physical preparations and compared it to the spiritual experience: We need to be prepared through true repentance, expose our weaknesses by confessing our faults one to another, use the best equipment (putting on the whole armor of God to stand against the wiles of the Devil), don't carry excess baggage and pay close attention to every detail, go with experienced leaders who know the way, be unified in procedures and be of the same mind. When the climb begins, we must pace ourselves, be well trained and patient, watch and account for every step, remain focused, pressing toward the mark, step on the solid rock of Jesus Christ and have faith in what we are doing. When we are roped together, we stay close to the faith. We are going up and down valleys and can't always see the peak. Don't take spiritual chances, check the map constantly and don't waste your spiritual time and energy, be sure where you are coming from and where you are headed for. We also must look out for our partners' welfare, not our own. An experienced climber always has three points of contact: prayer, reading and worship. A heavier pack early in the climb builds strength for the assault on the summit. God will not give us a

heavier burden than we can bear so we can reach the top, where the view will be worth it and we will hear: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!". Thanks, Bro. Ed, for your well-organized outline of our spiritual climb toward our heavenly goal.

We welcome Harold Leman and Simon Traub as our brothers in faith. They gave their testimonies and were baptized at the Skylines on March 11..."knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" (Hebrews 10:34). Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman was present and we thank him for his visit and participation.

Bro. Walt Hess was hospitalized at Proctor Hospital and has returned to the Skylines. Sis. Barbara Hunziker flew home from Florida for tests after a short stay at a Miami hospital and she and her family have traveled to Mayos for further examinations. We have many examples how Jesus was touched by our infirmities and we commit our loved ones to Him, praying the Master Healer will transcend the efforts of our physicians.

After many years of illness, Anna Traub (89) passed away on March 1 at the Skylines. Sis. Percida Huber (88), at the Skylines since July 1979, passed away on March 20 at Proctor Hospital. May the Lord comfort the bereft families.

We were blessed by the ministries of Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL — Jesus was alone in the garden while His friends slept and abandoned Him. When He died, His self-sacrificial agape love was shown at a time we did not love Him); Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL — Jesus did miracles

so we can see the power of God. Four faithful friends carried the paraplegic and uncovered the roof; would we rather have stood on the other side?); and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL — in July, the Concord, flying 1,250 miles per hour at an altitude of up to 65,000 feet, will come to Peoria, provided all 100 seats are sold. Have we secured our passage to our Heavenly destination?).

Marriage was the last act of creation, but we can believe it was God's first intention. Bro. Ryan Hoerr and Sis. Joy Herrmann (Princeville, IL) were united in Holy Matrimony on February 28 and Bro. Brandon Schock and Sis. Cassie Hoerr began their married life on March 14. As the distinct became one, may the threefold cord hold their marriage together on the bedrock and ingredient of Jesus, and may His blessings flow as they journey onward in unison of purpose and dedication.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Sheryl Martin

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the rulers of the 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 having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;"

Eph. 6:10-14

On February 27, Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Sis. Joy Herrmann were united together in marriage. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Debbie Hoerr and Sis. Joy is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn Herrmann. As this new home is established, may it be filled with truth and righteousness. We will miss Joy as she leaves our congregation.

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"

Eph. 6:15

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. Troy Wagenbach and Sis. June Steiner (Tremont, IL) was announced to the congregation. Bro. Troy is the son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Sis. June is the daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL). May the gospel of peace and love abide in their hearts as they look to God for His direction and guidance as they begin their future together.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Eph. 6:16

A son, Dayton John, was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Heather Rumbold on February 21. His brother, Derek, welcomes him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold (Bradford, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland. To quench the fiery darts that come their

way, may they take with them the shield of faith while raising their children.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

Eph. 6:17

On February 24, Kurt Lawrence came into the family of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach. His brothers and sister, Keith, Kent, Stacy, Korbin and Kaleb, welcome him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). May the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit be a part of their lives as they raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

If it would be God's will, it is our prayer that the healing hand of God would touch the life of our dear Sis. Martha Kieser as she has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

The Supreme Sacrifice
God with us! We need not fear;
Jesus crowns with life eternal
Faithful let us be while here,
Till God ends our pilgrim
journey;
Trumpets for the conflict sound;
Up, ye valiant, stand your
ground!

See our Saviour leads the way;
Triumph marks His every
footstep;

Follow Him in glad array
 Bravely with courageous effort!
 Though He leads through blood
 and death,
 Heroes never lose their faith.

Fiercely shall our foe approach;
 Many brethren brave are falling;
 For God's kingdom they endure;
 Life eternal is their calling.
 He in endless bliss shall live
 Who for Christ his life will give.

Do not fear the tempter's wrath,
 Though the man of sin be raging;
 Soon to judgment he must pass;
 And then, brethren, we shall
 enter
 Where no sorrow e'er is known,
 Where all dread and fear have
 flown.

We behold the heav'nly throng
 Who in ages past have suffered
 Persecution, hate, and wrong,
 Who for God their lives have
 offered;
 Look beyond, behold their course;
 Strive as they, to heaven's doors.
Zion's Harp #100

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Boni Stoller
Linda Hodel

Therefore rise, all ye, His
 servants;
 For Elijah's spirit pray!
 If as Lord ye would address Him,
 Faithfully ye must confess Him,
 and His holy will obey!
 Therefore rise, all ye, His
 servants;
 For Elijah's spirit pray!
Zion's Harp #112 (vs. 3)

We rejoice our "watchmen" took
 the opportunity to gather once
 again together in February and we

are thankful for the report Elder
 Bro. Tom Hoffman gave us as he
 told us he could feel the prayers
 and that the power of the Holy
 Spirit was evident among them,
 and he had a beautiful peace as he
 traveled home. May we continue to
 lift them up in prayer and in obe-
 dience in this most important
 work they have been given.

We are rejoicing with the angels
 with four dear souls who have
 started their repentance, and pray
 they will give their whole heart to
 the Father so He can convert them
 into a beautiful child of His. They
 are: Jennifer Eckmann (Troy),
 Ben Fehr Jr. (Sis. Kathy), Kristi
 Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni) and
 Kevin Braker (Sis. Janice).

We were inspired with a pro-
 gram from the Scripture Memory
 Class (younger grade children)
 who sang verses from memory.
 May we each one also strive to
 memorize verses as the Word in-
 structs us: "Thy word have I hid in
 mine heart, that I might not sin
 against Thee." (Psalm 119:11)

We are thankful for those who
 have shared the Word with us this
 past month: Bros. Will Schieler
 (Milford, IN), Bob Pfloderer and
 Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). Bro. Kent
 Heimer (Taylor, MO) had a timely
 Bible study on "Forgiveness", as
 we prepare our hearts for Holy
 Communion. Two things were im-
 pressed upon us: the time to for-
 give is now, and you need to make
 the first step.

We extend our sympathy to Sis.
 Mary Lou Martin (Bro. Lyle) and
 Bro. Joe Aeschleman and their
 families on the passing of their
 brother, Fred.

We're thankful to report those
 who were hospitalized have all re-
 turned home, and are doing well:
 Bro. Lloyd Gerber, Bro. Dick Getz

and Michael Stoller (Bro. Ed and
 Sis. Boni). Our congregation has
 also had several families host Ha-
 tian children in need of medical
 attention, and we pray God's per-
 fect will would be accomplished for
 each one.

Three little miracles have ar-
 rived this past month. Bro. Nate
 and Sis. Karel Hoffman rejoice
 over their second child, Kayla
 Kristine, with Nicholas happy for
 a playmate! Bro. Marvin and Sis.
 Michaleen Braker and Sis. Jean
 Hoffman are grandparents.

Clayton Doug Hartter will be
 bringing many new experiences
 into Bro. Brad and Sis. April's life
 as they have the joy of raising a
 child in the "fear of the Lord."
 Grandparents are Bro. Bob and
 Sis. Chris Hartter and Bro. Doug
 and Sis. Gerri Kruse (Morton, IL).

Big brother, Jakob, is ready to
 help thankful parents, Jim and
 Sis. Cheryl Wacker, with the new
 addition to the family. Little Collin
 James' grandparents are Bro. Dick
 and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Rudy
 Wacker and Bev Eden.

It is with sincere prayer that
 each one had a blessed Easter sea-
 son, and was strengthened by the
 powerful message that we serve a
 risen Saviour who was victorious
 over Satan. And may we also con-
 tinue on in faithful service to our
 Heavenly Father and be diligent in
 our prayer life. A powerful analogy
 of the importance of prayer:
 Prayer - the Spiritual man's
 breath! If we don't breathe, we will
 die. So, our souls need prayer as
 much as our body needs fresh air.
 This is how we get strength daily
 from God so we can be victorious
 over Satan.

Restraining prayer, we cease to
 fight;

Prayer makes the Christian's
armor bright;
And Satan trembles when he
sees,
the weakest saint upon his knees.
Hymns of Zion #202 (vs. 3)

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Melvin Roche wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits at the nursing home and many expressions of sympathy at his passing. May God bless you all.

Sis. Mae Roche

Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Bauer and family

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Roche and family

Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold and family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

We have again been blessed with many visitors this past month. We thank each one who has come to be with us, especially our visiting ministers, Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We pray God's richest blessings on these brothers for their labor of love.

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sis. June Steiner (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella) and Bro. Troy Wagenbach (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine) from Princeville, IL was recently announced. We pray God will direct them as they plan their walk down life's path together.

"The table was set, but we waited too long to partake." How thankful we are Elder Bro. Joe

Braker (Morton, IL) could assist our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder with the testimony and baptism of Elmer and Dorothy Brunner, which was held at Apostolic Christian Restmor. We welcome them as our new brother and sister in the Lord and pray God will grant them many blessings in the sunset years of their life.

May we remember those who are sorrowing in our prayers. Bro. Ralph Koch passed away February 22. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Matilda; children, Bro. Stan (Sis. Jennifer), Wesley (Nancy), Galen (Barbara) and Donald (Carrie); and sisters, Sis. Violet, Sis. Carolyn Bolliger, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Marvin) Frank; and brothers, Bro. David (Sis. Frances), Bro. Cleo (Sis. Nancy), Bro. Eugene (Sis. Anna), Bro. Jesse (Sis. Amy), Bro. Dan (Sis. Carol), Bro. Vernon (Sis. Ruth), Gerald (Bonnie) and Bro. Elmon (Sis. Janice); and seven grandchildren.

Carl Endress leaves his brother, Fred (Ruth), a sister, Sophia Steinbach of Widdern, Germany, and five nieces and nephews. May God grant these loved ones His comforting Spirit.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards and calls during my illness and stay at the hospital. May God richly bless all of you.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and

increasing in the knowledge of God;"

Colossians 1:10

Life is fragile. Life is short. The older we get, the faster time seems to fly. Remember when we were children and wondering if we would ever grow up? Now, however, the years just keep rushing past us.

Time is a gift of God. Although time seems to speed up as we age, each day is as long as every other. Every morning brings 24 unspoiled hours as a gift from God. Because we are His children, God encourages us to use that time wisely. He urges us to spend our days living lives that witness to our faith. He gives unlimited opportunities for service. Every evening brings us an opportunity for prayer that we may be strengthened.

Jesus was a model for us. His hours were filled with preaching, teaching, sharing, witnessing. He used His life to serve others. He willingly followed the Father's direction, even when it led Him to the cross, where He died for our sins. That gift of life He won for us compels us to spend our days on earth sharing the wonderful news of salvation.

Time? It won't last forever. Today, tomorrow, might be the only time we have to share our certain hope of eternity with Jesus with our words and with our lives.

Lord Jesus, help me use my time as a witness to Thy love and grace.

This month we were privileged to have the following guest ministers to preach the Word of God in it's truth and purity. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for the Memorandum and Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL)

for Bible Study. Thank you, Brothers, for your time and effort.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Jessica Fritz are the thankful parents of a little girl, Holly Mae, born March 4. She was welcomed home by big sister, Amber. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick, all of Washington. We pray for you and wish you God's blessings.

Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach are the happy grandparents of a little girl, Emily Ann, born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter (Bern, KS). She was born March 15. Emily was welcomed home by brother, Ethan. Other grandparents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen's son, Bro. Todd, announced his engagement to Sis. Nicole Baum from Phoenix, AZ. Nicole's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum. A July wedding is being planned. We pray for God's blessing in your upcoming marriage. May the Lord be your constant guide.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Catrina Rinkenberger
Beth Aschliman

Have you any room for Jesus,
 He who bore your load of sin?
 As He knocks and asks
 admission,
 Sinner, will you let Him in?
 Room for Jesus, King of Glory!
 Hasten now His word obey;
 Swing the heart's door widely
 open,
 Bid Him enter while you may.

Hymns of Zion #193

Making room for Jesus and asking Him into their lives are Denny

Gore and Brooke Neuenschwander (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue). We wish them both God's richest blessings as they begin their walk with Him.

We have had some grandparents in our congregation this past month that have been blessed with precious little babies to hold and cuddle. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie Frauhiger are the grandparents of little Eli Tobias. Eli was born February 25 to Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla Steffen (Bluffton North). He was also welcomed home by big sisters, Lydia and Victoria. Bro. Richard and Sis. Elaine Reimschisel are happy grandparents of Elise Anne born March 2. Elise's parents are Bro. Tyler and Sis. Terisa Reimschisel of Baltimore, MD. Also, Bro. Lee and Sis. Jenny Gerber welcomed little Raegan Jenny into their family on March 11. Parents are Eric and Lori Gerber along with big sister, Darien.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger are grandparents to Seth Jacob. Seth was born back on December 18 to Darin and Kim Ringger. His big sister's name is Courtney. I am sorry to have missed this important event back when it happened!

Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Vicki Grube were blessed with a baby girl, Lauren Janean. Lauren was born on February 18 and has a big sister, Lindsey, and brother, Lance. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeannie Baumgartner and Paul and Jane Grube.

Little Aubrey Elise entered the lives of Bro. Ked and Sis. Joanne Gerber on February 23. She joins the Gerber family as little sister of Taylor and Cordin. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Gerber and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner (Detroit, MI).

Brant Nicholas is the new little guy in the Maller home. His parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller. Brant was born on March 15 and he joins big brother, Taylor. Grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bluffton North). Children are such a blessing from God and we pray for each of these families as they raise their "gifts" from Him.

We humbly pray for God's healing hand to be near several who have been in the hospital recently. Bro. Charles Fiechter (Sis. Maxine), Sis. Mabel Moser, Colt Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina), Bro. LaVerne Ringger (Sis. Rose), Hunter Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda), and DeWayne Agler (Jim and Sis. Pam's dad).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Deryll and Annette Ringger and their children as Annette's sister, Cynthia Ortega, became suddenly ill and passed from this life.

Even though she no longer lives in the Bluffton area, many prayers have been given on behalf of Aggie (Maller) Heinenberg as she lost her beloved husband, Ken, on February 28. Aggie and Ken had many ties to the Bluffton congregation.

Bro. Harry Baumgartner was called Home on March 14 at the age of 79. May the Lord comfort his dear wife, Sis. Lula, and children, Sis. Becky (Bro. Rex) Neuenschwander, Ed and Phil. He has one surviving brother, Bro. Roger, and two sisters, Sis. Lucille Steffen and Sis. Mabel Moser. May the family be lifted up in prayer during this difficult time.

Our high school Sunday School participated in ACYF at Purdue on March 14. Thank you to all of

those who helped make this day possible. Your efforts will not go unnoticed.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH**

**Lori Steffen
Rhonda Maller**

It was a blessing to have Bros. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) and Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) to bring us the Word and we pray that God will bless them for their efforts. We were warned to be careful not to take on "excess baggage" that might seem harmless now, but could hinder us in the future. Some of these "weights" could prevent us from winning the race. If we ask God daily for direction, He will direct us, because He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

February 27-28 was such an encouraging weekend as we listened to the testimonies of two dear souls who told us of their desire to live for Jesus Christ and how He has worked in their lives. Michael Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) and Lindsay Reinhard (Bro. Clem and Sis. Joni) were baptized and we were all reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made so that we can have this hope of life eternal.

Eli Tobias, born on February 18 to Bro. Toby and Sis. Jayla Steffen, was welcomed home by his two "big sisters", Lydia and Victoria. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen and Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Frauhiger (Bluffton).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesi in the loss of his father. May God's love and grace be a strength to them.

Two couples in our congregation have reached their golden wedding anniversaries. Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Frauhiger and Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger have both enjoyed 50 years together and we wish them many more enjoyable years ahead.

We have some loved ones who have spent time in the hospital once again. Bro. Obed Gerber (Sis. Henrietta) and Bro. Lennie Gerber (Sis. Nancy) have been struggling with health problems and we continue to pray that they are feeling God's strength when their own strength diminishes. Bro. Bob Gerber has also been in the hospital this month and we hope and pray he is progressing. We also want to remember those who perhaps weren't in the hospital but are struggling with concerns, both physical and emotional. May we always be mindful of those who are hurting and be willing to be used.

A minister finished our services one day by quoting this poem, "Only one life, will soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last." May we be choosing those things that are the most important.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Pam Huber

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:41

Have you ever felt this way? Good intentions abound in my thoughts, but too many times they get lost in the busyness of daily life. Easter is a good time to remember God's mercy and love for

us and renew our commitment to Him by following through with our good intentions.

The results of our elections held this past month are as follows:

Sunday School teaching brothers: Roger Pelsy, Bob Huber, Mark Wuethrich

Sunday School teaching sisters: Sherri Huber, Gina Tanner, Kelly Zeltwanger

Church Trustee: Roger Ward

Ushers: Ron Anliker, James Washburn

Missionary Committee: Jan Gutwein

Parkview Haven Board: Fred Gutwein

Fellowship Center Trustee: Dave Metzger

We pray God's grace and wisdom be with you all as you fill your new roles in the church.

Thank you to Bro. Tom Troxel for sharing with us the blessings of God's Word this past month. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Gail Bradford

Lauretta Schafer

It is with joy and appreciation that we listened to the meaningful words in song when the Peoria Choir visited us February 21. We also appreciated the message by Bro. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL).

On February 27, Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) shared the Elder's Conference Report with us and also blessed us with words of exhortation for Holy Communion. It was a special evening.

On March 7 we had the privilege of having three visiting ministers and their wives: Bros. Nile Bucher

(Bluffton North, IN), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN). March 7 was also the 83rd birthday of our oldest Indianapolis member, Bro. John Mayer.

Our high school students had the opportunity to attend ACYF held at the Purdue campus on March 14.

Our Bro. Paul Hangartner had knee surgery and is feeling God's healing miracle.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy and their children, Bro. Scott, Melanie and Kent. Sue is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Edie Mayer.

We are grateful for the safe return of Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich and their sons, Seth and Bro. Sean, from their recent work trip to Mexico.

Aaron Lee, son of our Sis. Kathy Lee, has a new address: Gibault School for Boys, P.O. Box 2316, Terre Haute, IN 47802-0316.

Our spring outreach weekend is April 17-18. We need willing hands and hearts if any of you would care to help. Plan to help during our fall outreach weekend also.

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

Galatians 6:9-10

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

Evidence of a humble and submissive spirit toward God is found in a soul who can say, "Whatever it takes for me to reach that Heavenly goal, please do not spare me

from it." During this month, one of our ministering brothers ended his sermon with this statement reminding us of a proper spiritual attitude for our lives.

"Our hearts are like ground," quoted another of our ministering servants. "They can be like a rocky mountain where we try to grow spiritual fruits and fail or we can get out of the rocky mountains and go where we can prosper and grow; where the ground is soft, pliable, and fertile."

Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted with the presentation of the Elder Conference conclusions on a recent Saturday evening. Bro. Jesse served us from the Word of God the following day, and we appreciate his efforts.

Freida Pfledderer ended a long life this past month, and we sympathize with her family. During a recent visit to Parkview Haven, where Freida resided, some of us listened as she clearly and expertly yodeled. Freida's many friends at Parkview Haven will be in our prayers as they will surely miss her cheerful presence.

Sis. Lucille Heiniger has been in the hospital and submitted to extensive surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family during this time of affliction.

How quickly accidents can occur in our lives. Bro. Don Nuest has been spared after becoming entangled in an auger, thus we owe God thankful praise for His protection and care. Accidents can remind us that we never want to be even one step away from God.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

"With desire I have desired to

eat this passover with you before I suffer:...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will but thine, be done."

Luke 22:15,42

"Thus it is written and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name..."

Luke 24:46-47

Jesus had hope in His Father, that He would be glorified after He suffered. He brought hope to His disciples after He was risen. We have hope today because "He is Risen" and we have His Word.

The Art of Hope

The well-known maxim, "While there is life there is hope", has a deeper meaning in reverse: "While there is hope there is life."

Hope comes first, life follows.

Hope gives power to life.

Hope rouses life to continue, to expand, to grow, to reach out, to go on.

Hope sees a light where there isn't any.

Hope lights candles in millions of despairing hearts.

Hope is the miracle medicine of the mind, it inspires the will to live.

Hope is the physician's strongest ally.

Hope is man's shield and buckler against defeat.

"Hope", wrote Alexander Pope, "springs eternal in the human breast."

And as long as it does, man will triumph and move forward.

—Wilferd Peterson

We pray for the Lord's healing touch on those who are suffering affliction of the body. Bro. Bill Klopfenstein is hospitalized with acute leukemia. They plan to start treatments when he is able to receive them. Bro. Pete Maxfield had a second surgery, but hopes to return home in a day or two.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) shared on a Wednesday evening from Daniel 6, the plot against Daniel and his being thrown in the lion's den. He made application of Daniel's attitude, as well as King Darius'. Humility and faith in his God on Daniel's part. Pride and fear of the king.

Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) presented our monthly topical Bible study on "Listening". We appreciated the time it took to prepare this thought-provoking message. Many misunderstandings would be eliminated if we took time to listen to one another. May the Lord bless them both for their visit.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Marguerite Hoerr
Pam Beer**

Two precious babies were born to couples in our Milford congregation this past month.

Micah Wayne joined the family of Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman on February 27. Older sister, Sarah, is happy for a playmate. Also thankful are grandparents, Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elizabeth Steffen (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman (South Bend, IN).

Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer are thankful for another daughter as Ashley Rose was born on March

15. Older siblings are Anne and Aaron. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer of our congregation.

We are thankful our Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) is home after a stay in the hospital. May she ever feel the healing hand of the Lord upon her.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH). We thank them for lending themselves in God's service and may He bless their efforts.

As Easter approaches, may we find comfort and encouragement in the words of this hymn as we strive to live our life as a child of God.

*Christ the Crucified
and Glorified*

This is that great thing I know;
This delights and stirs me so;
Faith in Him who died to save,
Him who triumphed o'er the
grave,
Jesus, God of majesty!
Zion's Harp #225

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler**

Rejoicing in their bundle from heaven are first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara Getz. They welcomed Sophie Claire into their arms on February 23. Also rejoicing are both first-time grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene Getz.

The Scriptures remind us to weep with those who weep. Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark, along with their three children, bade

farewell to grandma Lorraine Clark as she closed her eyes on this earth for the last time. It's so painful to walk through the valley of the shadow of death with our loved ones, but a necessary journey. As our society continues to deny the reality of death, let us take courage to visit the house of mourning more often. Proverbs teaches us that therein lies some of the wisdom and sobriety that we need for our lives.

Sis. Mary Jo Schieler spent time in the hospital. As I read the Silver Lining last month, the amount of illnesses reported along with prayer request stood out to me. I felt admonished to appreciate more significantly each day that I can open my eyes and get out of bed with no pain or discomfort. But the truth remains that our natures often have to suffer loss before we learn to be deeply thankful for the simple moments in life.

This past winter season, several couples and single brethren have taken the opportunity to travel to various countries (Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, etc.) on week-long mission trips. Upon return, it remains refreshing to hear of their experiences of basically putting our prosperity in perspective with poverty. It's thought-provoking how we Americans give to the poor yet perhaps receive a greater gift in return...being able to witness such "joy" in the lives of those with so little. I'm thankful to the host of brethren who in previous years held the vision to organize such mission trips along with the brethren who currently labor to maintain the structure of them. Hundreds of hours go towards the planning process all without monetary reward. May each brother be rewarded with the in-

vestment of planting seeds in the lives of others.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Jennifer Mangold
Sue Beebe

"O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand..."

Psalm 95:6-7

We are thankful for all those who have traveled to worship with us this past month. Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). May the Lord bless you and your families for ministering to us. We appreciate these times of sharing, and all the brethren who pray for us.

Many of our congregation shared an Amish dinner and a singing together on February 27. We were reminded of how precious are the times of breaking bread together. The singing in a humble home was also a blessing.

Our Bible Class was privileged to attend a youth fellowship day at Purdue University on Sunday, March 14, where many brothers shared with them encouragement from the Word.

Several from our congregation were on a work team to Mexico from March 12-20. We are thankful they had a blessed and rewarding time, and arrived back home safely. May God bless their efforts toward those needy people.

As spring comes, we see the earth bring forth a "new song". May each of us, each new day in every season sing unto the Lord a

new song and praise His name. (see Psalm 96:1-2)

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Cheryl Bucher
Hope Bucher

"For the life blackened with failure, that Friday means forgiveness.

For the heart scarred with futility, that Friday means purpose.

And, for the soul looking into this side of the tunnel of death, that Friday means deliverance. Six hours. One Friday."

Our Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Caroline), sustained a serious fall at work, requiring hospitalization. He is able to come to church again, and we're thankful for the answer to prayers offered for his healing.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI). With only two ministers in our small congregation, when one is gone, we all appreciate the willingness of others to come help out. Probably no one appreciates it quite as much as the minister who is alone for the day. God bless you for coming to help out, Bro. Howard.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Beckie Lehman
Mary Beth Lehman

What a beautiful time of year as we rejoice in the promise of spring. As we see new life springing up from the ground all around us, we also see God's power in the new life coming forth in our congregation. We are thankful that Brandi Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) and Brooke Basham (Sis. Mary Beth Basham) have both answered the call and have repented of their

sins. May God give His grace and blessing as they begin their walk with Him.

We were richly blessed this past month with many visiting ministers. We wish to thank each one for their loving service and pray that God will bless them in their work for Christ. Many thanks to Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA), Dan Beer (Milford, IN) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

A thank you to everyone who sent me cards, gifts, telephone calls and above all the many prayers. I know they helped me through the day of heart surgery and since recovery at home. May God bless each one for your love and concern.

Sis. Reva Waibel

I wish to thank all those that have remembered me with cards, plants, gifts, food, phone calls and prayers during the time I was laid up with Shingles. It all meant so much. God bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Sis. Arles Kropf

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Judy Gehring
Karla Gerst

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

Ephesians 5:31

We have heard of the Lord's leading in the lives of Bro. Mike Schumacher Jr. (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Marisa Wirz (Kitchener, On-

tario) as their engagement was announced. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Mike Sr. and Elisabeth Schumacher and Oscar and Catalina Wirz of Argentina. May they feel God's nearness as they strive to walk together in Him.

We have also heard of another way that the Lord works in the lives of dear souls. This past month we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls. We are very thankful to welcome Sis. Mandy Gerst (Randy and Sis. Juanita) and Bro. Dallas Massner and Sis. Dawn Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) into the fold. May they continue to feel the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

I'm a lamb of Jesus' flock;
Untold blessings are my lot;
For my Shepherd gives
protection;
Showers on me His affection;
And with peace and gentle love,
Calls to me from heav'n above.

Shall I not then happy be?
Jesus loves me tenderly.
When my earthly days are
ending,
With the angel host ascending,
In my Saviour's arms I'll be
Blest in all eternity!
Zion's Harp #17

We were blessed with many visitors in the past month. Among them were Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and their wives. Also with us were ministering Bros. Steve Sauder and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Jon Schmidgall, Dale Frank and Jerry Wagenbach

(Oakville, IA). We are thankful for each one who so willingly was spent in the Lord's service. May God richly reward them for their labors in Him.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Ella Wagler (Bro. Paul) due to the recent passing of Sis. Ella's sister, Sis. Clara Steiner (Sabetha, KS). May these dear ones feel the love and prayers of the brethren.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

I Thess. 4:16-17

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

As we near the end of April, we are anxiously awaiting to see the trees once again clothed with leaves, and the grass becoming green and lush with assorted colored flowers scattered here and there, showing us that God has once again given new life to the earth, after a few months of rest.

As God yearly brings this new life to the earth, He is also able and desirous to give new life to the souls of His creation. What beauty can come forth when a soul humbly turns to God willing to forsake the pleasures of sin and pick up their cross and follow Him.

A blessed evening was recently shared as we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. May we ever appreciate our shepherds and

remember them in prayer as they labor in our behalf, desiring to bring the sheep of their pasture safely to that blest reward that awaits the true and faithful.

Our thanks to our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (both of West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for their loving counsel.

February 21 was the wedding day for Bro. Greg Schupbach and Sis. Gwen Bruellman in West Bend. We wish them God's blessing as they make their home in Champaign, IL.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

Recently we held our annual business meeting. We want to thank those who finished their terms and pray for those who were elected to new positions. To those who were voted into a new position, we ask you put your trust in the Lord as decisions are made in the realm of your duties. To the rest of the congregation, we ask that you sincerely and prayerfully support these brothers and sisters in their duties.

Visiting ministers this past month include Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). We thank these brothers for their timely messages.

Gethsemane

It was in dark Gethsemane,
Where Jesus in His agony,
Endured the anguish deep and
great,
In view of His impending fate.

On Olive's brow, 'neath shadows
deep,

In dark Gethsemane's retreat,
The Master knelt in earnest
prayer,
While loved disciples slumbered
there.

Gethsemane, O woeful place,
Where Jesus sought the Father's
face!

"O take the cup of death from
Me,
It's awful pain and agony!

Yet not my will, but Thine be
done."
This was the plea of God's own
Son.
None other could for sin atone,
In anguish deep He prayed alone.

The loved disciples did not know
The depth of sorrow and the woe,
Which Christ, the friend of man
must bear
To save us from our dark despair.

Prophetic words must be fulfilled;
The blessed Lamb, as God had
willed,
Must give His life upon the cross,
To save us from eternal loss.

And thrice He prayed in earnest
tone,
In dark Gethsemane alone.
With angel's help the victory
won:
Then Jesus prayed, "Thy will be
done."

If we would Christ's disciples be,
Our will with His must blended
be.
Our very self must be o'er come,
That we may say, "Thy will be
done."

As Jesus in Gethsemane
By prayer attained the victory,
So shall we, when we seek His

face,
Still find in Him abundant grace.

Wishing everyone a Blessed
Easter!

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Sharon Gerst

This month the Lord blessed us
with visiting ministers to assist in
the breaking of the Bread of Life.
We want to thank ministering
Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and
John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for
their labors.

On March 14, Elder Bro. Ed
Lanz (Oakville, IA) came to share
the Memorandum with us. We ap-
preciate Bro. Ed and Bro. Joe in-
structing us of the dangers of this
world and the blessings of living a
holy, sanctified life.

IOWA, LESTER
Cindy Leuthold
Sue Warner

As we rejoice to see the new
signs of life that springtime brings,
we rejoice even more to see the
newness of life that only God can
give. We are thankful that K'jert
Gramstad, Michelle Van Wyhe
(Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Sherri
Doorneweerd (Bro. Lynn and Sis.
Marlys) and Kary Hartter (Bro.
Jerome and Sis. Gail) have begun
their repentance.

Our hearts were gladdened to
hear that Katie Kellenberger (Bro.
Verlyn and Sis. Linda) and Dana
Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis.
Joleen) have peace in their hearts.
We look forward to baptism serv-
ices on March 21, Lord willing.

We are so thankful for the min-
isters who share with us God's
teachings. Visiting ministers were
Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski,
IA) and Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris,

MN). May God bless them and
their families.

We sang a fond farewell to Sis.
Lis Good who is moving back to
Illinois and plans to attend college.
She will be attending church at
Goodfield. We wish her the best,
and hope she visits us often!

Our prayers are with all those
who are sick or who were hospital-
ized. Hospital patients we are
aware of were Bro. Ernst and Sis.
Ella Metzger, Bro. Ed and Sis.
Amelia Roemen, Bro. Fred
Metzger (Sis. Esty), and Bro.
Denis Meyer (Sis. Jill). May God be
near them and their families.

Sis. Ella Metzger now resides at:
Lyon Manor Nursing Center, 1010
S. Union, Rock Rapids, IA 51246.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

Donnie and Sis. Kris Wagen-
bach welcomed their fourth child
into their hearts and home. Little
Gabriel Lee was born on February
22 and is much loved by his older
siblings, Joel, Kenzy and Devon.
Thankful for a new grandson are
Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie
Wagenbach, Sr., and Tim and Can-
dace Licko (Mediapolis, IA).

We extend our sympathy and
prayers to several in our congrega-
tion whom have lost loved ones in
the recent past. Sis. Rosemary
Wegman lost a sister, Elizabeth
Hartenstein (Morton); Sis. Norma
Massner lost a sister and a
brother-in-law, Dorothy Hecken-
berg and John Kelly; Sis. Marilyn
Wagenbach's sister, Doris Kais-
ner, passed away in California;
Bro. Dick Gerst lost his sister,
Katherine Davis; and Sis. Rose
Steiner's sister, Clara, passed
away in Sabetha, KS.

IOWA, PULASKI**Lisa Knecht**

Our congregation wishes to thank Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and family and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) for visiting us and conveying Words of Truth. May our Lord continue to inspire the thoughts and words.

Carolyn Teubel (the late Dennis Teubel) has been critically ill in the hospital the past two weeks but at this time is recovering and plans to go home soon. Our prayers have certainly been with her and her dear children, Eric and Holly. How very grateful we are to have a Father in Heaven who knows our needs before we even call upon Him for help.

“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

Jer. 33:3

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

Bros. Floyd Freiden (Sis. Janet, Elgin, IA), Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA) were all here the weekend of February 21 to share in the joy of the union of Bro. Greg Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet, Elgin, IA) and Sis. Gwen Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne). We wish Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen many blessings as they begin their married life at their new home in Champaign, IL. We also enjoyed the first weekend of March when several families came from Eureka, IL. Among them, we appreciated Bro. Jim

Vierling (Sis. Linda) who so willingly shared God's Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Alice M. Metzger who has spent considerable time in the hospital. Bro. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger was also hospitalized for a few days.

We extend our sympathy to Eva Banwart who's son, Gary (LuElla) Banwart passed away suddenly on February 17.

Doug and Angie Wirtz welcomed a second daughter on February 20 and named her Hayley Marie. Kylie is excited about her new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz.

JAPAN, SHIODA**Willis Ehnlé**

Bro. Akihiro Ito has returned from a trip to Germany and Hungary where he visited many of our churches. The believers there were very kind to him and he gained new insight into the way believers live and work and worship. He told us that while in Hungary he visited a different church every night.

This coming Sunday, March 21, we plan to have Holy Communion here at our Shioda Church. Bro. Akito Inoue will be here, God willing, so that he and I can always work together.

During the first two weeks of April our area becomes an ocean of beautiful, pink, peach blossoms. The famous cherry blossoms are just a few days ahead of the peach blossoms. God made them beautiful and He wants us to be beautiful, too, on the inside.

KANSAS, BERN**Jill Hartter****Holly Meyer**

“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...”

Deuteronomy 33:27

We've had several people in the hospital recently and trust that they have felt the everlasting arms of God around them. Once again, our friend, Hal Prichard, has been a hospital patient, and also required surgery. He has since been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and is receiving treatment for that. Our love and prayers are certainly with him! Bro. Harvey (Sis. Marie) Grimm spent some time in the hospital and our retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter had some outpatient surgery done. Thankfully, they are both home and getting along fine.

Matthew Meyer, infant son of Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer, is currently in Children's Mercy Hospital (Kansas City, MO) for treatment of a virus. Our prayers are with little Matthew for a full recovery, and with his family, to sustain them through this difficult time.

February 27-28 was such a beautiful weekend as four souls gave their testimonies and were baptized into the body of Christ. We welcome Bro. David Edelman (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Bro. Bruce Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Jamie Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise). We also rejoice with our friend, Tony Frey, who is surrendering his life to the Lord in repentance. We pray for his spiritual growth, and look forward to

hearing his testimony sometime in the future.

"...And to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 113:9

Our congregation has been blessed with two new babies this month! Chad Michael was born on March 10, and welcomed into the family of Mike and Lucy Goodman, Jody and Kara. Grandparents are Eugene and Judy Edelman and Elvin and Beverly Goodman, all of Sabetha. On March 15, Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter and Ethan were happy to have a girl, Emily Anne, join their family. Emily's grandparents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington, IL). We congratulate these two families as they enjoy the new little miracles in their lives!

We have also been blessed with several visiting ministers which include: Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Dean Stefan (Belvidere, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN). A special thanks to all of these brothers, their wives, and their families, as they humbly and prayerfully brought forth the gospel.

Our church was filled to overflowing on the weekend of March 6-7 as many had invited guests to worship with us. We appreciate the efforts of all those from away, and of our own local couples who planned and organized this weekend.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

March 6-7 was our annual invite a friend weekend. We would like to thank all that came for making it a special weekend. It is always a blessing to greet those that we haven't seen for a while and to meet new friends.

March 13 was another special evening when we gathered together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) was here to assist Bro. Charles. May God bless Bro. Kevin richly for ministering to us.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Laura Wagenbach

Jenny Stewart

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and the blossom as the rose."

As I look outside and see the trees budding and the flowers blossoming, the whispers of Spring is in the air and we rejoice at God's creation and the promise of new life. As we approach the Easter season, we are again reminded of God's sacrifice of His only Son and of the new life we find through Him.

Our congregation celebrated the 95th birthday of Sis. Alice Tanner (Bro. Elmer) in February. Her niece, Sis. Nelda Ott, and grandniece, Sis. Sandra Hamilton, also shared the celebration as their birthdays fell within the same week.

On Sunday, February 25, we enjoyed a church potluck dinner and then we had a World Relief slide presentation of Mexico and the work projects there.

March 2 was the Kansas Work Day at the MMC center in Newton. Here we sort clothes and get them ready for shipping. There are quilts and comforters to work on. The men readied canned meat for shipping. These work days are double blessings because we not only get to do a part in relief work, but we also get to fellowship with others from the Kansas churches.

We are thankful that our dear friend, Verta Tanner, is always improving and has been moved to Alva.

We also express sympathy to Sophie Kircher on the passing of her son, Donald Kircher.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Sarah Somerhalder

We appreciated Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) spending a weekend with us on March 6-7. He assisted our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in the reading of the Memorandum. May the Lord richly bless our shepherds for their loving counsel and kind admonition.

Our annual Invite-a-Guest weekend was held March 13-14. We enjoyed the fellowship with our visitors who traveled the miles to be with us. Among our guests were ministering Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) and Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS). May the Lord reward them for bringing us the Word of Life.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards for my birthday.

Sis. Hannah Grimm

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Brenda Grimm

We appreciated the Word brought forth by Elder Bros. William Schlatter (Junction, OH), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

Sis. Lucille Kellenberger was hospitalized for knee surgery. We are thankful she has been able to return to church. We wish Bro. Don Strahm a speedy recovery from his hospital stay.

We welcome Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Christy Meeks (Jerry) as new babes in the faith. Their provings and baptisms were held March 13-14. May their lives shine forth as a beacon so others may be drawn to the light.

The Lord again has given
 His counsel and His will;
 He came to live among us,
 His promise to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #138

Through faith and prayer, God has directed us to have a new Elder. We are planning the ordination service on March 20-21 for our Bro. Gerry Hertzell. Our prayers are with Bro. Gerry and his wife, Sis. Ellen, that God will be with them and provide every need. We thank Elder Bro. Eugene Marti for the efforts he has put forth as our Elder in commuting between Sabetha and Kansas City.

We are happy for Rachel Ann Aberle and Daniel Andrew Andresen of Manhattan, KS who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. John and

Sis. Cornelia Aberle and Richard and Julia Andresen of Omaha, NE. A June wedding is planned.

The funeral for Sis. Clara Steiner will be Saturday, March 20. We extend sympathy to her family.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to everyone who sent me cards, flowers and telephone calls, and above all the many prayers offered for me while having complete right knee surgery.

Sis. Lucille Kellenberger

Note: It is time to remind the Sabetha church we will be taking up our annual collection in April for the Silver Lining. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

On Sunday, March 14, both our ministering brothers had out of town commitments. We thank Bro. Darrel Stoller and his wife, Sis. Gloria, for traveling the miles from Bern to Wichita that morning. We appreciate their willingness to endure the hours on the road so our pulpit could be filled. May God bless their effort and may Bro. Darrel's prayer for our congregation be answered.

Hopefully, our dining room project will be nearly complete by Easter. Much cooperation and personal sacrifice has gone into the construction of the ground level addition to our church. More renovation is needed but we must wait patiently until the provisions are available for them. While we wait, we need to keep in mind the first phrase of the Zion's Harp hymn, #244, "Waiting is to be our

earthly schooling."

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristin Plattner
Michelle Oesch

Today as I write this article, it is the first day of Spring. We have been blessed with much sunshine in recent days. Encouragement and hope are appropriate words as we think about new beginnings.

As we think about new life, we are saddened by the death of Carl Wheeler. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Kate on the loss of her husband.

This past winter season has brought much illness in our congregation and local area. We are thankful to have our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife back in our fellowship. Additionally, we are glad ministering Bro. Bill Gerst and Sis. Judy are back from a two month leave. Ministering to us was Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT). We appreciate his ministry on his numerous business trips to our area.

Now that Fritz and Kim Byam and family (Doug and Marilyn Byam) have relocated in the area, we welcome them into our congregation.

Congratulations to Mark Schutte (Steve and Sis. Sandy) on his engagement to Amy Meistie.

I close with an article I came across some time ago. Love! There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer. No disease that enough love will not heal. No door that enough love will not open. No gulf that enough love will not bridge. No wall that enough love will not throw down. No sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated the trouble may be, how

hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. A sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all. If you could only love enough, you would be the happiest and most powerful being in the world. (author unknown)

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Rhonda Knochel

Peggy Jackson

It seems that on a daily basis we read or hear of more scandals, of crime in high places, of a country which is being torn apart by the ravages of sin. Idol worship, though not necessarily to graven images, is prevalent in a society with lack of moral conviction, lack of character and conscience and ultimately lack of God! But God is Holy; He cannot be in the presence of sin—sin must be punished. In the days of Jeremiah that meant destruction and the prophet warned the people of Judah about it with these words, "And I will prepare destroyers against thee...Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them" (Jer. 22:7a, 9). Now, however, we live in a time of grace but does that mean that our nation's sin will not rise up to the Father and receive due punishment? We know that isn't true. God will punish and in some cases He will do so here on Earth. Many a powerful country has fallen and can only be attributed to God's judgment. So where is the light at the end of the tunnel? Where do we fit in? II Chronicles 7:14 says "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from Heaven, and will

forgive their sin, and heal their land." Notice, He's speaking to "MY people which are called by MY name." We, the church of Christ, His people, who wear His name, Christians, need to humble ourselves and pray! We need to become more Holy and sanctified, without spot or wrinkle and pray! If ever there was a time to pray, it is now! Pray on Church!

Along with praying for our land, we have a tremendous opportunity to pray for one another. We had several sisters spend time in the hospital this month and I'm sure that our prayers were and are important to them. They are: Sis. Alice Eisenman, Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor), Sis. Mabelle Wackerle, Sis. Helen Ramseyer and Sis. Irma Bragiel (Frank). We are very thankful that each one has felt the Lord's nearness at this time and we pray that they will fully recover and be able to worship with us again soon.

We were also saddened by the sudden passing of Sis. Margaret Molner. We will certainly miss her and extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends. We pray that God's nearness will be felt in this time of grief.

As time moves on, changes often come not only to congregations as a whole, but to the individuals who make up those congregations. Sis. Ella Schlatter is leaving our congregation and moving to Detroit, MI to live at Woodpointe. We were truly blessed to have Sis. Ella and the late Bro. Eli and their family in our congregation for so many years. We are thankful that Sis. Ella has the opportunity to move closer to family, but we will certainly miss her here. We pray God's richest blessings on her and that His peace will reside in her

new home.

God bless each of you this month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Bedolla

Crystal Ramsier

A number of people in our community moved into their new home on March 6. Our new independent living facility, Woodpointe, opened it's doors to residents that day. Woodpointe is located next to our assisted living home, Woodhaven. We hope that all those that moved in will feel God's blessings and nearness while they live there and will enjoy the opportunities for fellowship. We are thankful for all those who helped with the move-in effort and also appreciate all the people who helped with the planning and construction of Woodpointe.

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner are thankful for the safe arrival of another grandchild. Aubrey Elise joined the family of Bro. Ked and Sis. JoAnn Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Little Bailey Williams (Paxton and Denise) was ill this month and spent some time in the hospital. We have missed seeing Bro. Frank Denes (Sis. Sanche) and Bro. Joe Szilagyi (Sis. Martha) at church. Both are experiencing an ongoing illness. It's encouraging to know that our Heavenly Father hears our prayers for them and their families during this difficult time.

Bro. John and Sis. Linda Reardon and their family were saddened at the loss of Bro. John's father, Bro. George Reardon (Sis. Marie). Bro. Ben and Sis. Lois Belsley also experienced the pain that comes from losing a loved one. Sis. Lois' brother-in-law, Bro. Leo

Funk (Sis. Beulah), passed away.

We are thankful that several people from our congregation were able to participate in World Relief work team activities and have returned home safely. Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz, along with two of their children, Bro. Tommie and Trisha, spent a week in Haiti. Bro. Randy Gasser was also a part of that Haiti team. Bro. Von Ringger went with a work team to Mexico. It is always a blessing when our loved ones have an opportunity to serve others and be spiritually refreshed by participating in these worthwhile projects.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

We have had the privilege of having visiting ministers worship with us and bring forth God's Word. We thank Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for their labors of love.

Rae Lynn Metzger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella, Lester, IA) and Eric Leonards have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

God's healing power is evident as Sis. Carol Virkler (Bro. Perry) is recovering from foot surgery.

Tiera, Jenna, and Kendra Wiegand are enjoying helping with the care of Kyla Rochelle who was born March 3 to Bro. John and Sis. Jane. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL).

At this time of the year there is new life evident in God's creation, and we are reminded of the new

life He has given us with Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Dianne Kellenberger
Nancy Wulf**

Yet closer unto Thee unite me,
As Thou with God united art.
In truth Thine own and not
pretending,
A Christian true, in mind and
heart;
This will I seek, this is my aim,
My heart, Lord, as Thy dwelling
claim!
Zion's Harp #25

May each of us strive to live more closely to Christ, following His example, and keeping our focus on the cross and the blood He shed for us. As Communion time comes around, let us search out our lives, clean out any useless garbage that may hinder our walk with God, and humbly pray for grace to stay true to Him more and more each day.

We appreciate the efforts of visiting brethren, who come to share the pulpit and the Word. With us this month were Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

Randy and Lori Fehr rejoice over the arrival of Cassidy Rose on February 23. Tyler, Tara, and Risa are thrilled with their baby sister, along with grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane Fehr and Jerry and Annie Jipson. May God bless the joy Cassidy brings to all of them.

Hospital patients this month are Bro. Harold Gramm (Sis. Ila) and Sis. Esther Schaefer (Bro.

John). May God's healing be applied to their lives as He so wills.

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

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind, one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

These Biblical verses remind us of the season upon us when we usually hold annual Communion services. Praying we take heed of these verses and the Communion exhortation to ready us for the "supper" done in remembrance of our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder and Sis. Carol Ann Messner were appointed to assist Bro. Ray and Sis. Bernadine Messner with World Relief projects. May the Lord bless their work done for others in His Name.

After a work team trip to Kingston, Jamaica, I feel the need to mention how thankful I am to have had the opportunity to extend a small helping hand at the deaf school.

"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?"

Ex. 4-11

*My Ears Can't Tell Me,
But My Heart Can
I talk with God.
My ears can't tell me what God*

says because I am deaf.
How can I receive His answer?
My heart can tell me!

My ears can't tell me, how beautiful music is about God.
People think I miss the best part of sounds, but my heart sings to me.
I never really miss the beautiful music in my life.

My ears do not seem important to me,
because God made me deaf.
God taught me to listen to my heart.
Yes, my heart, mind, and eyes are most important to me, because I can feel and hear from my heart.

God sends His words, promises, answers and music to my heart.
I am listening to my heart,
because my ears can't tell me, but my heart can!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brent Kellenberger

This month our congregation assembled to hear the Memorandum. It was a blessing to be encouraged and admonished about our walk of life and our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a special time when our small family comes together on such occasions as this, and we pray God will help us grow in faith, hope and love. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht and his wife, Sis. Sandra (Eureka, IL), could be with us for the weekend.

Our other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend,

IA) and Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS). We are thankful these brothers are willing to be used for the Lord's work.

As we head into Good Friday and Easter, we pray that God will touch our hearts and help us realize what He has done for us. "For if once I could see this world as Thou dost see, I just know I'd serve Thee more faithfully." Let's strive to be receptive to the prompting of God's Holy Spirit, that we may be a Christ-like example, and reach out to "rescue the perishing".

MISSOURI, LAMAR Kristi Huber Carolyn Banwart

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) minister to us this past month. May God reward them for their efforts in expounding God's Word.

Kristi Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) was in the hospital this month.

Kyle Kellenberger from St. Louis has moved to our area and we are thankful to have him back in our congregation and community.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Banwart on the death of her brother-in-law, Don Kircher.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

Our son, Nathan Schrenk, graduated from the University of Illinois in December, and in February he interviewed for a job in California. When he accepted the position, he and his fiancée, Kathy Johnsen, decided to get married before the move. They were united

in marriage on March 10 in Urbana, and are now settled in Menlo Park, CA (just south of San Francisco). We wish them God's blessings, direction, and protection as they adjust to all of these changes in their lives.

In St. Louis this past month, visiting ministers were Bros. Kenny Eisenmann and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL).

One Sunday our family was planning to be gone, and the minister who intended to serve our congregation was unable to come because his wife became very ill. He made numerous phone calls to find a replacement, without success, and we thought we were going to have to cancel our plans. Then he found a brother who was willing and able to come to St. Louis, and we thankfully proceeded with our agenda. When we got home, we found that not ONE minister was in our church that day, but THREE. God has blessed us beyond what we had even dared to ask.

We were privileged to be in Elgin, IL on the weekend that Bro. Ron Schambach was ordained Elder, and we heard an explanation that I would like to relate here. If, on Judgment Day, we aren't clothed with Christ's righteousness, we will be naked before the throne, with all of our sin exposed. Each one will kneel before Christ now for salvation, or then to receive damnation.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

Our prayers are with Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne Sutter as their

daughter, Shelby, and Sis. Di-
anne's mother, Verine Scott, have
both been in the hospital. Dallas
Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg)
also had outpatient surgery. Sis.
Nerys (Klotzle) Lightner (Peter)
submitted to surgery. She is recover-
ing at home. We're thankful for
God's healing mercies.

On March 6, Elder Bro. Tom
Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) assisted
our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in shar-
ing the Memorandum. Bro. David
Wiegand (Champaign, IL) visited
recently also. We thank both of
these brothers for their willing-
ness to serve us.

Bro. Scott Hoerr (Sis. Anna)
was spared serious injury when
someone pulled out in front of his
grain truck. The other driver was
critically injured.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz

"And he was withdrawn from
them about a stone's cast, and
kneled down and prayed, saying,
Father, if thou be willing, remove
this cup from me: nevertheless not
my will, but thine, be done. And
there appeared an angel unto him
from heaven, strengthening him.
-And being in an agony he prayed
more earnestly: and his sweat was
as it were great drops of blood fall-
ing down to the ground."

Luke 22:41-44

Easter will soon be here when
Jesus died on the cross for our
sins. Elder Bro. Duane Farney and
his daughter, Tessa, and Bro.
Floyd Graves Jr. and his daughter,
Hope, went to Sicily, Italy to visit
Dr. Paul and Emily Virkler, spend-
ing a week there. Dr. Paul has an
assignment in Sicily. Dr. Paul is

the son of Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae
Virkler.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Barb Ebersol
have a new great-granddaughter
born to Dean and Amanda Bush
on March 7. Her name is Tyna Mae
Bush.

Bro. Niles Farney is home from
the hospital and is gaining his
strength back. We pray that God's
healing hand will help him con-
tinue to improve.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Sis. Olga Trostle has moved into
the Rest Home after a short stay
at the hospital from her inde-
pendent living.

We thank Sis. Janet Graf as she
rotates off the committee of the
World Relief Sewing Group. Sis.
Carolyn Miller has been put on the
committee.

Bro. Joe Grossenbacher was
hospitalized, and we are thankful
he is assembling with us again.

We appreciate ministering
Bros. Gary Maibach and Glenn
Riggenbach with us recently.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner

Faithful until death remain!
For the crown of life be striving.
Break through bonds of woe and
pain,
In His promise e'er confiding,
Which through grace is kept in
store
For thee when thy journey's o'er.
Zion's Harp #105

Our dear Sis. Theresa Hunyady
(Bro. Andy) went to meet her Re-
deemer this past month after
many years of faithful service. Our
prayers and sympathy are with

Bro. Andy and his family. May
God comfort them as only He can
do.

We are thankful for Elder Bros.
Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and
Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI) who
helped conduct the funeral serv-
ice, along with Bro. John Grimm.
Our other visiting ministers this
past month were Bros. Fred
Domka (Mansfield, OH) and
Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North,
IN).

On March 4, Bro. John, Sis.
Julie, and Joshua Grimm wel-
comed Josiah Andrew into their
family. Joshua is excited to have a
brother. May God give them the
wisdom needed to raise their chil-
dren in the fear of Him.

On March 6, we enjoyed the fel-
lowship of another World Relief
night while doing our small part to
help those in need.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

What a special blessing the
weekend of March 6-7 was for our
congregation as we could listen to
the testimonies and view the bap-
tisms of our dear Bros. Doug
Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis.
Sheila) and Rex Boroff II (Rex and
Pauline). We were thankful Elder
Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL)
could be with us as well as Bros.
Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Mark
Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Mark
Steiner (Smithville, OH).

Our Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis.
Elizabeth) spent time in the hos-
pital this past month. May God
continue to be with him and heal
his earthly body.

Planning an August wedding is
Missy Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill
and Sis. Emily) who recently an-
nounced her engagement to Mark

Benware (Stan and Pam). May God be with them during this planning period and their future life together.

Our congregation enjoyed many visitors during our annual Invite A Guest Weekend. Among them were ministering Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). What a blessed fellowship we enjoyed with those of like mind and faith.

Easter

Oh who among the sons of men,
By word or song or deed or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day.
It gilds the holy sacred page,
It brings to every clime and age,
To every people tribe and race
The story of redeeming grace.

Hymns of Zion #89

Just having passed through the Easter season, we ponder the many trials and tests our Lord and Saviour endured for us. Let us daily remember to be thankful for all He went through that we may have a hope of eternal life.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Heidi Hackenjoes

On February 27, Josh Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) was united in marriage to Chrissy Pease (Michael and Julie). May they continue to draw near to the Lord as they begin their lives as man and wife. We certainly wish the Lord's richest blessings on their marriage.

Bro. Delmar Stoller (Sis. Marguerite) experienced health difficulties during the past month. We trust he will feel the healing hand of the Lord.

The upcoming wedding of Lane

Stoller (Sis. Irma) and Rick Sawyer has been made known. We wish them the close nearness of the Lord as they plan their future together.

Bro. Carl Rager (Sis. Louise) has celebrated his 90th birthday during the past month. We continue to pray that the Lord will guide and direct him toward that Heavenly Kingdom. May Bro. Carl feel that the Lord has "work" for him yet to do on the earth.

Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) gathered with us during the month. We trust the Lord will continue to give Bro. Walter the strength and courage to speak the truth. We thank him for his labors and invite him to come visit again.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller as they became first-time grandparents. Little Sophie Claire was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara Getz. We are looking forward to seeing Sophie when she comes to visit her grandparents.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

This past month John Them (Roma) and Sis. Becky Vent (Richard) were in the hospital. We pray for God's comfort and healing for both of them.

Glory be to God in Heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour
great!

Dearest child we bid thee
welcome,
in our blessed brotherhood.

Zion's Harp #34

Our new sisters in Christ are Sis. Olivia Ramsey (Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Missy Sauder (Gregory). We pray that God will give them the needed grace and

strength for each new day.

We appreciated the visit of Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) during this weekend of testimonies and baptisms. May God bless him for his willingness to come and labor on our behalf.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lynda Beery

Lucy Gasser

Sis. Myrle Rufener at the age of 95 years has entered into her eternal rest. She was an encouragement to many of us as she lived her life in the joy of the Lord and in appreciation of His blessings. It was mentioned at her funeral service that she lived a few over 35,000 days and she lived those days by God's grace just one day at a time. She attended church regularly and as recently as several weeks before her death. Sis. Myrle is survived by her son, James Miller; daughter, Jeanette Schaefer (Mel); stepsons, Bros. Chester (Sis. Roma), Orin (Sis. Anna), Elton (Sis. Velma), Isaac (Sis. Verna), Joseph (Sis. Lilas), and Glen (Sis. Beverly) Rufener; and stepdaughters, Sis. Helen Maibach, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Glenn) Gasser and Sis. Carol (Bro. Everett) Beery. Also surviving are five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, 37 step-grandchildren, 102 step-great-grandchildren, two step-great-great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Sis. Laura Queen, Sis. Helen Kerstetter and Blanche Garver.

Little Brett Bauman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica), Bro. Vernon Hartzler, Tiffany Bauman (Bro. Allan and Rose), Sis. Clara Jenkins, Wayne Beery (son of Sis. Martha) and Jim Miller have spent time in the hospital. Others have been confined to their homes.

Flu and respiratory problems have been very prevalent here. May all be blessed by the touch of the One who can heal all ills.

Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) was our guest minister for a pleasant surprise on a Wednesday evening, Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) also ministered to us, and Bro. Glenn Riggenschach assisted at the funeral this month. May the Lord God continue to grant us the privilege of hearing preaching inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Steiner became grandparents again when Dan and Denise Steiner were privileged to welcome into their home, Ashley Dawn, born February 15.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier became parents to Elizabeth Aldine, born March 14. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL). Both babies have first-time parents. May God bless them with love and wisdom as they rear their children.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace..."

Romans 10:15

Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) was with us on March 3 to assist Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle in the reading of the Memorandum to our congregation. May God bless him and his wife, Sis. Martha, for helping to make that evening a special blessing.

"A friend you were to those in need,
A special friend to those indeed.
You cared, you gave, with no thought of self,
For what you sought wasn't earthly wealth.
Others were your main concern,
A child in need, a soul forlorn.
But the time came, Mom, to say goodbye,
For your treasure lay up in the sky.
A home prepared, a weary soul's rest,
To be forever with the blest."

—a tribute to "Mom" from Bro. John, Sis. Paula and the Figel family

Our kind, loving, and faithful sister in Christ, Rosella Figel, has departed from this world to live forever with our Saviour, the Lord Jesus. We can understand the words "treasures in heaven" a little more when we think of precious souls like Rosella, for she truly was a priceless jewel. May her ardent faith in the Lord be a strong example for us to follow. It is our prayer that God will comfort those who are grieving, especially her children: Bro. John Figel (Sis. Paula), Delmos Figel (Greta), and Diane Burkhart (Steve). May God also console her sister, Sis. Almeda Brake (John), and her sister-in-law, Sis. Martha Indermuhle.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Rosella Figel also would like to thank everyone who remembered them during her time in the hospitals of Columbus and New Martinsville, and also at her passing. Many from our different congregations were a comfort to Sis. Rosella when snow and ice storms made it impossible for the

family to visit her. Your phone calls, prayers, visits, cards, gifts and encouragement were very much appreciated.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

According to Thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will we do our dying Lord,
We will remember Thee.

Thy body broken for our sakes,
Our bread shall be;
Thy sacramental cup we take
And thus remember Thee.

Can we Gethsemane forget?
Or there Thy conflict see,
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
And not remember Thee:

When to the cross we turn our eyes,
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God our sacrifice,
We must remember Thee.

Hymns of Zion #301

On March 13, we had the opportunity to remember the death and suffering of our Lord, as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in this solemn occasion.

We thank Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for visiting us on a recent Sunday and bringing forth the Word of truth unto us. We trust God will bless him for his efforts.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

We are so happy to report that two souls are seeking the kingdom of God. We wish much grace and God's blessings to Dana Nieman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay) and Arlene Troyer. May they build their house of faith upon a firm foundation.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe Rufener (Sis. Lilas) as his step-mother, Sis. Myrle Rufener (Rittman, OH), passed away recently.

Although we do not have anyone to report that has been hospitalized this month, we have those among us who have various physical afflictions. We trust in the Lord's healing touch for each one.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 1:2

When we face health problems, it is wonderful to know that our Lord can provide the healing that we need. Sis. Mary Ann Weigele (Bro. Al) is recovering from back surgery. Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis. Elizabeth, Junction) was brought to Toledo for surgery as well. We pray for God's healing touch in both of their lives.

Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) spent a recent Thursday evening with us. We appreciate his service in the ministry.

Melissa Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction) and Mark Benware have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for

their marriage.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

This past month has been a memorable time for both Oregon congregations because the Silver-ton brethren hosted the mid-winter Elder Conference. Friday, February 9, a luncheon was hosted by our congregation for the wives of the Elder brethren convening at Silverton. Thanks to many helping hands, everything went smoothly and a pleasant time was had by all. There were approximately 49 Elders' wives present. It was wonderful to meet so many dear sisters. That evening, services were being held in Portland and we were privileged to have nine Elder brothers and their wives among us: Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO), John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA), Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn, Elgin, IL), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI). We realize the heavy schedule these dear ones had; long travels, long meetings and not a whole lot of rest in between. All the more do we appreciate their efforts to come to our small congregation that evening. We thank Elder Bros. Earl Ringger and Mark Bahr for their inspiring words as they ministered unto us. It truly was an evening to remember.

The following Sunday, the assembly room was filled again with extra visitors. It was a very special day as we had quite a few Elder brethren and their wives in our

midst again. Present were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Arthur Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL), and three Elder brethren and their wives who had been here Friday as well (Elder Bros. Leroy Messner, Roy Grimm and Nathan Steffen). Our gratitude especially to the four Elder brethren who labored on the pulpit that day: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Arthur Bahler, Lavoyd Moore and Leroy Messner.

May our church leaders feel our love and support as they allow themselves to be used for the benefit of our church as a whole. May the Lord bless them and their families as they continue their duties. They are appreciated so very much.

We also thank all other visitors who came to Portland to worship with us. Every single one is welcome and appreciated!

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The Silverton congregation had the privilege of hosting the mid-winter Elder's Conference the third week of February, 1999. It was really a joy to see all of the planning and preparation actually work out so smoothly as each meal was served and each day's events took place. And more importantly, it was just such a blessing to have so many of our beloved Elders and their wives among us for the week. Precious memories were made for so many of our brethren, friends and children in the expectation and the joy of keeping their guests in their homes. Many prayers had been said that the Conference itself would bring blessing, strength and courage to our whole church,

and we are encouraged that it truly will. Our thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for His manifold blessings on the Conference and for His traveling mercies over us all.

With so many brethren here, we were thankful to hear the Word spoken by our visitors on several different occasions. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and ministering Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR).

February 27 was the evening chosen for four dear young souls to have their opportunity to bring their testimonies before the church. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) with our Elder Bro. Art Metz interviewed the converts...and once again each listener was taken back in thought to our own precious time of repentance and proving. Sunday we witnessed the baptisms and welcomed into the church Bro. Tyler Kuenzi and Sis. Kelsey Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Brian Dietrich and Sis. Jill Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan).

Our babyroom is seldom empty but it is especially active now...four precious little arrivals in the last month make that sure. Born February 18 was Jacob Harvey Metzger to Bro. Kurt and

Sis. Koreen. Little sisters, Lydianne and Adrienne, welcome home their brother. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi. Next was baby LeAnne Renee Kuenzi to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer on March 3. Mom and Dad's little helpers at home are Nicole, Lorraine, Logan and Jeannell. Grandparents are Chuck and Connie Mueller (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi. On March 10, Brian and Melina Suster's home was blessed with their fourth daughter, Annette Melina. Her joyful sisters are Angela, Adriananna and Alexandra. Grandparents are Zarko and Helen Reljin (Akron, OH) and Steven and Adina Suster (Salem). Baby Desiree Diane was born March 16 to the Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn family. Kenton, Brianna, Laura, Darwin, Trenton, Nelson, Troy, Erin and Travis are ready to take their turns holding their new little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Dan Edelman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Otto and Sis. Marion Sinn. Such a joy, a privilege and a responsibility is given each time a baby is born. May each look to the Lord for His ever present help in every need.

With deep concern, God's healing mercy and grace are sought for the Dave and Grace (Bolliger) Milo family. Dave has been in serious condition in the hospital for several weeks and is just recently showing some improvement.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan Gasser**

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." (Hymns of Zion). It is always a blessing to

experience the tie of Christian love and friendship with fellow believers, in our own congregation and especially when traveling many miles to fellowship with old and new friends. This month, our entire congregation, and our small group of young believers especially, were delighted to host quite a large group of visiting young people from Rockville, CT; Sardis and Rittman, OH. Our free time is such a rare and valuable commodity these days, and what better way to spend a weekend than encouraging one another in our walk with the Lord.

We were also blessed this month with a visit from Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) who gave his time and energy to share the Word with our little congregation. We are so thankful for all those who labor in this manner, and trust that the Lord will reward them and bless their efforts among the congregation.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold**

"He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us."

Psalm 62:6-8

This past month, we welcomed ministering Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) as well as many other visitors and friends. We especially thank the ministering brothers for their efforts in proclaiming God's Word to us and ask God to richly bless them, their

families, and all of our friends and visitors.

On March 21, we were privileged to share Holy Communion together. What a truly special time this was to remember the events of the last supper and what Jesus has done for us.

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

Matthew 26:26-28

If you are traveling in the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Our upcoming services are scheduled for May 2 (Sarasota, FL); May 16 (Bloomington, IL); May 30 (Bluffton North, IN); June 6 (Rockville, CT); June 20 (La-Crosse, IN); July 4 (Francesville, IN) and July 18 (Fairbury, IL). On the other Sundays we are usually meeting for a tape service. Please contact one of the numbers below if you plan to worship with us to assist us in meal planning: Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 353-8835; or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946; or Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin (423) 376-9153 (Knoxville, TN area).

**TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder**

We were blessed this month to

have a sizeable gathering for services on March 14. The Fort Sam reunion for those discharged August 1963 to July 1966 was held in San Antonio. Approximately seventy people attended the weekend reunion and about ninety were present for services on Sunday. Visiting ministers included Bros. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS), Glenn Riegenbach (Sis. Lou, Smithville, OH), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN).

Others who expounded on the Word at our regular worship services this month included Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) who also served us Holy Communion. We are grateful to visitors who help support our small congregation.

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**

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Ronald Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Arthur Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR). We thank them for bringing forth His Word. Retired ministers, Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Ester, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) spent some time with us. We also want to thank the many others who have visited us this month. What a blessing it is to travel throughout our country and find the same faith and fellowship of God's people.

We are always given so much food for thought when we assemble with our brethren. We heard how our relationship with our Christ is only as good as our relationship with our brother.

"Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Matthew 25:45



Sermon continued from page 2

were like someone else, and we all went through that. That is a normal adolescent occurrence.

At some point in time, we need to recognize that God made us this way for a reason. Then when we can have that faith, then we can be useful even though we might be weak, or the weakest of the weak in a particular area.

"Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification." (Romans 15:2). So how are we going to accomplish that? By bearing the infirmities of the weak. That is how it is going to be done.

Now, beloved ones, we can't pretend to forbear with the infirmities of our neighbor. We can't pretend. We say the Word wants us to do that, so we should aspire to and have that desire. But, beloved ones, the natural carnal mind, if we have a strong area in our life, would be to look our nose down at the person that is weak. That is the normal carnal mind. We see it all around us and we see it being brought out in people's comments, in their body language, in the words they don't say, the sarcasm, and so on and so forth. Do you know what I am talking about? That is the carnal mind, beloved ones, the carnal mind. We are going to fight that the rest of our lives.

Beloved ones, if we have been called by the Lord Jesus Christ and if we have been blessed with His mercy and His grace, who are we to look at someone else and look our nose down upon them? Think about it. Beloved ones, if anyone should be looked down upon, it should be us, shouldn't it? Look at the sin that was in our life. Look at the miserable condition that we

once were in.

"For even Christ pleased not himself, but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:3-4). Beloved ones, we have to use the example that Jesus gave us. He was not treated fairly. He was looked down upon. He knew who He was. He knew He was the Son of God. He knew His strengths, beloved ones, but He was in a position where He had to restrain Himself.

Beloved ones, I was listening to a tape and it was very interesting this morning. For the point (and I will make it real brief), the Apostle Paul when he was shipwrecked on that ship where there were two hundred seventy-six people on that boat, and he told them not to leave. But that nice soft breeze came and they left. They thought that they had their purpose.

Then things went "Hay wire". Things went backwards. Now think about this, Paul told them, "You should not go because the angel of the Lord told me that we will run into harm." But they just didn't listen to him. Okay. Everything went beautiful and think of the men's minds. They probably thought, "That funny man over there, that funny God-fearing man, who does he think he is? It is a beautiful day. It is tranquil and wonderful!" Then, it all broke loose.

Now think of the Apostle Paul's position at that point and time, how he had to constrain himself. Think about it. The carnal man

would have done and said, "I told you so." Beloved ones, we need, just like Jesus did and like Paul did in that situation, we need to rise above our carnal natures. Beloved ones, that is not very easy to do, but that is part of forbearance with one another. It is something to aspire to. It really, really is.

These were written for our learning so that we can be benefited by, and that we through patience and the comfort of the Scripture might have hope; and we do have hope! I hope you feel hope and I hope I can continue to feel hope that it is going to be all right, that God is going to help us deal with these situations.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded..." (Romans 15:5). Now listen to this. Now the God of patience! Beloved ones, that is the God we are serving. Was He patient with you? He surely was with me. That is who we are serving.

"Now the God of patience and consolation..." Consoling. A consoling God. "...grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:" (Romans 15:5). What a perfect picture to paint!

"That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." (Romans 15:6-7). Now dear ones, do you see why in the New Testament so much is written and the Spirit is so clear about loving one another? Not with an artificial love, not with a hypocritical love, but with a pure love—a pure Christ-like love. A pure Christ-like love can-

Sermon continued on next page

Sermon continued from page 45

not be hidden and it cannot be counterfeited.

At our VBS, we were reminded of a counterfeit, but we cannot counterfeit this true love that we need to aspire to have for one another.

Dear ones, I think about this true love and I think about all my faults. I really do. That is not all bad, but it is not all good either. The thought here and the valuable part of my thought here as I view it is, dear ones, natures of people cannot necessarily be changed altogether, but it is how we react to the other person. Do we have that Christ-like love?

We hear the old saying, You can't teach an old dog new tricks. In other words, it is saying that as we get older, we are not really going to be able to change our nature a lot. But by God's grace, and this is so very valuable, by God's grace and by His help, we can change.

We are not going to change how tall or short we are, if we are a little hyper or if we are a little laid back, we are not going to change that, and that really doesn't matter. But what we will be able to change is the Spirit within us—that Spirit that is within us that we may truly with one mind and one mouth glorify God.

Think about how God must look at, first of all, a family—a mother, father and children where they have the same mind. Think about how God must be glorified when the father and mother support the Word and bring up the children in the nurture and admonishment of the Lord. Think of how God can be glorified.

You could just keep furthering that whole concept from the little family unit to the local congrega-

tion, to the church, and then the community, and then from the nation and as a world. I know that is beyond us, but it is not beyond us right at home. That is where it starts. "As goes the home, so goes the nation." It is a saying, I don't know if Lincoln said that, but, beloved ones, it is true. It is true as it has always ever been.

"Wherefore receive ye one another," beloved ones, listen to that, "...receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7). Are we willing to receive one another, not regarding all their bad points? Beloved ones, we all have them. That is the thing.

If you have ever met someone that doesn't see his bad points or his shortcomings, you would rather not have him around because he is simply arrogant and proud. We don't want that spirit in the household of God. We want to be able to see our weaknesses. We want to see ourselves as we really are before God.

Yet, beloved ones, we need to see our strengths as well. We really do. But the important point here is that we are willing to receive one another as Christ received us.

Think of that hymn, "Just as I am, without one plea, Jesus I come to Thee," and He was willing to receive us. Beloved ones, if we would come to one another with that type of spirit—that humble spirit—surely we would find a good reception. I really believe that.

So, beloved ones, it is a two-fold situation here if we want to put into practice this Scripture; we not only need to receive one another, but when we have our faults and we have our shortcomings, we

need to be humble enough to acknowledge them. We need to be willing to say, "I am sorry," when we have stepped on someone's toes, when we have said a word out of place, when we have done something that is simply, not willingly, but because of the way things go and we work together.

Think about it. A husband and wife rubbing shoulders together through a period of time, there are going to be moments and times when there is going to need to be the words, "I am sorry." It has to happen. It just has to happen. Do you understand that, beloved ones? That is the message here, and even within the church that we can receive one another.

It goes on here talking about the Gentiles. I don't know if we are going into this so much and yet, we find that this message of receiving one another continues all through the Epistles when the Apostle Paul spoke to the individual churches. I will go up here to the fourteenth verse.

"And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." (Romans 15:14). Now this is an extension of that receiving—an extension of that love one for another. Now, beloved ones, all of our minds go to the testimonies when we ask the convert, "Are you willing to take admonishment? Are you willing to give it?" Look at this verse. This is part and parcel of what we are trying to accomplish here—that we are able also to admonish one another.

Dear ones, that is going to be work that we are all going to be striving to accomplish the rest of

our lives, but let us not give up. Let us really not give up. If you are capable of admonishing one another, that is an expression of the greatest love that one human can have towards another. Think about it. That is when we are able to admonish one another.

“Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ...I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me...” (Romans 15:15-18). It goes on and on.

The Apostle Paul here recognized that it was only because of the grace of God that he was able to do what he was able to do. Beloved ones, have you ever had times in your life where you have been able to do something? All of us do have a gift here or there and we are able to do something. What

is the first inclination that comes? Maybe you are different than me, but I don't think you are. The first inclination is to take credit yourself. It is the human nature in us all.

Beloved ones all, by the grace of God, He has made us what we are and so if—if, that little word if—if anything good can come, and surely it will, if we are living for the Lord, then we do it for one purpose, to bring glory to God.

Beloved ones all, I think as we think of this, what more could we accomplish in our lives but to bring glory to God. If we can diminish ourselves, then the glory will become greater and greater to God. As we look at our own selves, let us not say, “I can't do it.” When God asks us to do it, let us do it. Let us do it with the right attitude and not to receive any glory, because if we do, now think about this, if we do receive the glory and we take it upon ourselves, that will be the reward. That will be the recognition.

How long does that last? It is

fleeting. Don't let Satan ever confuse us and try to make us think that it is that important.

But if we can give the glory to God where it belongs, what a beautiful situation—what a beautiful situation! Because then and then only, the true Spirit of God can come. A full measure of the Holy Spirit can be a part of the situation. True love. The true example of Jesus Christ. We need to be thankful, dear ones, that we have this example, that we can love one another, that we can receive one another, and that we can bear with one another. Let us never, never forget that we all have need of forbearance because we are all weak sometimes, and then we are all strong at other times. Let us never, never underestimate the value of this wonderful principal that we have just enjoyed.



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,
Paulding, OH 45879

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

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, sug-
gestions for appropriate services and as-
sistance with appropriate referrals.

The hotline will not provide diagnosis
or treatment.

*The Eureka Apostolic Christian
Home of Eureka Auxiliary* is planning
the Spring auction and bake sale to bene-
fit the Eureka Nursing Home. It will be
held April 24 at the Goodfield Grade
School. The benefit will include a bake
sale, starting at 10:00 a.m., lunch (sand-
wiches, chips, pie and drink) will be
served starting at 11:00 a.m., the auction
will begin at 12:00 noon with the quilts
being sold at 2:00 p.m.

Donations of crafts, services, and mis-
cellaneous items will be appreciated.
Bring donation items to the school by
10:00 a.m. or you may bring to the Home
before Friday at 4:00 p.m. and ask for
Charlene. If you need assistance to get an
item to the sale, call the Home and ask
for Charlene Schumacher (309) 467-
2311.

Profits from the benefit will be added
to the 1998 benefit auction and dinner to
go toward purchasing a new transport
bus. The bus will accommodate 14 resi-
dents with capability of holding four
wheelchair residents. It will also be used
for duplex and condo residents' shopping
trips or special outings.

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 names
to:

Tom Waldbeser
2910 Maple Vista Ln.
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
or call 1-770-935-1451

USED EYEGLASSES 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 61764



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.

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

Human Services Scholarship

Gateway Woods-Apostolic Christian Children's Home is offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in the human services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and an application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer or Tim Sauder. Applications need to be returned by July 1, 1999.



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

**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 Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

Business Manager

Gateway Woods has an opening on our office staff 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 consider applying.

For more information on either of these positions, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
(219) 565-3499

**Gateway Woods
Auction**

Saturday, August 21, 1999

**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) 627-2159
Phil Stettner - Counseling Elder, (219) 565-3499



Persecutions

The Bible teaches that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12).

In Acts 8:1, the Word advises that there was a great persecution against the church at Jerusalem. This eventually led to the death of Stephen.

The fate of the early apostles was martyrdom. Without question, history records over the generations that devout believers lost their lives for their faith. Countless others suffered pain and heartache short of death.

In today's context of freedom, it's difficult to comprehend what our predecessors suffered. We have grown accustomed to freedom of religion.

Our constitution guarantees the right of assembly. One of the most treasured aspects of our benevolent government is found in the First Amendment which indicates that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Because of the freedom we enjoy today, it is well if we consider the plight of our early church fathers (in Switzerland) lest we be lulled into an ease that could hinder us spiritually.

When our church was established in Switzerland, the brothers and sisters did not always enjoy a smooth path. The government, and the state church, were often hostile to those who departed the established church.

In reviewing some of the persecutions of the Froehlich era (1830-1857), it's interesting to note that as the early brethren committed themselves to re-establishing a church brotherhood based solely on Scriptures, they

resolved to carry out the Word's principles "whatever the cost might be" (Reugger, *Apostolic Christian Church History*, Vol. I, p. 63).

Reugger's history informs us of many incidents of persecution as the churches were being formed:

—*May 6, 1831*: A policeman dragged Bro. Froehlich out of a meeting and brought him to the district magistrate at Lenzburg. An official raised his hand to strike him, but withdrew in a stream of profanity. Eventually Bro. Froehlich was released.

—*May 13, 1831*: Again, the police interrupted a worship service and ordered that all who had sheltered Bro. Froehlich must appear before the district magistrate.

—*1834*: Participants in church meetings "were manhandled to the shedding of blood with sticks and stones."

—*1834*: Newspapers across Switzerland railed against Samuel Froehlich. He was reviled through the nation. Police watched him wherever he went.

—In Appenzell "believers were beaten until blood flowed."

—*1831*: In Thurgau newly baptized persons were beaten with staves, and almost drowned in watering troughs.

—*1837*: Bro. Froehlich once held a meeting from 2:30 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. in order to not draw attention of the authorities.

—*September 2, 1838*: An Appenzeller newspaper (writing about the new faith) wrote, "It would be better if a flood or a pestilence came over the congregation, than that such a doctrine should arise."

—*November 5, 1841*: A worship

meeting was held from midnight until 5:00 a.m.

—*March 20, 1843*: Bro. Froehlich is expelled from the city of Zurich as a sectarian.

—*1850*: Bros. Geistlich, Guenthard and Leuthold were captured, shackled and deported (from Aargau) to Zurich.

May 23, 1850: While Bro. Froehlich was speaking, young people gathered at the church door and spoke abuse. Later, a large stone came flying through a window, but he calmly preached on.

In the above incidents, the seed bed of a stable, true church denomination (founded on Scriptures alone) was being established. We have a duty to uphold the faith of our fathers, which came to us at great sacrifice.

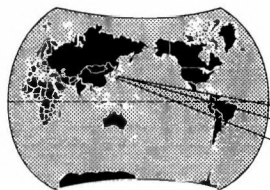
"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

Hebrews 2:1

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Gridley, IL*

Next Issue:
More on the church in Europe.





The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Christ Was Raised Up”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We are really encouraged by Christ's resurrection which is commemorated at Easter. How marvelous, how wonderful, how full of glory! After making the all important atonement for our sins and imperfections, He reappeared in a new body, His resurrected body, which could move anywhere, freely.

In Romans 6:4 we read, “That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” When we are baptized, not only is our old self buried but we are also resurrected, figuratively, to live life on a higher plane, above the turmoil of this world. That life I want to know and I want to live.

Easter is not just a time to wear new clothes and remember the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is a time to check our own altitude reading to see how close we are to the model which Christ set for us. There is such a thing as living the resurrected life,

even while still in these bodies. That interests me. The Bible does teach us that we are to walk in newness of life.

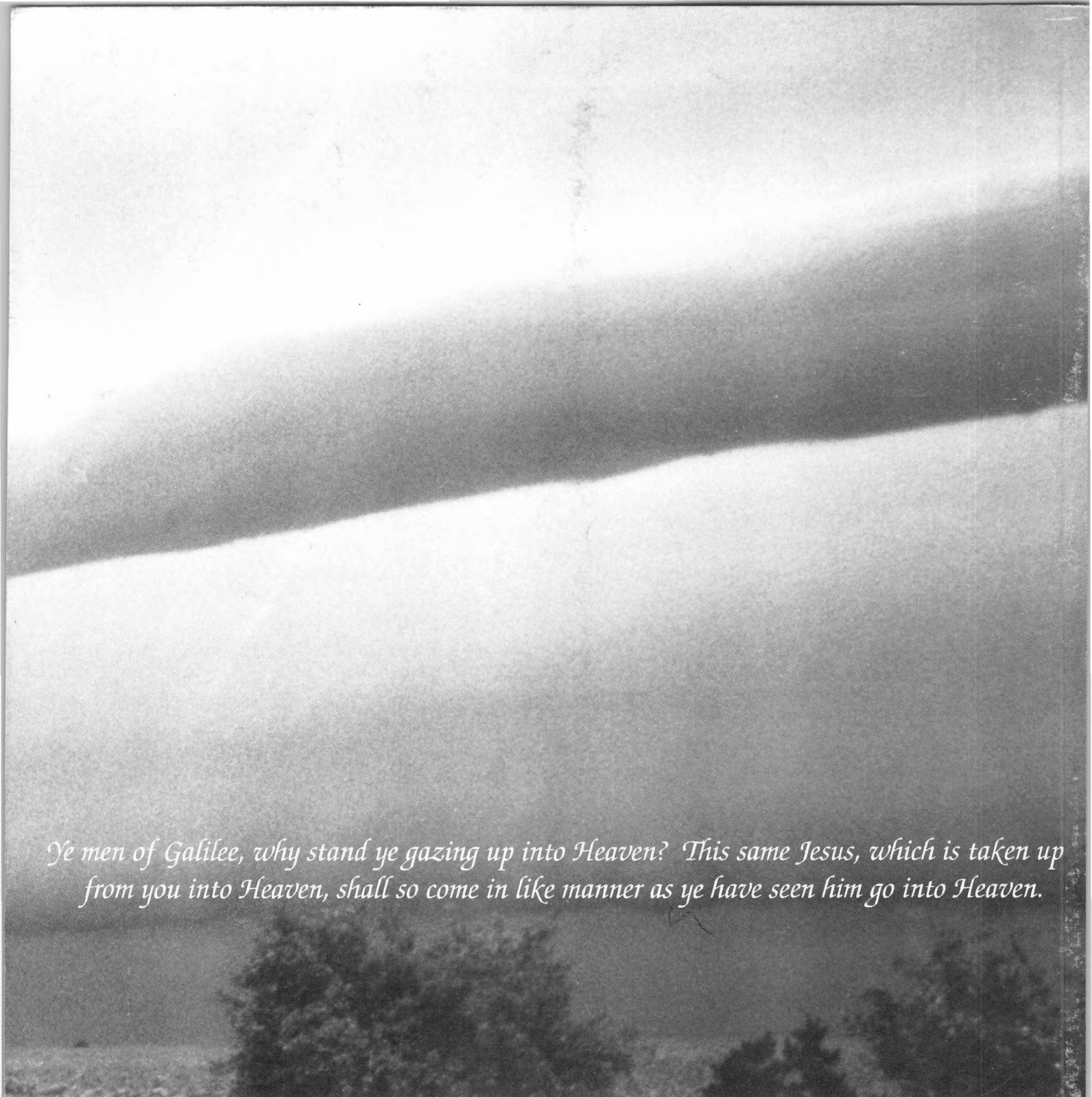
We can read more about this in Colossians, chapter 3. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” One attribute of the resurrected life is that we seek those things which are above; love, joy, peace, etc. Those things above are non-material and are not visible to the human eye. In the resurrected life we seek to be humble, obedient, and are enthusiastic about living the pure and holy life. It's wonderful, it's fantastic. The devil tries to keep us from living that life, but if we are surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit, the devil will not succeed.

It's Easter! What a glorious time! However, it is true that without death there can be no resurrection from the dead. In Corinthians 15:36 we read, “Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quick-

ened, except it die.” We really do need to make certain that we are dead to self. Otherwise, how can we possibly live the resurrected, pure and holy life? Christ arose, He was raised from the dead and we, too, have been raised from the dead. Let's lift up our eyes to the hills. Our help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Christ was raised and we want to be right up there walking with Him.

Jesus said, “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” Vegetation and human beings have something in common. They both bring forth fruit by dying. In the case of human beings, we are to die daily, to self, so that we can bring forth fruit, fruit which results from witnessing through our resurrected life. Christ was raised up and so are we.

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Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven.

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