

The Silver Lining



*For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind,
and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the
morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the
earth, the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name.*

May 1999

“OUR HOPE IS IN JESUS”

Sermon by Bro. Roy Ehnle, Bradford, IL

Genesis 47:15-31 and I Timothy 1:1-11

We read together in our first reading of Joseph, and it is humbling when we think of Joseph and the life that he did live. He was the youngest of several brethren. We have to be careful, don't we, loved ones, as we behold the place where God has placed us in life? We all have a place and we are all needed. We don't all have the same level in our places, and would it not be terrible if we did? It would be chaos! We can't imagine what the world would be like today if God had not so perfectly made and placed everything in its right place; and for mankind likewise.

Joseph was hated because he was chosen, not only of God, but of his father, and his brothers could feel that. There was something special about Joseph. Beloved, there is something special about each one of us well known to God, but unknown to one another so many times.

We know the story of Joseph and it was a story we all remember as children at home and then in Sunday School. Joseph was willing to accept heartache in life. He never had it easy and good, and he was mistreated and misused by his own brothers. They were even going to kill him. He never complained or murmured, but he accepted it as we would like to accept those things as we go through life. Then what a blessing it was at the end.

We read here how the people came together. He was sold as a slave and wherever he went, he did the very best he could. This is something that we want to remember. He did the very best he could. When he was in prison, he did the

very best he could. He was esteemed. It wasn't long and they saw that here was a man that was content and satisfied. He wasn't where he wanted to be, but he couldn't help that. He could help one thing and that was that he could do something and that was the best that he knew how, for where he was. If I could just remember that always and follow those footsteps.

We sang together in the beautiful hymn, "Why is there this anxious striving For the treasurers of this earth." I believe all of us ask ourselves that question. "By God's word they all will perish." We know that, don't we? It is nothing new to us. We sing these words and do we really let them penetrate into our hearts? "Honor, pleasure, wealth and mirth", are all going to vanish away. "Honor, pleasure, wealth and mirth; And I, Who have life eternal, Joy and blessedness supernal, Find so few who will obey On the straight and narrow way!"

"Two ways, O man are there for thee." We are aware of this, aren't we? We are going down the pathway of life and there is before us a narrow path and there is a broad one. Few will find that narrow path but many will find that broad path. We have to keep that in mind, don't we, loved ones, lest we forget?

Sometimes the broad path seems the good path, and it might be good. You could do a few more things, and I am not thinking wrong things, but good things in life, to have a few more opportunities and have a little better way it seems to do the good that the world

needs so very, very much. We have to remember the Word teaches us that straight is the way and narrow that leads to Heaven. Straight and narrow is the way. Wide and broad is the way that leads to destruction.

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;" (I Timothy 1:1). I will never forget one time when I went to a visitation for a dear and beloved esteemed neighbor and friend in our

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

May 1999

Perilous Times

In reviewing the culture around us, most sincere believers in Christ Jesus would agree that perilous times exist (II Tim. 3:1). The high incidence of divorce, family breakdown, crime, child abuse and general promiscuousness have led to social chaos.

Many aspects of the arts, films, books and publications of all kinds contain impurity that exudes corruption. In general, ethical waywardness coupled with an indifference toward good behavior pervades our land. Dishonesty and moral decay are found in many areas of government including the highest office of the land.

Added to the peril that threatens to engulf us is a cynical attitude indicating that many have given up hope that an acceptable level of integrity and morality can be recovered. While such pessimism is wrong, it nonetheless exists and adds to the perilous nature of the times.

In evaluating the concept of perilous times, a sense of perspective must be kept. The peril we see today does not necessarily match the peril and social degradation of the past.

History records suffering, plunder and severe heartache over the years. One need only think of the early Christians being thrown to the lions; of the medieval Crusades where both adults and children left their villages in Europe to help retake the Holy Land only to suffer disease and death; of the Anabaptists who were drowned, beheaded or had their tongues torn out because they held to Scriptures and promoted adult baptism; of the American Civil War where a million men were killed or injured; or of the Holocaust where 6 million Jews perished.

Perilous times have always existed. Because an enemy, Satan, exists and continually persists in his devious doings, peril and suffering will continue.

In drawing an analogy between the perils of the past and those which exist today, one is initially drawn to the conclusion that spiritual peril was much

greater in the early church, and through the ages, than it might be today. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that one of the greatest perils we face is our high standard of living. A general sense of ease exists across the land and the lure of materialism can cause leanness of soul. In former times it was the sword that caused untold perils among believers. To some extent, in today's era the sloth and indifference bred by plenty can be as detrimental to the soul as the roar of lions.

Our task as believers is to learn how to cope with perilous times. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Romans 5:20). Notice that the Word says that grace did much more abound. This passage is heartening to any soul who feels burdened by the sin and iniquity (i.e., the peril) that surrounds us. Indeed, we must humble ourselves so the grace of God will be plentiful in our hearts (James 4:6).

"Peril" and/or "perilous" means danger, jeopardy and hazard. In a spiritual sense, we are all subject to peril. In his work for the Lord, the Apostle Paul faced untold peril as recorded in II Cor. 11:26-27: "in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

The peril we face pales when compared to the Apostle Paul's difficulties. While he faced physical and spiritual peril, ours is largely spiritual. However, we must realize that our comforts of life, and general ease, are perils indeed.

The dangers we potentially face today are found in several subtle forms: questionable teachings in classrooms, wrong influences in broadcasting, entertainment, the temptations of impure literature, outlandish materialism, and

becoming envious, lustful and jealous.

Further, in an era of relative ease, higher educational levels and less need to depend upon one another, the threat of attitudinal peril can easily beset a believer. One can more readily ignore church guidance (authority) and instead go his own way. Exaltation of self, as opposed to obeying God ordained authority, is an ever present peril that must be resisted.

In this generation there are additional traits that add to the concept of "perilous times": spiritual sloth whereby a soul drifts along at the bare minimum, a feeble understanding of doctrine and heritage, and naive exposure to religious falsehoods. This last trait is featured by instant salvation, eternal security, and a lack of sanctification (which results in worldliness).

As believers we must be skillful in recognizing the perils we face and the lifestyles that can drag us into sin and thereby displease God.

According to Romans 12:2, if we are not conformed to the world, and our minds are renewed, we can more readily discern the perfect will of God. We can thence clearly see even the smallest peril that can affect us negatively in a spiritual way.

As true believers, we live to please and serve God. The truly converted soul is called to do his or her best (Matt. 5:48). The peril that exists makes this difficult, but the Word tells us that God's power far exceeds that of our enemy. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

We are wise to seek lowliness of heart so God's grace can keep us diligent in reading His Word, faithful in church attendance and protected from the perils we might face. Anticipation of the joys of Heaven together with participation in the glorious cause of Christ should motivate us to withstand peril, and overcome sin until life's end.



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

World Relief Projects Rise Up From Within Our Brotherhood

World Relief projects are developed by suggestions or recommendations made by our brethren and friends. When someone discovers a situation in which they feel the World Relief Committee (WRC) could be involved, this should be taken to the local Treasurer-Representative (TR), who then takes it to the national WRC Director who has jurisdiction over the designated area. There is an established policy which sets out the criteria for approval of such projects, and each Director and TR has access to this document.

Take the project to the proper Board

When it appears that the proposed project meets the approved policy, the Director submits the recommendation to whatever World Relief Board would have jurisdiction over it. Projects within the USA are handled through our USA Board. The designated Board determines if the proposal will meet the established criteria for new projects. If this is the case, the project is presented at the next national WRC meeting for project approval and funding.

An example from past experience

In 1996 a sister from the Bluffton congregation spoke to her local WRC member about the Harbor House Mission, located in Celina, OH. (It is to be noted that in this particular case, a local brother was a member of the national WRC, therefore a Director. That is not always the case, and the first contact should be made to the local TR) A group of brethren from the Bluffton area visited the site and agreed that there was a need. The

Director submitted the request to the USA Board, who in turn approved the request for presentation to the national WRC.

This was a unique situation

The Harbor House Mission was started in 1990. It is a family oriented, Christ centered residential care center for single, pregnant teenagers, who are accepted from any state in the USA. There are very few maternity homes, such as this one, who will take in teens under the age of 18. The organization purchased a building that was formerly used as a hospital. At this time they occupy about one-third of the building's area. The state of Ohio has granted Harbor House Mission an adoption agency status.

ongoing education program is provided by teaching volunteers, and Christian counseling is done by the staff and directors of the home. The organization does not receive support or funding from governmental organizations, and relies on private grants plus gifts from organizations and individuals.

Even though this operation is small, since 1990, 187 babies have been born to mothers counseled by the Harbor House Mission. Each mother decides between parenting or placing her baby for adoption. About 33% of the babies are placed with adoptive parents. A recent placement was made to an Apostolic Christian family.

The current state of the facility


At this time, the girls are housed on the second floor. The house parents, with their 5 children and a nanny, have living quarters and offices on the first floor and in the basement. Currently there is a need for remodeling more of the unoccupied area of the building. More office space is required due to the adoption agency status. Additional living quarters are needed for the young women who want to stay longer than the state-mandated limit of 30 days after delivery. With the availability of after-care apartments, the teens would have the option to stay for a longer time.

World Relief Committee involvement

In 1996, the WRC allocated funds to replace nineteen windows and help buy a used 15-passenger van. Since then, funds have been approved for operating expenses.

This project came into being because one sister took the interest and initiative to bring it to WRC attention. This project has given opportunity for volunteers from various congregations. We hope that other comparable projects will come to our attention.

**"I am the
Resurrection
& the
Life."
John 11:25**



The immeasurable value of life

At the Harbor House Mission, the girls are counseled on the immeasurable value of the life that is carried in the womb. Our sister, a school teacher, served as a volunteer teacher at the facility. An



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Crisis in Yugoslavia A special report

As the situation in Yugoslavia continues to unfold, a large number of our American brethren have expressed concern and sympathy for the Yugoslav brethren. For the first time in many years, we have a situation where a substantial number of our own people are in a war zone. They are in daily dangers to life and property, with every day bringing new challenges. This report is being written near the end of April to meet the deadline for publication, and thus reflects the circumstances at that time.

European Board activities

The European Board has held two emergency telephone conferences since the beginning of the conflict, and have more scheduled in the future. We are doing what we can to make the best moves in the interest of helping and not hurting brethren.

As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:9

How we communicate

The technical age in which we live brings benefits, in that we can contact our suffering brethren. This is done by telephone, fax, and e-mail. However, we use utmost caution in our correspondence, because the situation is very complicated and goes back hundreds of years in history. The brethren strongly advise us that they themselves take no political position, and have committed the entire matter to our great God.

A recent e-mail message

The following report was received in English via e-mail from one of our brethren in Novi Sad, a city of around 175,000 people. Many brethren live in the city and surrounding areas.

Dear brethren,

God bless you and all your family, all the brethren in your country.

Using the kindness of my relatives (to send the message), I am writing this short letter on the situation here. I want you to know all the details, although it is not easy to describe how the people feel when bombs are falling. Two bridges are destroyed over the river Danube in Novi Sad and it is a sad thing that bring tears into our eyes.

We brothers from the Relief Committee of Yugoslavia are working through the brothers in Europe and America to help suffering brethren.

A very sad thing is that a street where one sister used to live is almost completely destroyed now. Her house is not damaged very much except for the windows and plaster. Houses in the neighborhood are destroyed. Someone else had the same experience in an area in Novi Sad. Pristina (capitol of Kosovo), where the bombings are the heaviest, one sister in Christ used to live. The very centre of the city is completely demolished, her house was there, but fortunately she is not there now, she escaped to another town. Several houses of our members in Novi Sad are damaged, but with no victims of our members up to now. Pray for us to be that way in the future.

I am in a hurry, because I am going somewhere else now. My wife and children are in a town where we believe it is safer. In the evening the only bridge is going to be closed for traffic because of the air raids. Very sad story, and nobody did believe that the war is going to take place.

Some of our families from Belgrad, Novi Sad, and other cities are thinking of leaving for Hungary. Some members are already there. That is a great problem.

Send our greetings to everybody. Hearty greetings in our Lord's name. Let Him protect His people.

From our viewpoint

Thus the letter ends and we will not print the signature. There has been no attack on American soil by a foreign adversary for nearly 200 years. We cannot identify with the roaring of aircraft engines and the screaming of the bombs, but for these brethren it is a reality. In past years many young people left Yugoslavia to build a life for their growing families in a different environment. This left behind those who were the least able to meet the challenges of building and maintaining the faith.

It has been our past goal to help reverse this process, and assist in making an environment, at least for our own, where they could live, prosper, and build the church. Now we are facing a situation with which we have not previously dealt, and whose outcome no one can reliably predict.

What can we do?

As we continue to communicate with our suffering brethren, their first appeal is for our prayers. We encourage our American brethren to remember them in prayer every day. They tell us they have committed the entire matter to God, and now will not even seek shelter during bombing attacks. This is the essence of true faith, which we wonder how we could carry out ourselves if called upon to do so. Our own future is unknown.

Presently some funds are available to meet current needs. However, much more will be needed. If you wish to help financially, it will be much appreciated. We recommend giving through your local church, specifying the funds for Yugoslavia. The funds will be forwarded to:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF
9652 STERLING ROAD
RITTMAN, OH 44270

We appreciate your support!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Springtime at ACHH is a busy and exciting time! We are all thankful that the grass is growing, the trees are budding, and the sun is shining! Many of the residents take advantage of the warmer weather by participating in outdoor activities. Some choose to ride bikes, watch the flowers they planted grow, train for track and field for the Special Olympics, or just sit outside and enjoy the sunshine.

April is the month that some of our residents start at CIRT (Central Illinois Riding Therapy). CIRT, located in East Peoria, begins in April and goes through December. The residents enjoy riding horses and then participating in a real horse show.

We had a blessed Easter celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Princeville Sunday School came to ACHH to dye Easter eggs with the residents. The Morton Sunday School Class from ACHH participated in the Easter program by singing and signing "The Old Rugged Cross." Holidays are extra special here because many of the residents go home or have special plans with family and friends.

Rodney Blaum, who currently lives at ACHH, is moving to Oakwood Estate. He will be missed at the large home, but we are glad he has the opportunity to move. He is excited about his new home and environment.

Thanks to all who support us. We are grateful for the volunteers and as always appreciate and need your prayers. God bless you.

Residents celebrating birthdays in June are: ACHH - Dale Plattner (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger

(15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23); OAKWOOD - Rod Blaum (15), Doris Hutchison (18); LINDEN - Chip Johann (22); 241 MINNESOTA - Sharilyn Rowell (19).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Terri Gramm

I was touched this year as I remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus. At Good Friday services, I was reminded of the suffering of my Saviour. He endured all the persecution, mocking, physical and mental anguish He went through. What was Jesus' reason? Why would He, the Son of God, allow this stuff to be done? What is the purpose of all this?

John 3:16 "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." It is so beautiful to know that it is only by grace, God's grace, we are saved through faith and that the covering of Jesus' blood that He shed on Calvary has taken away the hostility between God and me. (Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Romans 5:8-10 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.") The resurrection power that raised up Jesus has also given us victory over

death and power to overcome sin. Praise God for His mercy and love.

The following are two situations that may or may not apply to someone you know, but they could be happening around you. She can't drive anymore. She doesn't always feel well enough to come to church, even though she loves Jesus and is a Christian. She doesn't always feel well enough to sit inside the church sanctuary when she does come. She complains of health ailments too numerous to keep track of. She is on medications. She may complain of depression or feeling moody, sad, or down. She has family. She may be in your family. What can you say that will help her? Should you even get involved? Where should you look for help? He comes to work early many days. He is always there before you are, and seems dedicated to his work. He is at a desk all day. He has a family and a position in his church. He is hooked on pornography. He may be your co-worker. He may be your brother. What can you do to help? Where should you go for help?

Go to the Bible first. Find out how God's Word would have you deal with situations. God's Word can be relied on! You can know the basic principles of the Scripture to deal with every problem you or others have.

You must study it. God's Word provides hope and gives direction for change in our thoughts, speech, and actions and is able to equip us for every good work. (Psalm 19:7-11; Proverbs 30:5-6; Colossians 2:8; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:2-4; I Corinthians 10:13; II Corinthians 1:19-20; II Timothy 2:15; James 1:5)

Two volunteers were here from Iowa this past month: Bro. Gene Butikofer and Dave Nusz. We

thank you both for sharing your skills to assist us with our maintenance work.

We want to welcome Ruben to the Kipfer House.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel from Indianapolis, IN have chosen to give of themselves and their talents in service here. They will be working as Alternate Houseparents. We welcome them and their children, Shelby, Billy, and Madeline, to Gateway Woods and to the Leo Church.

We were especially excited to have our on-grounds school accredited by the National Association of Private Schools this April. Accreditation validates credits earned by students enrolled in Gateway Woods School so that when the student returns to public school, they won't have lost any academic ground.

Gateway Woods is currently in need of a counselor. An ad for this opening appears in this issue. If you have an interest and are qualified to fill this position, please call us.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Erin Mott**

First, we would like to thank each of you for your prayerful support of the Preschool, and especially for our recent Board Meeting. By God's grace, many decisions were able to be made by these brothers to help our Preschool. Please continue praying that the Lord may use these changes to benefit all involved with the Preschool.

It seems as though spring just began, but summer and the end of the school year are fast approaching. This means it is almost time for graduation, and preparations

are being made. We only have one child who will go on to kindergarten, but all of the children will get to participate in the ceremony which is scheduled for Thursday, May 20. This is an uplifting time to reflect on the progress of our students, because right now they are able (and willing!) to learn so much. Academically they've done well, but I believe the greatest education they can receive here is the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We pray that each one would someday heed God's call and recall this memory verse: "Go ye and teach all nations." (Matthew 28:19). It is time to pass on His torch.

This month our students will be learning the colors black and white, and reviewing. This will certainly keep us busy, because these tiny bodies have absorbed a lot of information over these past months and we want them to keep it.

As we've mentioned, summer is almost here...and volunteers are in high demand. If you feel you could offer yourself for a day, a week, or more, we'd be very pleased to have you. We realize not everyone can come, but we pray more will feel moved to give of themselves a little this summer and visit the Preschool. More than happily, we will provide accommodations for individuals and small groups who wish to join us here in Athens. So, please prayerfully consider this option for your free time this summer and please give us a call. You may contact Sis. Joan Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or the Preschool at (256) 233-0591. Thank you!

If you are unable to come and volunteer, but wish to help out the Preschool in another way, we have a sponsor program for students whose parents cannot afford the

full tuition. There is a great need in this area and we sincerely appreciate any donation you feel you can give to this cause. If you'd like more information, or know you are interested already, please call us. And, again, thank you to those who are already participating in this program.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Joan Reinhard**

On Saturday, April 10, we had the Preschool Board Meeting so there were quite a few visitors here for the weekend. We had a singing on Saturday night and then shared Communion after the regular service on Sunday. We want to thank Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for giving of himself to help in this work. It was a great time of recognizing the Lord's gift of Himself to us and a time of appreciation for this gift. It is also a time of closeness that is always felt with each of our brothers and sisters as we share in this time together.

We had two other visiting ministers this month. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Mary, and their children all spent a Sunday with us; and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and his wife, Sis. Linda, surprised us with a visit. We have also had visitors from Bluffton, Bluffton North, Leo and Remington, IN; and Rittman, OH. We truly do appreciate the love we feel when we get to worship with those we have not seen in a while. What a time of rejoicing fellowshiping with other believers brings. Do we long for the day when we can fellowship with the Lord Himself for all eternity? What a day that will be. Nothing on this earth is too great a sacrifice for serving our great

God and Master.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"It was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

Luke 2:26

Sis. Doris Kokanovich entered Heaven's gate on March 22. She had intermittent health problems; however, with her loving smile and courage, in church on March 14, we surely did not know the death angel was so near.

Bros. Ken Lawson and James Emch had her funeral services on March 26. The choir sang several of Sis. Doris' favorite songs. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson, AZ) had the prayer at East Resthaven cemetery.

Sis. Doris is survived by her son, Bro. Jon, his wife, Sis. Nancy, four grandchildren, and two sisters and three brothers, including retired Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach. Our sympathy to her loved ones. May God comfort you.

After waiting for winter weather and rain for months, it finally arrived April 1. The cold and downpour came during Good Friday services; 52 degrees was the high on Easter Sunday.

Our Sunday School presented us with a lovely Easter program after church services. We are grateful for our leaders and teachers doing God's work with our beloved children.

We also enjoyed our choir's program before afternoon church. We are thankful for God's message in song. There are many ways to serve our Saviour!

Our appreciation to visiting ministers, Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR), Peter Petrovich (San Diego, CA) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

Annita Marie Baum was born on March 16 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy. Koby and Isaac love their sister, and share her with grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton, IL). Floren and Mary Ella Klopfenstein are her great-grandparents.

Grant Andrew was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Debbie Katich on April 8. Kelsey and Casey helped bring baby Grant home. Bro. Al and Sis. Joyce Yackley and Jeff and Cindy Smith are his grandparents. Sis. Linda Yackley (late Bro. Clarence) is great-grandma.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." Sis. Tillie Gerst is going to a nursing home in Iowa. Sis. Charla Huber moved to Illinois, where she is employed in Peoria. Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura and baby Kara Dotterer are moving to Sardis, OH where his employment takes them. We wish you all God's blessings and best wishes as you relocate.

Floran Klopfenstein was hospitalized for a medical procedure and Bro. Richard Schupbach for tests. Sis. Stacia Witzig and Sis. Cathy Labudde had surgery.

"O what power, the Giftee gives us, to see ourselves as others see us." (R. Burns)

A happy 25th anniversary surprise singing was held April 16 for Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich. Many folks wanted to celebrate this occasion that Elder Bro. Roy Farney solemnized April 14, 1974. Praise the Lord. Sis. Jan

Elsasser made arrangements that Elder Bro. Phil Stettner wanted to attend our scheduled family World Relief activities night. May God bless Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy and be assured of our caring and our love. We pray for many years of life together in the future.

Our God is a Great God! He is everywhere. He has NO favorites. "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine" (and yours).

Every child of God is special, not one is loved more than another.

Note of Thanks:

God bless everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, and the love shown to us in the loss of my Dad.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Psalms 127:1

Sunday, April 18, was a beautiful day of blessings from the Lord with the service of our Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) as they read us the Memorandum, served us Holy Communion, and asked for the Lord's blessings on the building of our church, at the groundbreaking ceremony held at our church lot. Forty of us gathered together as Bro. Harvey Smith dug the first shovel of dirt. It is just short of 13 years since our first church services were held in Prescott on May 4, 1986, with 45

in attendance. We are excited that the time has finally come to start the building. The digging is to start April 26 and cement poured May 3. Bro. Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH) of the Mission/Building Committee, will be coordinating the volunteers and overseeing the project.

Deeply missed in our fellowship are Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons, who have committed themselves for the next two years to work in Tucson. We know the Tucson congregation will appreciate their support, but we hope they will be able to come and visit often.

Bro. Henry Volz is slowly recovering from shoulder surgery, after spending several days in the hospital and care center, due to complications. We are thankful that he is finally recovered enough to be at home and fellowship with us again.

In addition to the ministry of Elder Bros. Phil Stettner and Jon Kokanovich, we were also brought the message by Bros. Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). We thank all of them for their labor of love.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

As we have said goodbye to our winter visitors, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons from the Prescott congregation. Bro. Bob will be working in Tucson for an extended period so we will be lucky enough to have them assemble with us. Although they will visit Prescott as often as possible, I know they will be missed. It is especially hard to see our members leave, even temporarily, in a small congregation. We are looking forward to spending time with

Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty and getting to know them better.

We have had an unusually dry, warm winter in Tucson this year and had pretty much resigned ourselves to greeting spring without any more little "winter storms" that are so much fun for us because they happen so little and last so briefly. We were warned by the forecasters that Easter weekend would be breezy and cold. Imagine our surprise when as we drove to church Easter Sunday, strange fluffy white objects came billowing down from the sky. We were having a white Easter! I suppose this is only fitting since we had temperatures in the 70's for Christmas! It was hard to calm the children down to start Sunday School but we finally managed to pull them away from the windows (and from the parking lot) and start our Easter service. Temperatures soon returned to normal and our sunshine is here to stay for awhile.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings to all! As Christians we greet each other every time we meet or correspond. What should follow this greeting? In Hebrews 10:24-25 we find the Apostle Paul exhorting one of the many churches he ministered to. He wrote: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Again, in the past month, we have enjoyed fellowshiping together and exhorting one another. God has blessed us with this avenue of encourage-

ment, and we should make use of it during our time together.

Our dear Bro. Clarence Graf has undergone unexpected multiple bypass surgery and is currently recovering without complications for which we thank God.

A new infant soul was added to our congregation. Jacob Aaron Klotzle, the healthy son of Bro. David and Sis. Janelle, born April 13, joins brothers, Justin and Seth, at home.

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) visited our congregation to share in serving Holy Communion which was a blessing to us all. Bro. Don Wagenbach also visited us, sharing the Word. We are continually thankful for the willing ministering brethren in our midst.

May each one of us be continually searching for ways to glorify our Lord, provoking each other to love and good works.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Greetings in Jesus' love. We were thankful to have had ministering Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and his wife, Sis. Marie, with us this past month. We pray the Lord's blessings upon Bro. Don as he ministers the Word of the Lord unto the flock. We also appreciate all our other visitors.

We enjoyed listening to the testimony and witnessing the baptism of our new Sis. Vael Howard the weekend of April 10-11. We welcome her into our flock and pray the Lord will bless her with much grace and guidance as she journeys upon the strait and narrow pathway that leads to Heaven above.

Our dear convert, Linda Zimmer, has experienced some more

health problems and has been in the hospital again. We pray the Lord will restore her physical strength and health that she may care for her husband, Bro. Ralph, and continue in her spiritual growth.

As our nation honors all mothers on Mother's Day, may we express our thanks and love to our own mothers for all they have done for us both physically and even more so spiritually as they taught us the truth from the Holy Bible.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA
Laura Baxter**

"Come unto me, all ye that labour 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."

Matthew 11:28-30

Do you still find the yoke of Jesus easy and His burden light? Jesus promises rest if we take His yoke upon us and learn of Him. Is your heart meek and lowly and are you walking in His footsteps? Any liberties we have in our Christian walk are under the yoke of Christ. May we gladly take the yoke of Christ upon us and continue to follow His example.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We enjoyed the fellowship and appreciate the support of all our visitors.

Sis. Marisa Wirz arrived safely home after a trip to Argentina to

visit family. We are thankful to have her back in our small congregation.

Our church building project is progressing nicely. The carpet has been installed and many small, finishing touches are being completed. It is very exciting to see and we are so thankful for all the help, prayers and support we have received. May God be glorified in the whole project.

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

COLORADO, DENVER

On March 20, God blessed Bro. Kevin and Sis. Pam Braun with a newborn daughter, Amanda Faith. Cecelia had to wait for several days to welcome her new sister home, as Amanda had to have open heart surgery. We are thankful that Amanda is home and doing fine. Grandparents are Herman Braun (Marengo, IL) and Pete Newman and Sue Newman (Aurora, CO).

A day of outside work along with some World Relief activities was scheduled for Saturday, April 17. The weather was not good enough to work outside so all joined in on the Word Relief Activities. The truth of the old saying, "Many hands make light the work" was truly evident. It is truly amazing when we consider the blessings individuals will receive when they are given the various items, but they are really dwarfed by the blessings we receive when we give of ourselves.

We were thankful to have Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and his wife, Sis. Bonnie, visit our little congregation. We appreciated his

willingness to minister unto us from God's Word. What a blessing to also have Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) minister to us a few weeks later. We are so thankful that God continues to call faithful brethren to preach His Holy Word. May God bless them both for their labors. May we each one heed the teachings of God's Holy Word.

On Tuesday, April 21, we were saddened to hear of the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton. None of our families have any direct connections to Columbine, however, many of us know people we work with who did have children there. What a frightening time it must have been for those parents who sought out their children. There were many tear-filled reunions as parents met with their children. But in the midst of the rejoicing their was sorrow for those who did not survive. From the midst of this tragedy God brought forth His message of hope and salvation as many spoke of their faith and even died for their faith. Throughout the media went the unusual message that there is a God and He did give His Son Jesus Christ for the redemption of mankind. Violence is nothing new to our society nor is it new in the history of mankind. But we need to ask ourselves some searching questions about our role in society. Do we abhor violence in all of its forms or do we participate in some of the violent activities by which the world entertains themselves?

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the reading of the Memorandum. It is a

great privilege to sit in heavenly places and hear instruction on how to conduct our lives to better please our Heavenly Father. May God continue to bless our loving brethren who so willingly are used to carry out His will and impart to us the better way.

Precious Jared Francis was born on March 12 to Jeff and Suzanne Schillinger. Grandparents are Francis and Marilyn Schillinger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Moser.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ann Gerber were also blessed with a baby, Lydia Mae, on April 12. Grandparents are Bro. Everett Gerber and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider. We rejoice with these dear families.

Our prayers are with those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized or ill in past days: Sis. Amber Fehr (Bro. Jay), Sis. Anna Tschudin, Bro. Emanuel Zahner, Ernest Limberger and Sue Balfe (Bro. Bob).

Some of our loved ones have passed away. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Nancy Aeschleman and family (Philadelphia, PA) upon the death of her dear husband, Elder Bro. Ed. Not many miles separate our two congregations and we certainly feel the loss of our dear brother. We also lift our loved ones up in prayer of the family of Bro. Russell Champ, who was the husband of Sis. Elsa. May each family member and friend be comforted at this time.

The month of May is fast approaching with thoughts of Mother's Day. It is a time that we can thank our mothers for their love, faith and patience as they have greatly impacted our lives. "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and

he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:28)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Ye who are weary, come home." (Gospel Hymns #324).

Our beloved retired Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman went Home to his Lord. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Nancy and their children. Bro. Ed was instrumental in establishing our congregation in the Washington, DC area.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Psalm 37:5

As many young people complete their formal education and enter the work place (or for others looking for a change), we urge you to prayerfully consider the Washington DC area. We have very low unemployment and lots of openings in many fields, including computer/technology, medical, construction, education. Contact the brothers below or anyone in the congregation to send you the most recent want ads. It is said many positions are not in the paper, yet it is over 50 pages.

We have been blessed with brothers who come to minister to us. This month our visiting ministers were Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Ben Wiegand and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Elgin, IL; Taylor, MO; Rockville, CT; LaCrosse, IN; Silverton, OR; and Haslett, MI. Thanks for including us in your vacation.

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. In May, we will meet four Sundays (2, 16, 23 and 30). In August we will be meeting the second Sunday (8th) instead of the first Sunday. 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**

As we approach our congregation's Communion service and once again take the opportunity to examine our lives in the light of God's Word, it is so reassuring to know that our God has promised that He is faithful and just to forgive us and give us His peace. What a wonderful time of renewal is ours at this time, as we look forward to sharing in Communion on March 24. We pray that the Lord will watch over His flocks across the United States and grant His guidance and protection.

This is the time of year in our congregation that we once again see the departure of our beloved winter residents. We so appreciate their love for our little church and are so grateful that the Lord saw fit to lend His hand of protection as they each made the journey back.

Our church also enjoyed an Easter picnic. We are always so grate-

ful for the work that goes into these functions and would ask that the Lord bless those who give so selflessly for the cause of fellowship.

As always, we so appreciate the ministers that come and give of themselves to share the Word of God with us. Visiting with us this month were Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH).

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS**

Anjie Baum

Many of our winter residents have returned to their northern homes. We will miss you this summer and always look forward to your return.

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. David Zehr (Gridley, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN). Our dear Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) ministered to us through the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate all our ministers who lovingly serve us.

On May 9, we honor the many women who work so hard in the role of being a mother. None of us know the worry, sacrifice and much time spent in prayer necessary in providing care for children unless and until we become mothers ourselves. As a mother of babies and toddlers, I so admire those mothers who have raised their children into God-fearing adults. All such mothers, often now grandmothers, glow when they talk of caring for their babies, and they remember every detail of every stage. God has assigned mothers with a life-long duty that,

although full of joy and blessings, can at times seem overwhelming. Nevertheless, we progress to the next "season" all too quickly. The love of a mother toward her child is the closest we as humans get to the love of God toward His children.

The words of the following poem came to me during a late night of prayer for wisdom in the nurture and discipline of my own children. For all of you mothers, I pray that our homes will continue to be filled with the Fruit of the Spirit as set out in Galatians 5:22-26.

Seasons of Motherhood
Spring,

She is a blushing bride,
Cleaving to her husband as the
Lord designed.
Her womb soon blossoms with
child,
The beginning of her faith
refined.
Baby arrives, changing her life
forever.
To care for his every need with
love,
Will be her life-long endeavor.
She faithfully seeks wisdom from
above.

Summer,

The brightness in her toddler's
eyes,
Fills her days with gladness and
joy,
To him, everything is a new
surprise,
The least of which, a toy.
As he grows, she trains him to
listen and to obey,
To be loving, to be kind, and to
share.
Her child has already learned to
pray,
But housekeeping is more than
she can bear.

Autumn,

She harvests the fruit of her
labor,
As her teenager gives his life to
the Lord,
Her family looks upon her with
favor,
For her home is a haven of
comfort.
"He is the Lord's and not my
own,"
She admits with hesitance,
"How difficult to loosen my hold!
Must I allow his independence?"

Winter,

Her home is so very quiet now,
Like a gentle falling snow.
The time passed so quickly
somehow,
And her son begins a family of
his own.
Still, her labor continues in
prayer upon her knees,
While her faith, works, and love
of past
Have led her loved ones to Jesus,
Because she forged the path.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo

Once again, Sarasota has been blessed with a precious new baby. On April 17, Benjamin David was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer. He is also welcomed home by Joseph, Mary, and Noah. Grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer (Ft. Scott, KS).

We are also happy to have Bro. Corbin Stoller (Latty, OH) who is here for a four-month internship with his studies in horticulture.

On the other hand, it was sad to say "good-bye" to Bro. Phil, Sis. Judy, Andrew and Simon Schlat-

ter at their farewell potluck in March. However, we have the assurance that the Lord is with them as they relocate in Indianapolis. We also bid farewell this winter to our dear Sis. Helen Laparo, as she moved to Ohio to be closer to her family.

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1:9

Bro. Terry Miller had another short hospital visit this month; let's pray for his continued health. It is such a blessing to have Sis. Marie Reardon back worshipping with us again.

On March 27, we partook of Holy Communion with Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisting Elder Bro. Doug Sabo in this important service.

Easter Sunrise Services were held at Turtle Beach, followed by a continental breakfast. May we never take for granted the great miracle of Easter—the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Thank you so much for your labors of love in the Lord.

Two of our winter residents were called Home this past month. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Betty Beer (Mansfield, OH) in the loss of her helpmate, Bro. Ben; and to Sis. Elsa Champ (Rockville, CT) in the

loss of her husband, Bro. Russell. While we will miss these brothers, we are so thankful they both had their bags packed and were ready to leave this earth.

We also want to offer our sincere sympathy to Ben and Sis. Betty Rassi in the recent passing of Ben's brother, Bro. Chris (Morton, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all of you for your expressions of sympathy, prayers, and gifts in the loss of our dear Bro. Chris Rassi. They are sincerely appreciated.

Ben, Clarence and Al Rassi

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

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

II Timothy 1:5

What a blessed people we are to have faithful mothers and grandmothers who have taught us God's Word and have shown by their examples that true joy comes from obedience to God's Word. May we, as mothers, be that faithful example, that our children and grandchildren can learn of God and His gift of salvation.

On Easter, we witnessed Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Bro. John and our family were the only ones at church. We appreciated Bible Study by Bro. John and fellowship with him. We rejoiced the follow-

ing Sunday when all were safely back home and we could hear the children tell and sing of the death and resurrection of our Lord.

It is truly a privilege to hear God's Word be spoken in truth and purity. We appreciate each ministering brother who has shared God's Word with us. Bros. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Steven Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Art Bauer (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) were with us this past month. We were thankful they could bring their wives with them.

Elder Bro. Wendell and Bro. Steve were here to share Holy Communion with us. We appreciate the time we could spend together remembering what our Lord and Saviour has done for us. May we never betray Him.

We want to thank all who have visited us. We are looking forward to summer when more families travel. If at all possible, please include Atlanta in your travel plans. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. We also meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. Go west four miles. The church will be on your left. Please contact Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 502-8629 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (404) 243-6232 to let us know of your plans.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy

“God could not be everywhere, and so He made mothers.” We know this quote really isn't true, but yet it emphasizes that God has

entrusted mothers with so much responsibility. Let us love and appreciate our dear mothers and be thankful for all they do for us.

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) presented to our congregation the Communion exhortation—a time for examining our own hearts. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was our other visiting minister this month. May God bless these ministers for their services.

When I survey the wondrous
cross
On which the Prince of Glory
died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my
pride.

Gospel Hymns

We appreciated the verses and songs presented by our Sunday School students at our Easter Program in honor of Christ our Saviour.

Retired minister, Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), did a topical Bible study on "Faith, Hope and Charity". We thank you for coming and appreciate your willingness to continue to be a servant of the Lord, Bro. Walt.

We also want to thank our many visitors from Elgin, IL and Oakville, IA for including the attendance of church in Belvidere as part of their plans.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Carol Sauder
Janice Horner**

March 21 was the wedding day of Sis. Sharon Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) and Bro. Shannon Witzig (Gridley, IL). His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine

(Gridley). The event brought many relatives and friends, including four ministers to our congregation: Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). What a joyous occasion to bridge winter, and the start of spring; a new love relationship consecrated by God before so many witnesses.

Anna Katherine Winger was her brother Christian's April 1 present. Anna Katherine's parents are Gil and Anita Winger. Grandparents are Gordon and Aldine Winger and Mike and Fran Loud. May little Anna Katherine grow in strength according to God's will.

Sunrise service on Easter morning, April 4, provided opportunity for our choir, the Bible Class, and a group of college students to sing. Bro. Mark Streitmatter gave the stirring Easter message.

Sis. Millie Vogel had surgery and was in the hospital this month. Sis. Ellen Vogel is recovering from a broken foot, and Sis. Ann Kachelmuss is recovering from surgery. We appeal to our great Physician to keep us in His protective care as we journey in our individual lives.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Brad & Cheryl Kupferschmid**

Springtime is now in full swing and summertime is nearing here in the Midwest. It is time to reflect again on all that our mothers have done for us and all that they mean to us. We are surely thankful for our mothers, but there may be some that cannot thank their mothers on Mother's Day this year. They can only remember them as they have gone on to their

Heavenly Home. Surely their memories are tempered with thankfulness.

On this Memorial Day, may we remember those that have died for our country. Let us also be thankful for those who have died for their faith that Christ's Church might remain strong. Let us also pray that the Lord will be near our brethren in Yugoslavia and keep them and their families safe from the danger that is all around them.

April 7 was a very special night for us who shared the Lord's Supper together. We were all taken back to those last hours of our dear Saviour. How He did love us! May we reflect on this often.

We pray that the Lord would continue to extend His healing hand to Sis. Emma Knobloch (Bro. Clarence) who has had an extended illness, but is now improving. We pray that if it is the Lord's will, we can again see her in church.

We are also thankful that Naulon Simms (Larry and Inga) has fully recovered from his illness for which he had to be hospitalized.

Visiting ministers to Bradford this month were Bros. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). We are especially thankful to Elder Bro. Joe for coming to help out with Bradford's Communion. May God bless each one that did occupy the pulpit in our congregation this past month.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts, and money, and above all, the many prayers that were uttered for me. May God bless each one.

Bro. John Tanner

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

Mother's Day is set aside to recognize and pay tribute to our mothers. In many families, this is done through such actions as the sending of cards and flowers or getting together for a family meal. This works very nicely for those of us who still have our mothers in our lives and for those who are themselves mothers. Occasionally we hear of someone who sees Mother's Day as something less than most of the people around them. We certainly do have many women of all ages whose mothers are no longer alive and those who have never become mothers. For these women, the day can easily take a different meaning and focus. As a child, I recall countless visits to my childless and maiden great-aunts in Fairbury. Those women were very important to the lives of their many nieces and nephews. From those relationships, they became important to the next generation and it is from that connection that I have many fond memories and precious keepsakes. They had no children, yet they often acted as mothers and received the honor and respect accorded a mother.

Today I see a similar thing in our own church. We have women of various ages who have no children of their own, yet they are serving a vital mothering role in the lives of others. Whether they are helping to care for their nieces and nephews, teaching our young children in Sunday School, caring for children of some of the young mothers to give them a bit of a break, or bringing children from

the community to church, they are filling that loving mothering position. We need to look around our churches, communities, and places of work to recognize these women who may not be mothers to children of their own but serve as important mothering figures in the lives of others. Like our mothers, these are important people to us and our lives would have a void without them.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrated the gift of a Saviour as the Sunday School students presented their annual Easter program. As each child said his or her lines and sang the songs, we heard of Christ's final days and His triumph over death which gives us all the hope of salvation. The analogy for this year's program was "The Seed." We were told how the seed must be sown and die before springing forth in new life and bearing fruit. The children and their teachers did a beautiful job in their re-telling of these accounts of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) were our visiting ministers over the past month. Whether visiting on a Sunday or a Wednesday evening, we always appreciate having dedicated brothers who are willing to help our own ministers in bringing us messages from the Word. We pray a blessing to each one who visits us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

The Chicago congregation tries to schedule a bus trip each spring to support a smaller congregation.

April 17-18 we rode to Iowa City, IA and had a very blessed weekend with that little congregation. In addition, it was exciting to hear the engagement of our Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) to Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol) of Iowa City. We wish Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie many congratulations and also a big thank you to the Iowa City church for their warm hospitality.

We also extend a thank you to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) shared a topical Bible study with us about relationships, and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) joined us for Easter Sunday.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank our church family for all the love and support shown to us during the time of Anne's surgery. May God bless you for all that you have done!

Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne Anliker

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann

The Easter season is over. It was a week of mixed emotions with Palm Sunday, our children's Easter program, the Communion service, Good Friday service and then Easter Sunday. Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) were here to serve us Communion.

We learned of the End Times at our Topical Bible presentation. It was given by Bro. Ken Eisenmann. We thank you for sharing the Word with us.

We reach out in sympathy to our Sisters Carol Waldbeser, Marge

Rinkenberger, Dort Walder, Grace Bauer and Pete Bauer over the loss of their brother and brother-in-law, Al Bauer.

We had ministering Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) visiting us this month. The Lord used him to bring forth the message of truth and salvation.

The first weekend in March, our Bible Class teachers and their students traveled to Tremont for the day. It was an enjoyable day for all.

Those from our congregation who were hospitalized this past month include Sis. Margaret Rudin, Sis. Bev Knapp and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger. We are thankful that all have returned home and are on the mend.

We will dearly miss Sis. Anna Marie Reutter as she will be moving to Roanoke.

Now that spring is here, we welcome back all those from our congregation who spent winter in warmer places.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger
Sandy Steiner

As we see farmers preparing the soil and planting the seeds, may we look at our own hearts and be sure we have good soil that will bring forth the fruit which God expects of us.

Haste and seek your soul's
 salvation;
 Heed the Word of God today!
 Haste to flee His condemnation;
 Seek the straight and narrow
 way.
 Evil are the worldly pleasures,
 Leading to eternal fire;
 Seek the everlasting treasure,
 Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

Two more souls have hastened to seek their salvation and that everlasting treasure. They are Rachel Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay) and Julie Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen). May they find grace to come out of the world and walk with the Lord. As the world around us grows darker, we can be thankful that souls are still heeding the call to repentance. Let us continue to pray for those of our families and friends that linger without.

We thank Bros. Gene and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) for ministering unto us in the past month. We who sit and listen often take for granted the efforts of these brothers. May we continue to pray that they can lay aside their own thoughts and allow the Spirit to speak through them.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ralph (Rusty) Zobrist (Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Suzanne Herrer (Bro. Max). May they feel God's nearness as they recover from surgery.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

On the weekend of April 10-11, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Greg Anliker (Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie) and Megan Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne). We welcome them as our brother and sister in the Lord.

We are thankful that Jessica Schifferer (Wayne and Joyce) and Rebekah Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) have answered God's call to repentance in their youth. We recently heard God's call likened to the sound of a train. If we live

close to the tracks, we become so accustomed to the sound of the train, we no longer take notice as it passes by. Are souls today ignoring the call so long that they no longer hear it?

We are happy to announce two engagements this month. Bro. Mel Schrock and Sis. Nola Gramm (Gridley, IL) plan to be married May 5. May God bless them and their families as their lives come together.

Scott Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peggy) and Andrea Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia) have chosen July 31 for their wedding day. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future.

Melissa and Rick Genz welcome their first child, Madelyn Gail, born February 24. Bro. Elvis and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger too are thrilled with another granddaughter.

Bro. Bill (Sis. Cora) Schambach is assembling with us again after a recent hospitalization. We are thankful whenever God shows His healing hand in our congregation.

We have enjoyed the blessings from our many visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL) and Bros. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dean Steffen and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Tammy Bradle were blessed with the birth of their first child, Esther Sue. Esther was born on April 6. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). Also thankful for a new baby girl are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy

Blunier. Angie Renee was born on April 9. Welcoming Angie at home are her two sisters, Amy and Kelly, and two brothers, Andrew and Dana. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz Blunier and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knecht are the thankful grandparents of two new grandchildren. On March 16, Kourtney Ann was born to Jim and Kim Knecht. Maternal grandparents are Richard and Judi James (Winchester, IL). On April 13, Delaney Virginia was welcomed into the home of Tim and Kathy Knecht. Maternal grandparents are Duane and MaryAnne McClure (Bloomington, IL).

We are thankful for Rachel Stoller and Jerome Fehr as they have answered God's call unto repentance. We wish them God's grace to build a solid foundation. Their parents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Shari Stoller and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Fehr.

We are glad and thankful that we could partake of Holy Communion on March 27 and to remember our Saviour's death. We thank Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda (Sardis, OH), for spending the weekend with us. That same weekend we heard of the retirement of our ministering Bro. Marvin Schmidgall. With mixed emotions, we can say we are happy for Bro. Marvin and his wife, Sis. Dorothy. We thank Bro. Marvin for his many years of service to us. May God richly bless them.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

On Wednesday evening, March 31, we assembled together in God's house for our Easter Program. Our hearts were touched as we heard the children sing beautiful hymns and recite scripture verses. We thank the students, teachers and song leaders for their work.

On Monday, April 5, we had our annual church housecleaning. We enjoyed working together making God's house spotless. Afterwards we all enjoyed lunch together.

Julie Wiegand had the misfortune of breaking her leg from an accident at home. We hope she will have a speedy recovery. Julie is the daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki Wiegand.

"He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 113:9

May God's blessings be with each dear mother this Mother's Day.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and food sent at the time of my knee surgeries. May God bless each one.

Sis. Judie Knecht

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr**

"I remember my mother's prayers—and they have always followed me. They have clung to me throughout life."

—*Abraham Lincoln*

Several mothers will be rejoic-

ing this Mother's Day with tiny new babies in their homes. We pray that these little ones too will grow up to remember not only their mother's, but also their father's prayers.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Holly Steidinger and Colton welcomed little Katelyn Jo to their home. Katelyn was born April 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bern, KS) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger.

Mitchell Gregory joined the family of Greg and Julie Bazzell on April 15. He has a sister, Abbie, and grandparents, Charles and Arlene Farley and Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell.

Converts Mark and Tania Bazzell are enjoying their new little daughter, Dakota KayLynn. She was born on April 16. Happy grandparents are "Skip" and Helen Voeste of Forrest and Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell.

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. Grandparents are William and Helen Fehr (Forrest) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL).

Ministering brothers visiting us this month were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). May God bless you for being used in our behalf.

Eternity dawns on my vision
today.

Gather round me my loved ones
to sing and to pray;
The shadows are past, and the

veil is withdrawn,
Brightly now does the morn of
eternity dawn.

Gospel Hymns #158

Sis. Tillie Rinckenberger passed from time to eternity on April 14. She was 97 years old. Surviving her are two daughters, Marcella Rinckenberger of Kankakee and Delores Ninis of Momence; one son, Richard, of Caddo, TX; one sister, Rose Rinckenberger, of Foston, MN; 12 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. In recent months, Sis. Tillie often expressed a longing for the company of her sister who passed on last summer. Shortly before she passed away, she spoke of going to see her sister and called her name. What a comfort and encouragement this can be to those of us who remain on this side of the veil!

May God also comfort Sis. Betty Sohn in the passing of her sister, Anna (Gerber) Bach. She passed away April 11 and was 89 years old.

Those who recently suffered illness or injury are: Sis. Aldine Steffen (Bro. Ezra), Sis. Kristine Steidinger (Bro. Keith), Bro. Kurt Slagel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys), Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) and little Katelyn Steidinger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Holly).

We joyfully welcome Bro. Anthony, Sis. Lila and little Landon Fehr back to our congregation. They had been assembling with the Minneapolis, MN brethren for several years. We are thankful that God has led them back to our area.

Sis. Esther Kiefer moved to Texas recently to stay with family down there for a time. Her address is: Esther Kiefer, c/o Joy Pipken,

Toups Road, Box 29, Refugio, TX 78377 if anyone would wish to drop her a line.

A dear sister-in-faith recently shared some thought-provoking quotes with me, and I would like to pass a few of them along.

"The world at its worst needs the church at its best."

"When we die, we leave behind us all we have, and take with us all we are."

"The less spirituality a church has, the more entertainment it takes to keep it running. Marks of a strong church are wet eyes, bent knees, and broken hearts."

"Samson was asleep when he lost his strength."

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp

Linda Anliker

Having just witnessed the earthly institution of marriage we were reminded of our spiritual wedding with Christ. Ridding ourselves with the complexities of life and the heavy weights that beset us, as the bride, let us adorn ourselves with simplicity of faith and works that we may adhere to Christ.

Exchanging wedding vows were Sis. Rachel Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Grant Rinckenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna, Congerville, IL). Cementing their marriage with the glue of charity, may their lives be enriched as they walk the pathway together as man and wife. We enjoyed the many visitors here for the occasion.

Making plans for an August wedding are Shanna Schaffer and Chris Gerth. Their parents are Tom and Kay Gerth of Chatsworth, IL and Bro. John and Sis. Sally Schaffer.

Two couples welcome new babies in their home. Joining the family of Bro. Troy and Sis. Kathleen Lanz, Ashton, Trevor and Jensen is Mitchell Wayne. His grandparents are Jim and Mary Slagel (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz. Loving their little daughter, Bailee Diane, are Jay and Jolene Mueller. Grandparents are John and Edna Haas (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Though all this world should
pass away

The truthful word of God will
stay

Zion's Harp #3

Bringing to us the Bread of Heaven through the Word were Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Jim Vierling and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Mike Rinckenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). We thank these ministers for their willingness to give on our behalf.

After Good Friday services, our Sunday school children presented to us the Easter story through their program. In their youth, may the seed of salvation be planted in young and tender hearts that it may germinate and grow when they reach the age of accountability.

Several loved ones spent time in the hospital this month. May Sis. Jolene (Bro. Tom) Young, Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss and Wendell (Sis. Kathy) Dotterer, and Trisha Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) feel God's nearness. Our prayers continue to rise in behalf of Bro. Wendell and his family as he con-

tends with a liver disease.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Percida Huber who had been a resident at Skylines Home in Peoria for many years. She is survived by Sis. Martha Huber who also resides at Skylines.

We submit the following poem in observance of Mother's Day.

The Legacy
by Alice Mason

She could not give her children
gold
So she gave them faith to have
and hold.

She could not give them royal
birth...

A name renowned throughout
the earth,

But she gave them seeds and a
garden spot

And shade trees when the sun
was hot.

She could not give a silver spoon
Or servants waiting night and
noon.

She gave them love and a
listening ear

And told them God was always
near.

She could not give them ocean
trips

Aboard majestic sailing ships,
But she gave them books and a
quiet time,

Adventures found in prose and
rhyme.

She could not give them worldly
things

But what she gave was fit for
kings,

For with her faith and books and
sod

She made each child aware of
God.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you to my friends and relatives for remembering me with cards, calls and visits during my recent illness and also for my birthday. It was greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Reuben Metz

A special thank you for all the prayers, cards, gifts and visits I received after my hip surgery and since returning home. May God richly bless each one for your love and kindness.

In His love, Sis. Irene Traub

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Jan Beer

"...Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 1:7

There are 17 books in the New Testament that contain a salutation, 16 of which mention grace and peace. Just as in Biblical times, those two virtues are extremely important to believers today. In our chaotic world, we value the peace that comes from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And how can any of us live without grace (God's Riches At Christ's Expense). Grace delivers us from the law. The law condemns, grace convicts. The law exposes sin and leaves us there, grace encourages us to repent. The law remembers sin again and again, grace forgives and forgets. The law is performance based, grace is relationship based. The law brings bondage, grace brings liberty.

March 28, Palm Sunday, Bro. Brian Huber and his family

(Francesville, IN) were with us. Thank you for your service to us, Bro. Brian. The regular afternoon service was shortened so our Sunday School students could present an Easter song service. The most important holiday of our life was duly celebrated by our youngsters and young adults. Thanks and blessings to each student who participated.

Monday following Palm Sunday was set aside for church cleaning. Gratitude is expressed to all who worked to make our meeting place sparkle. Somehow Spring seems to give us a yearning to freshen our surroundings after the confinement of winter.

Several folks in our fellowship have been ill or received medical attention in the past month. I noticed Sis. Clara Hunziker is wearing a leg cast and Ray Wagner is sporting an eye patch—several other folks are still fighting coughs. Sis. Marcy Schieler expresses her thanks for the prayers, cards and visits when she was sick. My apologies to all who I unintentionally omit from the sick list.

Last month I failed to report the early March birth of Joshua Lynn Wiegand to Bro. Joe and Sis. Myra (Steffen) Wiegand. Joshua is welcomed into the family by little sister, Steffani, and grandparents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand, of our congregation.

Recently, news has been received that Sis. Jan and Mike Ellis are grandparents of a healthy baby boy named Dawson Miller. Dianne and Will and big brother, Evan, welcome him into the Miller family.

A few souls met on Maundy Thursday to remember the events of that night Jesus spent with his disciples. My finite mind profits

from a visual reminder of the Last Supper and the Cross. It helps me when I remember the fear and confusion Jesus' disciples must have felt in those very uncertain days. Satan would like for that fear and confusion to overtake us in these uncertain days. A talented brother fashioned a life-size cross. We wrote our burdens on a card, sealed it in an envelope, then dropped it at the foot of the cross as we sang, "Take your burden to the cross, and leave it there." Another brother used his talent of memorization to recite a song to us about keeping our eyes on the Lamb. My vision was re-directed, my heart was encouraged, and my soul was blest from observing Maundy Thursday.

Friday, April 2, our congregation met for Good Friday services. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp served Communion to the believers after the worship service. Thank you, brothers, for your untiring service to us. Good Friday seems like a most appropriate time to take Communion—it is another visual reminder of His sacrifice for us. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift to us.

Early Easter morning, in spite of the fact we lost an hour's sleep due to the change to Daylight Savings Time, many of us met at the Fellowship Hall for Sunrise Services! Again, we received a visual reminder of the events of that first Easter morning so many years ago. We are grateful for the participation of each person who contributed to that remembrance, and for the message we received to "Come and see, then go and tell".

It was a joy to have Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee, Breanna and Noah

Bauman "home" for Easter. Thanks for your visit. A recent prayer from the pulpit mentioned Bro. Matt and Sis. Laurie Hohulin and family, Bro. Stan and Sis. Jean Hohulin and the Bauman family. All of you remain in our prayers and our heart thoughts. No matter how far you move away from Goodfield, you will always be "home-folks" to us!

April 11 was the final ACYF of the season. Parents of the high school seniors rode the bus to Bradford with the rest of the students and teachers. It sounds like the trip was very memorable as students and parents joined in singing together on the bus. "Precious memories..."

Gina and Warren Kloter (children of Bro. Kent and Sis. Janell), Chad Hillman (son of Richard and Linda, grandson of Bro. Carl and Sis. Mabel Wittmer) and Gary Musselman (son of Bro. Norm and Sis. Eileen) shared their testimony of faith with us on Saturday, April 17. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wes Knapp. The gift of salvation through Jesus' blood was accepted by each of these souls. Although God may not choose to change the circumstances of their lives, each of them testified of His grace and peace, and their desire to serve Him to the end. As we welcomed them into the family of God after their baptism, we pledged our prayerful support and love to them.

Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) ministered to us from the pulpit on Sunday, April 18, as well as Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL). Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) filled the pulpit on April 26. Thank you, brothers, for

your service.

Newlyweds, Matt and Tiffany Wiegand, were recently honored at an all-church shower. Matt is the son of Ed and Joanne Wiegand and Tiffany is the daughter of Steve and Beth (Hohulin) Mallory. We wish you God's blessings, dear Tiffany and Matt.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

A vivid Scripture comes to mind in preparing this month's report: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10)

Surely all of us must strive, with God's help, to be faithful in both realms (large and small). May God's Spirit be plentiful so we can find the ultimate in faithfulness and obedience, to the glory of God.

On March 30, Jesse Stephen Schlipf was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Schlipf. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Baurer (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Marge and the late Bro. Elmer Schlipf. Jesse has a sister, Bethany, age 20 months. May God grant much grace to Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee in training up their children. This is a high stewardship.

On Wednesday evening, March 24, our congregation took Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was here for this beloved occasion. It was an inspiring evening.

On Sunday, April 18, we had visitors from a host of churches here for "Invite-a-couple" potluck for "over 50" brethren. Our ties of brotherhood and Christian acquaintance became greater, and we thank God for this!

We should consider it a blessing

to greet each child of God who visits because he/she is very special in God's eyes; and we share a special faith.

Sis. Ada Christensen and Willis Aupperle were in the hospital. Both had surgery, and are recovering, thanks be to God.

Our farmer brethren (as of this writing) are poised to begin planting corn and soybeans. Rainy weather during the week of April 12, however, delayed this process—but sufficient time remains for planting. It's all in God's hands.

The Sunday School children put on a choral Easter program on March 28. Their singing was beautiful.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Charlotte McIver died March 21 in Morton. May the Lord comfort and bless her son, Kenneth Wormington; her four daughters, Sandy Von Lienen, Debbie Kuhel, Patty Meiner, and Linda Williams; her three brothers, Ken Hamilton, Cliff Hamilton, and Don Hamilton; her two sisters, Pat Hackward and Sharon Morrow; and her 13 grandchildren.

The Easter season was once again a time of remembering our Saviour's love for us. The Easter Program was held on Palm Sunday. It was a blessing to hear from the Sunday School students as well as from the adult choirs. It was wonderful to hear the Home for the Handicapped Sunday School choir praise the Lord. Easter Sunday began in a special way with our sunrise service and breakfast at the Fellowship Hall. On April 17, Holy Communion was

served and was indeed a time of remembering the Lord's suffering and triumph. How thankful we are for the gift of salvation.

The Lord has drawn two hearts together. Bro. Brett Grimm (Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky) was announced to Sis. Lena Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rita) from Peoria. We wish them God's continued blessing and guidance as they prepare for their life together.

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi welcome Timothy Andrew into their lives. He was born on April 8. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). His great-grandparents are Sis. Rose Vierling, Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Pearl Rassi, all from Morton.

April 10 was a day of great rejoicing as we welcomed three new sisters into the fold. They were Sis. Staci Getz (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Gabrielle Roeschley and Sis. Summer Roeschley (daughters of Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynn). May they ever be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

On April 14 we were privileged to hear the Memorandum from the Elder Conference. May we each strive to have a closer walk with our Lord and Saviour.

On April 15, we rejoiced to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Carolyn Grimm. She is the mother of Sis. Jody Baum (Bro. Ken) and Elli Kuykendall (Gary). She is a resident of Restmor nursing home where the ceremony took place. We welcome her into the fold.

May the Lord richly bless the ministers and their families as they visited our congregation this

month. They are Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) and ministering Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who was so good to Leo in Florida and all who helped with his care at home and at Restmor nursing home. We are also grateful for the flowers and other deeds of love in his memory. May God bless you all.

Sis. Beulah Funk and Family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

The Passion Week reminded us that Jesus physically left this earth. Do we allow Him to extend His life and teachings through us? Nicodemus had questions and did what we must do: go to Jesus, when we are old enough to understand, and inquire of Him what He has to say to us. Nicodemus came, asked, believed and performed...taking care of His body with Joseph of Arimathea. John 3:16 is the most important verse in the Bible. Our high priority should be to ask Him for His help. Bro. Mike Rieker was alone on March 21 and we appreciated that Bro. Jim Hoerr shared the pulpit with him. The Sunday School portrayed the Easter story in word and song in the afternoon and we thank the students and their parents and teachers for their efforts.

Bros. Dave Oberghel and Rick Plattner conducted the Palm Sunday services. From the pinnacle of power to the greatest defeat, orchestrated by two different audiences! The colt was tied up. What do we have tied up that Jesus

needs? A donkey represents a mission of peace. He will ride again, but on a white horse, in a mission of war! But now is the day of peace. His vesture was dipped in His own blood, washing our feet, and today we have the opportunity to come to His table. Simon warmed himself outside with the world, a dangerous place to be. Are we one of them? Jesus wants us on the inside. At times, "Simon" comes over us. Peter went out and wept. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Ken Hoerr served Communion, a connection between the death and return of Jesus. In the silent moments of Communion we remember what Jesus has done for us, sparing us Satan's slavery, destruction and death in hell, and looking forward to the marriage supper.

We thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for his visit and Good Friday sermon. "Who hath believed our report? God shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." (Isaiah 53:1,11). If we follow Jesus, we can dwell with Him forever and rise like He did.

An early breakfast at the Fellowship Hall was enjoyed by 130 before the Easter Sunrise service on April 4, followed by song worship and an inspirational message by Bro. Jim Hoerr on Matthew 28.

We thank Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) for his visit and Easter sermon. Our doctrine stands sure and fast on His teachings and we need to look back at the empty tomb, from where came victory over death and grave by His shed blood. Bro. Rick Plattner added: What does the empty tomb mean? Jesus opened the understanding of those women (Matthew 28:17). Some doubted. Do we believe it is empty? Jesus brought division be-

tween those who believed and those who did not. We have the opportunity to know, without a doubt, that He finished His work and now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for us 24 hours a day.

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) assisted on March 24 with sharing the conclusions of the Elder mid-winter and General Brotherhood Conferences of 1998. The Word of God is our direction to achieve the overall purpose of saving our souls and preserving the Church to remain good enough to live by and die by.

A group of young people and their chaperons volunteered at CCCD in Jamaica from April 3-10. We are thankful for their spiritual experiences, work and traveling safety and, foremost, that four participants turned to the Lord in repentance.

On March 20, the choir hosted a dessert and musical program at the Fellowship Hall, which was attended and enjoyed by 350. The proceeds were distributed to Faith, Hope and Love, a Jamaica trip fund, Christmas food basket program and the flower fund for hospital patients.

Clayton Matthew, born February 25, made Bro. Jim and Sis. Nanette Fehr our latest grandparents; and Bro. Dave and Sis. Steph Wieland welcomed Conner (#2) on March 25. May the Lord's blessings follow.

Sis. Clara Steiner (85) passed away on March 16 at Sabetha, KS; Sis. Lydia Laidig (92) on March 26, and Sis. Emma Schneider (96), both of the Skylines, on April 11. May the Lord comfort the bereft families, knowing they have gone to that better Home.

Hospital patients were Sis.

Stella Bessler, Emma Knobloch and Lillian Stahl, who have returned to the Skylines, and Sis. Persida Eberhardt, who is being cared for at her home by Sis. Karen Dunbar. Sis. Tilly Nussbaum is convalescing for a short time at the Skylines from a foot operation. We wish all a full recovery. Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Hunziker left for Chicago on April 17 and we pray the series of treatments scheduled over the next several weeks will be successful.

On March 28, the marriage engagement of Sis. Lena Sauder to Bro. Brett Grimm (Morton, IL) was announced and we wish them the blessings of God for their future life together.

For our family night service on April 7, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) challenged us with a number of spiritual questions and answered them with scriptural references: Do we believe in the Word of God? the Holy Spirit? God's sufficiency (the ability to accomplish a purpose, supply a need)? Save, sanctify (set apart), teach, reprove, correct, instruct? Is God's Word sufficient to make us perfect (Be ye holy, for I am holy)? Purge us, give us wisdom? Able to multiply grace and peace and give us everything pertaining to life and godliness? Make us like Christ? — "Without faith it is impossible to please him" (Hebrews 11:6), "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17), "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:14-16), "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God" (II

Peter 1:2), "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, the statutes of the Lord are right" (Psalm 19:7-8) and Psalm 119, which contains the complete commentary of what God has to say about His Word. Do we believe God has the ability to accomplish His purpose? God has the sufficiency to change the way we serve Him. Thanks, Bro. Jeff, for your inspiring presentation of our duties and how to accomplish them.

Our brothers of old stood for the cause of Jesus because they knew we were coming. We have the same opportunity today. Are our brethren in war-torn countries just a nameless group of people to us, being at the wrong place at the wrong time? The devil says: Christian, where is God now? But God is faithful and His solutions and provisions are the right ones. He has ordered the bounds of our habitation and planted us where we are. He has done the same with those Albanians and Kosovars. God loves them and we need to pray for them. What would it be like if the bombs began to drop here? Are we ready for Jesus' return? Have we had time to think about it? We are not going to win the war against death and cheat the grave as God has appointed unto man to die and after that the judgment. Can we thank God for our tribulations and commit ourselves to Him for patience and hope through them? (4/11/99, Bro. Rick Plattner, Eccles. 8, II Peter 3).

Note of Thanks:

Words fail me to tell you how much we have appreciated the love shown me while in the hospital and convalescing at home after my

surgery. The food, flowers, plants, lovely cards, money and well wishes. Everyone was so kind it humbles me. May each one feel God's blessing. We love each one of you very much.

Sis. Persida Eberhardt and children

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Sheryl Martin

"When I called to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given me the spirit of fear; but of power and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:5-7

As Timothy remembered the faith of his grandmother and mother, let us also remember ours this Mother's Day.

A June 26 wedding is planned for our friends, Chris Knobloch and Kelly Witheff. Chris is the son of Bro. Al and Sis. Vicky Hartzler and Kelly is the daughter of Merle and Judy Witheff (Herscher, IL). May this couple look to God for His guidance and direction as they begin their future together.

On March 24, JoceLyn Deanne was born to Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne Knobloch. Her sisters, JaLynn and JaNae, welcome her home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Francis Knobloch and Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham. May God bless this family as they put their trust in Him while raising their children.

Furthermore the Holy Spirit as a Comforter is sent,
Plucking out the roots of evil,
sowing seeds of good intent.
All our motives and desires
are renewed; and He requires
that our conduct shall be right.
Serving God with all our might.
Zion's Harp #187

On March 21, our friends, Bill Stahl (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty), Stephanie Reiger (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay) and Byron Joos (Bro. Roland and Sis. Linda), gave their testimony and were baptized into the fold. May they be a light and example to those that they come in contact with.

It is our prayer that Sis. Lillian Stahl, Sis. Kathy Streitmatter, and Sis. Martha Jane Siebenthal may feel the healing hand of God.

Pure love leads to perfection,
Joy of our soul and guide,
Gives us true satisfaction,
and leads to Heaven's light.

Zion's Harp #137

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Linda Hodel
Boni Stoller

How precious is the time of the Easter season when we ponder and remember the death and shed blood and resurrection of our Lord. His life and death were brought to us in song by our Sunday School children Wednesday evening, March 21. We pray that as our children grow older that they will not only sing the words, but believe them and take them to heart and give their lives to God. Early Easter morning brought a very special service as our Prairie Choristers celebrated in song,

quiet meditation and scripture readings, the Easter story. What a wonderful way to begin our Easter morning.

March 21 was a special day for Bro. Calvin Moser and Sis. Jan Stoecker as their engagement was announced. We certainly wish them God's blessings and that He would guide them as they make the adjustment to married life.

A blessed day was had by all March 28 when Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Earl Ringger shared Holy Communion with us. We thank Bro. Wendell for being with us the entire day and sharing the Word also.

We also thank Bro. Ed Fritz for being with us April 9 for our monthly topical Bible study. Bro. Ed gave us much food for thought and we appreciate his efforts.

Saturday, April 10, saw many brothers from Eureka and Roanoke gathered together to clean up the cemetery grounds. How quickly and easily the work gets done when so many willingly work together.

We bid a fond farewell to our dear Bro. Rudie Hoffman. His funeral was Saturday, April 3. We especially remember his wife, Sis. Mary, and children, Elder Bro. Tom (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Dick (Sis. Ann), Bro. Mike (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Annie Leman (Bro. Jim), Sis. Linda Harris, Julie Tibbs (Jim) and daughter-in-law, Sis. Jeannie Hoffman (late Bro. Tim), in prayer and also the many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Another soldier of the cross marched Home to Heaven when Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman passed away. His funeral was Saturday, April 17. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his family, especially his sister, Sis. Mary Lou

Martin (Bro. Lyle), and brother, Bro. Joe Aeschleman, from our congregation.

We are so very happy for Jeff and Jodi Sauder, Leigh Getz and Loren Mogler as they have found the grace to begin their repentance. May God grant them further grace to continue and finish this work.

This reporter apologizes for inadvertently omitting the wedding announcement of Jason Knepp and Ali Gerber. They were united in marriage January 30 and are the children of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp of Roanoke and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber of Goodfield. Jason and Ali, we wish you God's blessings and many wonderful years together.

We are happy for Linda Fehr and Mike Dwyer as they have announced their engagement. They are planning a June 12 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Arlette Fehr and Edward and Ann Dwyer of Xuchou, China.

Our prayers for God's healing are extended to James Byrd Sr. (Bro. Jim's father), little Noah Eckman (Troy and Jennifer), Sis. Thelma Hodel, Bro. Wayne Steffen (Sis. Linda), Sis. Arlette Fehr (Bro. Walt) and one of our Haitian children, Jenny Guillaumi.

In spring time it is always so exciting to see new life budding all around us and even more exciting is the birth of a precious new little baby. Elizabeth Ann came into the hearts and lives of Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy Moser April 3. Bradley and Curtis are her happy big brothers.

Note of Thanks:

Our sincere thanks for all the love and concern shown to us in so many ways during Rudie's illness

and at the time of his death. We especially appreciate the prayers offered for us. May God bless each one who shared with us in any way. We have felt so blessed.

The Rudie Hoffman family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

It was a solemn hour Saturday evening, March 27, when our hearts and minds were led out to Calvary in remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death. We truly appreciate Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for his willingness to assist our Elder Bro. Charles in serving us of the emblems of our dear Saviour's death, as well as that manna from the inspired Word. May God reward our brothers as well as the other visitors this month: Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) for a topical lesson on envy; and Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi in the loss of Bro. Arnold's sister, Naoma Kaufman (Morton, IL). May God grant them His loving comfort at this time.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

If we are really honest with ourselves, none of us can say that we live up to this directive given to us by our God and Father. Most of us have fears and anxieties in our every day lives. Most of us have times when we worry about this or that. It is one thing to say that we trust in God, and quite another to actually "cast all our care on Him" every day, in every situation. The fear of failure is an issue with most of us, in one form or another. How do we actually deal with the fear in our lives?

First of all, we have to study God's Word so that we understand the nature of God and His love for us. We need to take note of His promises to us, and know that because of who He is, He can not do anything but keep His promises. We have to be aware of His great love for us, in all situations, despite our failings. The more we know what God says to us in the scriptures, the more confidence we will have in His care for us.

Secondly, we need to recognize fear in our lives and take steps to deal with the fear directly. Fear can immobilize us, and make us respond in ways that lessens our effectiveness. Fear can keep us from being all that God wants us to be. If we can, through God's grace, look at our lives and figure out exactly what we fear, we can make a conscious decision to address those fears and take positive action. We can become brave by doing brave things. If we seek for ways to control the fear in our lives, the fear in our lives will not control us. We know God has promised to be with us, and to guide us, and keep us. We need to do what we can, and trust that God is big enough to handle the rest.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger came to assist Elder Bro. Ron with Communion services. Once again, we were reminded of Christ's love for us, the sacrifice He made, and the miracle of the Easter story of resurrection. Thank you, Bro. Earl, for sharing with us in this special evening.

Hospitalized this month is Bro. Bill Wiegand. We pray for God's hand to be with Bro. Bill, Sis. Lorene, and their family throughout this time.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Beth Aschliman
Catrina Rinkenberger

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth: and with my song will I praise him."

Psalms 28:7

We were richly blessed as we watched our youth praise the Lord with singing at the Easter program. They did a wonderful job.

We rejoice when we think of our Lord and Saviour's death and resurrection. We shared Holy Communion, such a vital part of our worship. Here to share with us and help Elder Bro. Ed was Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Chuck Hemmer (Sis. Marian, Peoria, IL) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North). Also visiting us was Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH). We're thankful for their will-

ingness to serve us.

We celebrate with Bro. Henry and Sis. Ada Gerber as they celebrate 65 years of marriage together. What a blessing.

Just starting out on their marriage journey is Bro. Eric Craighead (Bro. Mike and Kay Craighead) and Sis. Annie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee). We wish them God's rich blessings as they were joined hand and heart on April 11.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee - we're very thankful the Lord gave him strength to be at Sis. Annie's wedding), Sis. Pat Bloomfield (Bro. Jim), Sis. Brenda Kipfer (Troy), Bro. Gerald (Shorty) Fiechter (Sis. Eunice), Cody Frauhiger (Bro. BJ and Sis. Lana), Kylie Baller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly), and Bro. Leon Gerber (Sis. Mary K). We pray God's grace and strength as they recuperate at home.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Waltar Baumgartner. We extend our sympathy to Waltar's brothers, Herman and Wayne. Also six sisters, Sis. Alice Geisel, Sis. Nova Steffen, Sis. Violet Meyer, Rosina Baumgartner, Sis. June Lehman and Sis. Eileen Furrer. Also passing from this life was our dear Bro. Charles Meyer. Our prayers and sympathy are with his son, Bro. Les Meyer (Sis. Carolyn), and daughter, Sis. Dorothy Fiechter (Bro. Wayne). I'm sure they'll look forward to seeing him again in his new Heavenly Home.

As we look back over the past month, our thoughts continuously are with our brethren in Yugoslavia. We must be prayerful for these brethren and at the same time thankful for the freedom we enjoy.

Let us not ever take it for granted.

Returning home to Bluffton from Haiti is Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda Tonner. We're so thankful for their willingness to serve and safe journey home.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH**

**Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller**

How nice it was for our church to have two visiting ministers this month. Sharing God's truth on a Wednesday evening service was Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) and on a Sunday was Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH). We learned that we are all "prodigal sons" before we come to the Lord. We do appreciate the encouragement they brought to us.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Jaime Maller have been blessed with another precious son, Brant Nicholas, born March 15. Welcoming the new baby is his brother, Taylor, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller and Bro. Jack and Sis. Diane Schwartz (Bluffton, IN). May the Lord bless this family as they raise these two little ones to honor Him.

We extend our sympathy to Irene Kaehr over the loss of her husband, Bro. Ervin (Kelly) Kaehr, who passed away March 22. Our thoughts are with their children, Bob, Dick and Patty Kaehr.

May our dear Bro. Lennie Gerber (Sis. Nancy) feel the continued love and prayers of our church family as he battles his serious illness. What a comfort to know that God is by our side, especially in our time of need.

He Giveth More Grace

He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater;
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

—Annie Johnson Flint

Our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner shared the Conference report with our congregation on March 21. May we hold to the warnings to stay true and fervent in our faith.

Easter is always a highlight to a Christian's year, a time to once again remember the sacrifice on Calvary. Our Sunday School students blessed us all with their songs of praise during the Easter program.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks to all who remembered me in any way during my recent illness. Your prayers and concern are very much appreciated and may God bless you.

Bro. Obed Gerber

A hearty thank you to my many dear friends and brothers and sisters in faith, to remember me so kindly on my 90th birthday. God bless you.

Sis. Verna Roth

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy**

On Good Friday, Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) brought forth the Word of Life. We thank him and Sis. Sue, along with their three children, for that blessing and ministry.

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

Psalms 118:23

Praising God for His goodness, Bro. Earl and Sis. Stephanie Johns welcomed their baby daughter, Andria Grace, on April 10. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rodney and Sis. Donna Gutwein and Donald and Roberta Johns.

We are all thankful to worship God at church again. We had assembled three months at the fellowship center during the renovation process.

Closing thought: Keep a song in your heart and praise on your lips.

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Lauretta Schafer**

On March 17, we had the precious privilege of partaking of Holy Communion served to us by our Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). It was a time of extreme gratefulness to our Lord and Saviour for His sacrifice for us.

Saturday, March 20, was the wedding date for Heather Chichester (Geoff and Sharon) and Ryan Bucher (Bro. Ardie and Sis. LeAnn). We wish them God's guidance as they establish their new home.

Visiting minister, Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), shared God's Word with us March 28. For Easter services, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL) were with us. On a Wednesday evening, we enjoyed having Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend, IN) and their family. We appreciate all our visitors, especially those who share God's Word with us.

Two more families had the opportunity to spend some time in

Mexico. They were Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier and their families, and Bro. Sean Wuethrich.

On March 22, Madelaine Noel was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel. They have two other children, Shelby and Billy. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock and Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel (all of Peoria, IL). April 11 was the last Sunday Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa spent with the Indianapolis congregation before moving to Leo to become houseparents at Gateway Woods. We will miss them and wish them God's blessings.

Mercedes, the daughter of Carrie Guilford, had hip surgery on March 30. We wish her God's healing mercies.

It is with joy that we welcome Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter and their sons, Andrew and Simon, from Sarasota, FL. We hope they will soon feel at home in our congregation.

It was a special weekend April 10-11 for two new lambs in God's fold. They are Sis. Emily Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) and Sis. Heather Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn). Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler with the testimonies and baptisms. Other visiting ministers and their wives were Bros. Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), and retired ministers, Bros. Jack Bollier (Leo, IN) and Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL). It was a weekend of rejoicing.

As graduation time and school vacation time approach, let us

commit our future into God's hands. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Anna Marie Stoller

"When we adorn the path of Jesus with our everyday life it is like spreading olive tree branches before Him." This is a thought expressed from a sermon during the Palm Sunday service. The Sunday School children presented a meaningful program on Palm Sunday.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) preached the Word of Truth on Good Friday. We were taught that "a grudge brings bitterness. If Jesus had become bitter, His mission would have failed, and so will we when we are bitter."

Communion services were served, and we appreciate that Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) helped serve the bread and wine. "It doesn't matter where we're at, whether behind closed doors or prison walls, Jesus can be there," were words of encouragement spoken to us.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

We were privileged to have many guests on March 20, who stayed over from Gateway Woods' representative meeting. The meeting was very interesting and informative.

Easter sunrise service included the Easter program by the Sunday School children and was followed by a breakfast at the Fellowship Center. It was a blessing to be together and remember our risen

Lord.

Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) supported Bro. John Stoller as they shared the Conference report with us. It is a blessing to be renewed and reminded of our responsibilities. "...rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe" (Phil. 3:1)

On April 17, we gathered together to partake of the bread and wine commemorating Jesus broken Body and shed blood, that purchased our redemption. How we praise God and His Son for so great a salvation. We appreciated Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) who gave of himself to help Bro. John Stoller serve Holy Communion. May the Lord bless him and his wife, Sis. Roberta.

We ask the Lord's blessing on our other visiting ministers, Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI), and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) as they served us from the Word this month.

Sis. Pat Fischer has been attending church services again, after recovering from knee surgery and bronchial pneumonia.

Bro. Bill Klopfenstein completed his treatments and moved from the hospital to The Cedars nursing home. May our Heavenly Father grant healing and restored strength.

A group of sisters went to sing for Sis. Maudie Grueter who is confined to her bed. May she and her family feel the Lord's grace and comfort as Sis. Maudie treads the shore of Jordan. She has lived four score and ten plus years and did what she could while she was able. She and her daughter mended and prepared much used

clothing for World Relief.

We welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel, who have come from Indianapolis, IN to serve as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. We pray for the Lord's blessings on their family.

Sis. Sylvia Steiner, 94, passed from this life to be with her Maker. She was living at The Cedars and longed to go Home to the Lord. She rejoiced to be able to partake of the Lord's Supper on Sunday afternoon with others at the nursing home. She was in failing health but was able to be up each day, until the day of her death, April 19. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Rhoda Schlatter, and many nieces and nephews.

"The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother's presence should be the greatest attraction."

—*Ellen G. White*

BUT ONLY ONE MOTHER — Most of all the beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.

—*Kate Douglas Wiggin*

May God guide and bless all mothers.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer

Marguerite Hoerr

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Jesse with serving Communion to our Milford congregation. Having him and his wife, Sis. Miriam, with us

the entire weekend was a true blessing.

Our church home has been spotlessly spring cleaned. Many families gathered together to accomplish this annual event. It seems to be enjoyed by everyone who takes part, even if it is a big job.

Bro. Michael Baumann conducted an interesting and inspiring Topical Bible Study for us. We are grateful that he and his wife, Florina, visited us. He again shared his talents with us on the next day, Sunday. We ask God to richly bless them for visiting us.

One of our dear sisters, Marie Reuter, is observing her 102nd birthday this month. For years, Marie unselfishly set the dining room tables for whomever was serving lunch. She is now living at nearby Lakeland Center. Her address is: Lakeland Health Care Center, 595 W. 4th St., Milford, IN 46542. We know she would appreciate cards so much. A belated card is always better than no card at all.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Eleanor Beer wishes to thank everyone who sent her cards, flowers, meals or remembered her in prayer, following her knee surgery. She is so grateful.

Bob and I join her in thanks. Being shut in for six weeks, we never felt alone. So many loved ones remembered us in so many loving ways.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Rochelle Ward

He bows His head and cries,
"Tis finished, all is done,
O God receive my soul."

Life's victory is won.

Hymns of Zion #89

As we can see new life coming forth on the earth, we are so greatly reminded of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What a time of renewal! Our children took us back to that wonderful day through song and verses at our Easter Program. To see their faces beam as they told the old, old story!

It was also such a blessing to unite in Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for their service in love.

We also thank visiting ministers, Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL); and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) who held our annual Bible Study. It is a joy to know that we can travel throughout the land and come together as one. May these brothers be blessed for their efforts in bringing forth the message of the truth.

Love is the greatest gift of all! Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 17. In this day and age, it is such an inspiration to see the work of the Lord in a marriage that has been blessed by Him.

We rejoice as another young person has come to the foot of the cross. Abby Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy) has surrendered her life to the Lord. We give her our prayerful support and love as she seeks His will.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old

things are passed away, behold all things are become new.”

II Cor. 5:17

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for all the cards, flowers, telephone calls, hospital visits, prayers and other acts of kindness for our mom and grandma during her illness and at the time of her death. Thank you for your support and prayers during these difficult times.

The family of Lorraine Clark

Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clark

Bro. Justin and Braden Clark

*Bro. John and Sis. Rochelle and
Madison Ward*

A special thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers and gifts to make our 50th anniversary one to remember. May God bless all of you, including our family for the special memory.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Jennifer Mangold

Sue Beebe

As we contemplated and celebrated the Easter season, our Sunday School children presented to us the stirring message of our Lord's death and resurrection. Some prophecies from the Old Testament, of His crucifixion, were read and then the fulfillment of those prophecies were read from the New Testament.

Our hearts were further stirred as we twice had the opportunity recently to hear of brethren who live in countries where the enemy desires to extinguish the light of faith.

On March 28, Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer opened

their home to two representatives of Bible Mission International, an organization providing Bibles to Russia and Eastern Europe—a new opportunity our World Relief supports.

On April 17 we were invited to assemble with the Milford brethren to hear of the experiences of Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) as a youth in Yugoslavia.

When we learn of the suffering and persecution many have endured and continue to endure to this day, it should humble our hearts as we consider our own lives. Am I walking "...in wisdom toward them that are without, and redeeming the time"? (see Colossians 4:5).

A precious little girl, Lauren Ann, was born to Matthew and Anna Beebe on April 9. Rejoicing with them are Lauren's grandparents, Ciro and Karon Haraguchi and Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe.

May each of us as parents look to the Lord for guidance as we seek to train our children in the way that they should go. "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation..." (Psalm 25:4-5)

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Hope Bucher

Cheryl Bucher

What a blessing it is to reflect on the suffering and then the glorious resurrection of our precious Saviour during this Easter time. We were thankful for our Spring Program which reminded us of the Easter message in many wonderful ways. Several from the Valpo congregation shared poems and short readings from the Bible. We

also enjoyed a few songs from our Valpo children's choir. It is such a blessing to listen to the children raising their voices to sing about what Jesus did for us on the Cross. We were also uplifted through songs from a group of our Valpo sisters as well as from the visiting Steiner family. We are thankful for the time and effort everyone went to in preparing for the Program. We trust that the Lord was glorified and those that were present were encouraged. We were thankful to have Bro. Todd Feller (La-Crosse, IN) with us for the day and pray he will be blessed for his ministry to us.

We are continuing to enjoy our opportunities to share about the Lord with our children through Kid's Church on the selected Wednesday nights. Our most recent meeting was about the power of "effectual fervent prayers of righteous men" (from James 5:16). Several of our church members offered to share short testimonies with the children about how the Lord had answered a specific prayer. The children appeared to be quite inspired through listening to the stories. We are thankful for all that were willing to share about an answered prayer.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman

Mary Beth Lehman

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

We were thankful to have Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) share with us at our Topical Bible Study about applying "God's Word in

Our Life". Those of us who have always had access to God's Word can take it so for granted. What a gift! Are we reading and applying God's Word to our life every day?

The beautiful message of the victory Christ had over the grave was shared on Good Friday by our Sunday School students. From the simple rhymes of the little ones to the thought-provoking stories of the older students, we felt encouraged, joyful and thankful that Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Lord!

On April 18 we were again reminded of the death and total sacrifice of Jesus as we shared Communion. His love is so complete and overwhelming. Our thanks to Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and their wives for their willingness to come and help our Bro. Alfred Bahler serve us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Judy Gehring**

On a quiet Sunday evening on April 11, we partook of the Lord's supper. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) served us. They were such willing servants.

We were also very happy to have Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) spend the afternoon of March 21 with us.

By the next Silver Lining issue, Mother's Day will be past. Here is such a fitting poem by Helen Steiner Rice:

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,

It is endless and unselfish
and enduring comes what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is
breaking...
It believes beyond believing
when the world around
condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is
breaking...
It believes beyond believing
when the world around
condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret

like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

May is a month we often set aside to honor our Mothers. May we thank them for loving us unconditionally and supporting us.

Hans Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful he has recovered and is able to be back home.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

In our midst recently to minister to our spiritual needs were Bros. Don Miller (Minneapolis, MN), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Dave Marquette (Taylor, MO), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS). We want to thank these brothers for their spiritual teachings and challenges. We thank the Lord most of all for His guidance.

We are watching the beginning of new life all around us—baby lambs and calves, flowers blooming, garden plants emerging from the soil and the grass turning green. These are all miracles from the Lord. Let's not be too busy in our daily walk of life to miss these special gifts from God.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharon Gerst

The Lord gave us many blessings this month. We were grateful for our ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) who shared the Word of Life with us.

We were encouraged to hear

that our friend, Man Huynh, desires to become a brother in our church. It reminds us of the hand of God as we heard how Man escaped from Vietnam, came to Iowa, met several members from our church, and came to our little congregation in Iowa City. Those who truly seek the sincere Word of God will find it. May God always be with Man as he seeks His perfect will for his life.

IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold

On the weekend of March 20, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls. We welcome Bro. Dana Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jolene), Bro. Mychal Van Wyhe (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan), Bro. Steve Warner (Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther), and Sis. Katie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) into the fold of Jesus Christ. Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Dennis on this special weekend and we thank him for being with us.

We also extend a warm thanks to Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) who served Holy Communion with Elder Bro. Dennis to our congregation on Palm Sunday weekend. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We appreciate these faithful brothers who are willing to preach God's Word and may they be blessed for their efforts.

We rejoice with Erin Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) as she has begun a new walk of life in Jesus Christ. We trust the Lord will bless

and guide her along the pathway of life.

Believing the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. Joel Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) of Silverton, OR and Sis. Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth) was announced to the congregation. We pray they will look to God for guidance as they plan their life together. Their wedding day is set for June 27.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Donna (Bro. Dwight) Mogler and Bro. Ed Roeman (Sis. Amelia). Those who experienced the discomforts of surgery are Bro. Fred (Sis. Esty) Metzger, Sis. Betty (Bro. Jim) Leuthold, and Bro. Andy (Sis. Freida) Mogler. We pray for God's healing hand for these dear ones as they recuperate at home.

May Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer feel the sympathy and support of the congregation with the death of Sis. Jill's father, Charles "Duke" Nietert, recently.

Likewise, we extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Jill Aeschleman with the passing of her father-in-law, Elder Bro. Ed Aeschleman. May God be their comfort in this time of loss.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

We have had several visitors to our congregation this past month. Bro. Tim Martin (Gridley, IL) spent a Saturday evening at the fellowship center to show his slides of Mexico. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz with reading the Memorandum and Conference report on March 27. Then on Satur-

day, April 10, Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) lent himself in the Lord's service to assist Bro. Ed with our Holy Communion service. We were also thankful to have Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and his family worship with us recently. May God's rich blessings abide in the lives of these brothers and their families.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

And ye, the Church's member,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren
duly;
We share salvation through His
grace.
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
One Saviour suffered in our
stead.
Zion's Harp #25

On Saturday evening, April 10, we were given the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion. It surely makes us feel unworthy when we consider the sacredness of this occasion. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, and family, Lamont-Gridley, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in breaking this Bread of Life. Our congregation is thankful for the untiring labors of our Elder brothers. We were reminded of how the identity of each kernel of grain is lost in the formation of bread and were encouraged to do our part as believers in the Body of Christ.

As Mother's Day approaches, we think of all the mothers who are striving to bring up their children in the ways of the Lord. May God grant every mother the much

needed wisdom, patience and love.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Eunice Fehr

Berniece Banwart

On March 21, Bros. Kenneth Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) were welcome visitors when most of our home ministers were away. We were encouraged to abide in the ship (faith) if we would be saved and reach the safe harbor (Heaven). (see Acts 27:31)

On April 4, Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) brought forth the Word of truth and we were again encouraged to trust our God, who has always cared for His own, and not worry about Y2K and what the evil one would try to have us hear.

Sis. Darlene Metzger spent some time in the hospital and now is enjoying better health. At this time, Bros. Silas (Sis. Della) Metzger and Kenneth (Sis. Marlene) Banwart are in the hospital and expect to be released soon.

Lydia Edwards is now at the West Bend Care Center. May we always prayerfully remember our loved ones who reside there and visit them often.

Sis. Doris Banwart has moved from Peoria, IL to our Retirement Village. We welcome her and wish her many blessings and contentment in her retirement. Her new address is: 308 8th St. S.W. #9, West Bend, IA 50597-5103.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Willis Ehnle

Here at Shioda we have the custom of having an Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. This year we decided to have it here in our

church yard because there is some difficulty in getting to a good spot along the nearby river. We usually roast some wieners so we need to be where we can build a fire. You see, we eat breakfast together after the service. We also had our usual 10:30 morning service, followed by a Sunday School program.

On Sunday, April 11, Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa visited us from our Tokyo Church. He plans to come again on April 18 in the afternoon as we are having a singing and a Sunday School teachers' meeting. Bro. Takaaki is a Sunday School teacher and he takes an interest in helping us, which we appreciate very much.

There are cherry trees to the east and to the west of our church and home and we have enjoyed the blossoms immensely. Now they are finished but we are still enjoying the peach blossoms. Ichinomiya Town is most famous for its peaches. In contrast, the cherry trees which have such beautiful blossoms do not produce any fruit. In our spiritual lives, we really are supposed to have the fruit of the Spirit; we can't get by on looks alone.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Christian greetings from Tokyo! We missed reporting last month, so we're behind in congratulating our graduates, Makoto Inoue (Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie) and his friend, Kan Umemura. They graduated this past March, not only from high school, but also from our Sunday School. They attended church and Sunday School so faithfully from young on up and will be greatly missed by our con-

gregation. But, we pray they will take the truths they learned with them and soon become faithful soldiers for the Lord in the battlefield. Makoto has already left for America where he is attending language school in Indianapolis, IN in hopes of later entering Purdue University. His friend, Kan, is planning to attend language school starting this June at Illinois State University in Normal. These boys are brave and we think they will do a fine job there in the States. We anticipate their being there a blessing, not only for them, but for our church family also, as our respective churches are drawn closer together. Please remember them in your prayers and we hope many of you can meet them.

We had a very blessed Easter Day as once again we celebrated our Saviour's resurrection together. Our afternoon Easter program was very special as most present took part in it. This year, it was a little unusual as several of our members could not attend because of illness or other reasons, but, in their place were several newcomers, for which we thanked God.

Sunday, April 18, our church was full of English conversation as we had seven American guests in addition to the ten or so of us who normally attend. Our usual custom here is to have the morning service in Japanese only and then the afternoon in both English and Japanese. On this particular day though, Bro. Akito very kindly translated the morning service also. Our guests were Sis. Carol (Kieser) Schrock and her son, Eric (Leo, IN), who are visiting Sis. Jana (Kieser) Klaus and family. With them came Erica Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny) and Ty-

ler Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane), also from Leo, who are visiting Erica's Aunt Sally (Gramm) Kaufman and family who live on the west coast of Japan. Tyler's mother, Jane, was a teacher at our Shioda American kindergarten, so she was thrilled to have him attend our church here and experience Japan. Sally and her two oldest children traveled many hours to pick up their two guests and visit our church. It was a blessed day of worship and fellowship.

On Thursday, April 22, we had our monthly ladies' meeting and Sis. Carol Schrock spoke on Gateway Woods Children's Home where she has worked for many years. That kind of work is very unusual to the Japanese, but Sis. Carol stressed how it is work for the Lord and can only be done with strength from Him. She also spoke of how the Bible and its truths are what is used to try to turn lives around and help the children realize what their Creator God expects of them. There was quite a large group of ladies in attendance, so we hope it was good food for thought.

Last, but not least, our dear Sis. Urushino's husband recently had heart surgery, which went well, but he is now experiencing some complications. Please pray for him, and for her as she ministers to him. It would be wonderful if he was drawn closer to the Lord through this!

The Lord bless you and keep you all in Christ Jesus.

KANSAS, BERN

**Jill Hartter
Holly Meyer**

What a glorious time is Spring.
All around us are signs of new life,

green grass, budding trees, blooming flowers, baby animals, and new babies, just to name a few. We want to extend our congratulations to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner on the birth of another grandchild. Zachary William was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. RaeLynn Plattner (Chicago, IL) on March 7. We wish them many blessings.

Spring is also that time we as believers take the time to celebrate the new life we have through our Lord Jesus Christ. Bern congregation participated in Holy Communion on March 21. We want to thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for being with us for this special occasion. We were able to worship together with Sabetha on Good Friday evening as we took time to remember the great cost that was paid for our sins. We want to thank Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for sharing the Word with us this past month.

March 27 was the wedding date of Carmen Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy) and Lee Ukele (the late Marshall and Geneva, Sabetha, KS). We want to wish them God's nearness as they journey through life together.

Bern had the privilege of hosti-

Requiring hospitalization this past month were Lisa Menold and Sis. Pearl Stoller. May they feel God's nearness in their time of need.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

To break Thy bread we now have
gathered,

In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together,
That unto death we might be
Thine.

This promise we, with heart and
will;
Give grace our promise to fulfill.

As here, in Jesus' name invited,
His people meet to share His
love,
So shall the ransomed be united,
A mighty throng, in heaven
above,
To praise Him there before the
throne,
Our Lord and Saviour, Christ
the Son.

We gathered together April 10 for Holy Communion. What a blessed privilege God has given us to feel His love for us and to strengthen our love one for another. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) for being willing to serve us. It was such a joy to have Bro. Ervin, Sis. Sandra and Jeremy visit with us. May God bless them for their labors of love.

Sis. Janelle Sinn has moved to Kansas City. We miss her here but are looking forward to seeing her often as she comes home to visit us!

Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn are grandparents for the second time. On April 6, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Tammy Bradle (Eureka, IL) welcomed little Ester Sue into their home.

Our dear Sis. Ida Sinn has moved to the Sabetha Home. We will miss her presence with us, but are thankful for a Christian environment that will provide what she needs. May God richly bless those dear ones that serve the elderly at places like these as they

share Christ's love as well as care for their physical needs.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Laura Wagenbach

"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

What a special time when we can come together to share Holy Communion. We would like to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for coming to assist with our Communion services and also for bringing his wife, Sis. Connie, and family to share a beautiful Palm Sunday with us.

A large congregation gathered Easter morning for services. Many brothers, sisters and friends came to share this precious service. We were all reminded of the victorious resurrection of our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we always praise and thank Him for the Supreme Sacrifice He gave for our sins.

We show our appreciation this month for all of our wonderful mothers on Mother's Day. We are thankful for the love and encouragement that mothers give. May God bless our dear mothers. And let us, as mothers, strive to be a Christ-like example for our dear children.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

During this Easter season, may we remember our dear Lord's suffering, death and glorious resurrection for our salvation. Let us rejoice and ever be thankful for the hope of eternal life.

We certainly appreciated all of our visitors this month. We especially thank Elder Bro. Charles Sinn (Sis. Karen, Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for their willingness to minister the Word of the Lord to us.

Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) was a hospital patient this month. He underwent adenoid surgery.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Brenda Grimm
Mary Kay Wenger

On Sunday, March 21, Bro. Gerry Hertzell was ordained Elder of the Sabetha congregation. It is our prayer that the Lord will give Bro. Gerry the necessary grace to carry out the new duties that are laid upon him. May we as a congregation walk obediently and hold up his arms as he strives to preserve the faith of our fathers. We truly felt God's nearness throughout the weekend and we trust the Lord will guide and direct Bro. Gerry, his wife, Sis. Ellen, and their family.

We want to thank the Elders and ministering brothers that were with us for the weekend. They include Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Charles Sinn (Fort Scott, KS), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA),

Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO).

Cameron and Taylor Meyer are happy to have a new little sister, Haylie Jane was born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni Meyer on April 8. Her grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer and Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL).

There is also joy in the home of Bro. Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman. Zachary Darin was born on April 9 and is welcomed home by his sisters, Rachel and Emma, and his brother, Isaac. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Marjorie Edelman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter.

It was a special evening as we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion on April 17. Special thanks to Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) who were here to help our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell with serving us the Lord's Supper.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). May they be blessed for being willing servants in God's work.

Our prayers are with Sis. Susan Meyer as she was hospitalized recently.

It is the time of year again where we discontinue Wednesday evening services and will now alternate Sunday evening singings with the Bern congregation.

As Mother's Day approaches, let us be thankful for our dear mothers who have given so much of their time in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May we never forget

their teachings of God's love and mercy and pray God will continue to bless them.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

We have been blessed with many worship services throughout the past few months by area churches. It is always uplifting to have family and friends join us as we gather to read the Word on Wednesday nights. We wish to extend our thanks to Bros. Jim Kaeb and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for bringing forth the Word. Bro. Galen Rokey presented a Bible study in February on the three steps of decision-making. First, we must ask ourselves if our decision is biblically based. If so, we should ask ourselves whether or not the decision we are about to make will benefit us spiritually. Thirdly, proceed with caution and patience. During college there are many decisions to be made and we must remember to always wait on the Lord, for He will provide.

May the Lord be with our new convert, Quinton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City, MO), as he begins his walk with our Lord. We were blessed the weekend of February 28 as three young souls gave their testimonies and were baptized, namely Sis. Lori Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie, Bern), Sis. Jamie Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Louise, Bern) and recent K-State graduate, Bro. Bruce Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria). We also rejoice with Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha)

as he has been announced for peace. We look forward to his testimony and baptism.

K-State students enjoyed their spring break on March 22-26. Now the count down to finals begins!

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Our new dining-kitchen area was finished to the point that we could hold our Easter breakfast and Easter program in it. The Easter program consisted of songs, scripture readings, and readings by the Sunday School students and various others in the congregation. Also included was a dedication for the new facility.

Our congregation has another cause for rejoicing. Sis. Jodi Metzger will be doing her residency in Family Medicine at Vis Christi Hospital here in Wichita. We are happy that Sis. Jodi and Bro. Cory will be able to continue with us for a time.

We also have concerns and needs for prayer. Bro. Al Langhofer is wearing a cast on his arm after having carpal tunnel surgery. Bro. Virgil Barth was hospitalized for a surgical procedure to give him more comfort. Bro. Virgil is an inspiration to all of us as he confidently trusts the Lord to see him through his illness. May God bless him and his dear wife, Betty, as they face one day at a time.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Michelle Oesch Kristin Plattner

Truly it was such a delight to hear the familiar songs sang by our Sunday School on Palm Sunday. The program was simple, but held much meaning. Most of us have grown up hearing these songs. If

one closes out our thoughts entirely of the busyness around us, and sincerely listens, the words take on a sober and new meaning.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thess. 5:9

Each of us is on a journey. Our destination is Heaven. God has equipped us for the journey through His Son. He is the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Christ. (see John 14:6)

Of all the choices in life, make the one to accept God's Son. He will give direction as you travel life's road and reach the destination. The Word is clear on which road to journey on, but we make the choice where we let our heart take us. May Heaven be yours.

Bro. Ryan Huber has accepted a job in the area and has been assembling with us. We pray his family can join him soon, as the details work out. We want to extend a warm welcome to him and his wife, Sis. Terri, and their three children as they establish their residence in Alto.

Congratulations to Sis. Helen Steffen on the celebration of her 80th birthday. Upon her return from Phoenix for the winter months, she was surprised and greeted by family and friends. She brings to mind a quote by Sir Arthur Pinero. “Those who love deeply never grow old; they may die of old age, but they die young.”

Jodi and Tom Kennedy of Columbus, OH are blessed with the birth of their second child, Margaret. Thomas Jr. is her brother and grandparents are Doug and Marilyn Byam from Alto.

We are thankful to have visiting minister, Bro. Jim Plattner and his wife, Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL). He shared with us the miracles in Israel and how prophecy is being fulfilled just as God said it would. It is encouraging to see the evidence of God's almighty work. May Christians everywhere continue to lift up our leaders in prayer for the crises we are witnessing in war-torn countries. We believe it is God's desire that all man humble themselves and seek His ways as the current events unfold.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson**

When contemplating what to write for this article, I heard a story, told by my aunt who was a med-flight nurse, and thought I'd relay it to you. Part of learning the necessary team-building skills among the med-flight workers, was learning to trust one another. One of the ways that this area was worked on was in the form of a game in which the team stood in a circle and one person, who was blindfolded, stood in the center of it. Then, the person wearing the blindfold was asked to fall in any direction and know that he would be caught by a fellow team member. My aunt said that what was so interesting was that some of the people who seemed the strongest and most confident also seemed to have the hardest time trusting someone else to catch them. This reminded me of the verse which says, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (II Cor. 12:9a). It is only when we realize how weak we truly are, and allow our-

selves to "fall" into the hands of a God who is very capable to catch us, that we can experience the peace of total surrender. As long as we cling to our strength and wisdom and refuse to let go of our will, we can never know the freedom that God intended each of us to know. Today you are blindfolded by the burdens and struggles of life. God is very near; in fact, He's all around you waiting for you to fall into His arms. He has promised to catch you and in your act of faith give you a peace and strength you've never known before. Will you let go today?

We had several spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Laura Wieland, Bro. Ronald Wackerle, Clinton Wackerle (Ileean), and Sandi Knochel. It is our sincere prayer that God's almighty power will be with each one and that they will fully recover from their physical ailments.

We were so blessed to partake of Holy Communion this past month. It always is so refreshing to have the time of self-examination and then to remember our Lord's suffering in this solemn occasion. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Art Nohl and his wife, Sis. Sandra (Morris, MN), were able to be with us for this special time. May God bless them for being willing to come from so far to be with us.

May God be with you this month!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

John 14:6

We gathered together on Palm Sunday for our annual Easter Program to remember our blessed Saviour's death and resurrection. The Sunday School classes memorized verses and sang songs of praise. To conclude the blessed evening, the choir sang a selection of hymns. Many thanks go out to the teachers, parents, students and choir members for all of their work to make it so special. It was wonderful to hear the beautiful sound of voices singing for our Lord Jesus Christ. What a privilege it is for us to celebrate the true meaning of Easter! How thankful we are that He died in our place!

Our congregation has been blessed with a new arrival this month. Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie Dawson welcomed their first child, Jessica Lynn. Thankful for this little miracle are grandparents, Sis. Karen Martin and Kaywin Martin. We pray for Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie and their families as they lay the spiritual groundwork for baby Jessica.

Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) was able to be with us this month and share God's Word. We appreciated Bro. Don and Sis. Mary taking the time to spend Sunday with us. May God richly bless them.

Andy Wieland (Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland, Bay City, MI) has been announced to have found peace with God and man. May he hold onto that peace for the rest of his life. With a thankful heart, he will await the time to share his testimony and experience baptism in the near future. We rejoice for him and his family and will continue to keep him in our prayers.

"Faith is not believing that God

can, it is knowing that He will." Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Bro. Jason Rauhe (Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Carrie Gress (Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol, West Bend, IA) was announced to the congregation. Bro. Jason moved away from our area last fall and is working in Chicago. May they continue to follow the Lord's direction during this special time of their engagement and throughout their life together.

We express our deepest sympathy to Chris Johnson (Sis. Barb Johnson and Kyra) in the passing of his mother, Barbara Steelman. Our prayers and love go out to the family during this difficult time.

Dedication services were held for our newly constructed Woodpointe Apartments on April 18. We pray that God will bless all of those who have worked to bring this community into our area as well as all those who have made Woodpointe their home.

Our congregation would like to welcome Sis. Ella Schlatter as she makes the transition from Bay City to Woodpointe. We are thankful to have her with us and pray that God will guide her as she makes Detroit her home.

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder**

We bid farewell to Bro. Anthony, Sis. Lila and Landon Fehr

as they have moved to Fairbury, IL. We thank them for all their labors of love while here and wish them God's blessings.

The Sunday School children eagerly brought forth the Easter story on March 21. Each one truly received a blessing.

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) as they shared with us Holy Communion. We thank them for serving us both Saturday and then Sunday from God's Word.

We always appreciate visitors. Among them this past month was ministering Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL).

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Nancy Wulf
Dianne Kellenberger**

May we in perfect love be found
When we Thy table, Lord,
surround;
Keep soul and body purified;
Thy blessing, Lord, be multiplied
Upon this feast.

Zion's Harp #200

Truly what a blessing it was to be led to the cross and partake of Holy Communion on April 17. In remembrance of Jesus, we did eat and drink as directed in God's Word.

Blessings from visiting ministers this past month came from Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) who had our Easter service, and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) who shared with our Elder Bro. Art in our Communion service. We thank them for bringing forth the message of salvation.

Our Sunday School students presented their Easter program on

March 31. We appreciate the efforts of our Sunday School teachers and students on bringing forth hymns and pieces to remind us of Christ's suffering and shedding His innocent blood for our redemption.

Bro. Floyd Schmidgall has retired from the ministry. We extend a very special thank you to him for his many years of service to our congregation.

A child is a miracle from above. Bro. Adam and Sis. Christy Zeltwanger are first-time parents to little Taylor Lee, who was born on March 25. Excited grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

We pray for God's healing touch upon Bro. Alphai Moser (Sis. Pearl) who had surgery. May he and his family feel God's strength and nearness.

We bid a fond farewell to Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie Strahm as they leave our congregation to live in Sabetha, KS. We pray God will always watch over them and keep them under His protective wing.

We thank Sis. Rebecca Schaefer for sharing her slides of Hungary with us.

Not only on Mother's Day, but often we're reminded of mothers who so faithfully have taught their children about God's ways, and have offered many prayers on behalf of their children and loved ones. We pray that God in His tender mercy will someday answer those prayers.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks for the many beautiful cards, flowers, gifts, prayers, and visits that I received during my hospital stay and during my recovery at home. May God

richly bless and reward you for the love I could feel.

Harold Gramm

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Becky Braulick

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:28-30

A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
 Please run beside them, that they might finish.
 When they cross that eternal finish line
 May I be there to welcome them home.
 May we laugh and cry through eternity
 Praising the grace that gave us the victory.
 —*J.W. Smith*

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Sis. Marilyn (Elgin, IL) came to assist Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner in the reading of the Memorandum.

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart." (I Peter 1:22-23). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Sis. Kathy (Roanoke, IL) came to help Elder Bro. LeRoy in the serving of Communion to our congregation. We thank these

dear servants of the Lord for their labors of love.

Easter breakfast was well attended by many. May the Lord bless the Sunday School and teachers for hosting this annual breakfast.

Tom Miller (Maggie) had surgery and is recuperating at home. Prayers are with him for recovery.

Josh Schmidt (Bro. Tim and Liz) has announced his engagement to Amy Renn of Saginaw, MI. We wish them God's blessings.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brent Kellenberger

On April 11, Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) were with us for the day. We appreciate Bro. Jon's assistance in ministering and serving our congregation Holy Communion. It is such a blessing to deeply reflect on what the Lord has done for us.

Our other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We thank them and their families for visiting and hope to see them again.

We gathered together on April 24 to work at the church. Our hearty and sincere thanks goes out to all those who participated. It's interesting to note how necessary ongoing maintenance is to maintain a clean and functional church building; certainly the same is much more true for our spiritual lives.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Carolyn Banwart
Kristi Huber

We were thankful to have visiting minister, Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), with us this past

month. We pray that God will bless him for his labors.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

The engagement of Bro. Jonathan Banwart (Bro. Alfred and Sis. Carolyn) to Sis. Beth Dotterer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon) was made known. We pray that they will feel God's continued guidance and direction as they make their wedding plans for June 6.

Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things has done,
 in whom the world rejoices,
 Who from our mother's arms
 has blest us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 and still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

As Mother's Day arrives, may we always remember to thank God for our mothers who helped raise and nurture us in the truth.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Bringing the precious Word to the St. Louis congregation recently were ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL). How we appreciate the willingness of our visiting brothers to deliver God's Word to us with boldness and with love!

Each one of us has probably had the unpleasant (or worse) experience of turning an ankle or stumbling and falling over an obstacle

in front of us, unseen before it was too late. One of the brothers talked about our footing and how easy it is to take a misstep if we are inattentive and don't take care to avoid dangers in our paths. We realize the importance of having a good sturdy foundation beneath our feet and a well-lit path on which to travel. For our spiritual walk, we know that God provides that firm foundation, and when we let Him light our way, we can walk as in the day, confidently and safely, as opposed to the cautious, unsure steps we take when walking in the dark, unable to see potential dangers. Let us each daily bathe ourselves in the light of God's Word, and diligently stay on that straight path that will lead us to Heaven, always paying attention to our ultimate goal.

In another sermon we were exhorted to reflect the light of Christ off of our white robes to brighten up the dark areas of this world in which so many poor souls are stumbling about.

Our congregation has begun to sing after church on Sundays at a small retirement home for women only a few miles from the church. We have a "sing along" because quite a few of the women really enjoy the songs. Any visitors are welcome to join us for a half hour or so before the trip home and be blessed by these dear older women.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Peg Haerr

Belated congratulations go to Gavin and Karen Haab who were married January 29. Their parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab and Marvin and Carl Hawes of Sterling Heights, MI. The new

couple is at home in Columbus, OH.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James), Jeremy Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), and Josh Redd (Dean and Gaye). We are thankful that all are doing better.

On March 20, we assembled for our Communion service. Our Easter program was held the afternoon of March 28. What a joy to hear our youth bring forth the message of our Saviour's death and joyous resurrection!

A farewell supper and singing was held April 11. Bro. James and Sis. Lisa Knapp are moving to Congerville, IL and Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp are moving to Eureka, IL. They have accepted employment in Central Illinois. These couples have been a blessing to our congregation, and even though it's hard to let them go, we pray they will feel God's nearness in their new homes and congregations.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye love me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."

John 14:28

We had a singing at Bro. Ron and Sis. Eleanor Herzig's on Saturday, March 24. There were brothers and sisters from Rockville, CT visiting.

On Easter Sunday, the Sunday School had their Easter program. It is always good to see the children tell of Jesus' death on the

cross. We also had services on Good Friday evening.

Sis. Bernice Hirschev was in the hospital, but is home now. We pray she is feeling better.

Fredrick Cardinal of Rome, NY passed away on April 4. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Lois, and the family. He is a brother-in-law to Sis. Celia Virkler (Lowell).

Our sympathy also goes out to Gordon Stockburger's sister, Elizabeth. Gordon passed away April 7. His mother, Sis. Rose, and father, Fred, and three brothers, Casper, William and Bro. Raymond, predeceased him.

Elder Bro. Edward Aeschleman passed away on April 11. Our sympathy and prayers go out to his wife, Sis. Nancy, and children. We are thankful that he served as Elder for a time here at Croghan-Naumburg.

When a Christian dies
precious is the prize,
lasting joys for days of sorrow,
rest from conflict on the
morrow
follows when he dies.

When a Christian dies
his grief buried lies,
all distress and tribulation
in death's slumber finds
cessation
when a Christian dies
his grief buried lies.
Hymns of Zion #248

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Susan Katanic gave her testimony of her love for the Lord Jesus, of her conversion, and peace with God, and desire to follow in the Lord's ways. She was baptized and taken into the fold March 28.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was present and assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer.

Sis. Bethi Graf, age 93, passed away March 25. She was born in Switzerland, came here in 1929 and married Bro. Rudolph Graf, who was Elder for Akron, as well as for some other of our churches, for many years. He preceded her in death. She is survived by children: Bro. John (Sis. Janice), Bro. Art (Sis. Audrey), Rudy, and a daughter, Margaret (John) Gallagher; 13 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Bethi was a member of our church for nearly 68 years, and was attending church until about 2 weeks prior to her death. She was very supportive and hospitable. She remembered people and related well to others. She was a pillar of faith to all, a valiant soldier of the cross, and now she has gone to be with our Saviour that she loved. Sis. Bethi's family conveys a thanks to all that supported them in every way, including gifts, during this time.

An automobile crashed into Bro. Leo Heib's barber shop causing damage and injury. After a short hospital stay, he was released. Bro. Leo had health problems previously and continues to contend with these physical adversities.

Sis. Louise Graf was hospitalized, but is back again at the Nursing Home.

A thanks goes to our Sunday School children for taking an evening to do World Relief projects. After a supper treat, they filled health kits, school kits, and prenatal kits. A thanks also goes to all those who made all the preparations and carried out the supervision for the evening.

Sis. Katherine Ries, age 97, passed away April 3. Katherine

was married to Bro. Larry Ries who preceded her in death. They had two girls, Judy Moulton and Mary Ann Mullet. Her children live in Colorado, so she moved there, and later came to reside at our church Nursing Home.

We were blessed to partake of Communion at the Easter season and grateful for the assistance of Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Our High School graduates are: Carlos Soto, who has worked in construction; and Sis. Sarah Bako, who finished high school earlier, and took a position with Charles Schwab Retirement Plan Services.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

As the trees begin to blossom, we are thankful for the changing of the seasons. A few weeks ago we were reminded of the crucifixion and death of our Saviour Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. We are thankful that the plan of salvation is still available yet today.

We want to thank the following visiting ministers: Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Larry Weninger (Latty, OH) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL). We appreciate them preaching God's wonderful Word to us. We welcome all visitors who are in the area to come and worship with us.

Sis. Jennie Banks had surgery on her ankle this past month. We are thankful to see her back at church.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express our sincere thanks to all, who so lovingly remembered us with visits, prayers, cards, phone calls, and gifts in

memory of my beloved wife of over 62 years, Sis. Theresa. After years of illness and suffering with cancer, on February 27, her prayers were answered to enter into the beautiful heavenly Home, where there is no more pain, suffering, sorrow or tears but eternal joy and peace.

Our sincere thanks to Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer, Ben Maibach and Kenneth Sauder for their comforting words at her Farewell services; and to our ministering Bro. John Grimm for his many visits, prayers and words of encouragement during Theresa's illness. Our thanks also to the sisters of the church for serving a meal for the many visitors following the burial.

May God bless you all for your loving kindnesses and standing beside us in this time of grief.

Most humbly and gratefully,

Andy Hunyady and Family of 5 children, 15 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

We had the blessed privilege to share in Holy Communion, and were thankful to have Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) with us for this special evening. Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) also visited us recently. A special thank you to these brothers for ministering the Word of Life to us.

Many in our congregation were able to travel to Mansfield, OH on Easter weekend to witness the marriage of our Bro. Sam Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther) to Sis. Linda Morrison (late Bro. Robert and Sis. Kate). May God continue to lead, guide and direct this dear couple.

Those spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Pete Hurd (Sis. Helen) and Taylor Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy). We are thankful that Bro. Pete is back in church with us and Taylor is feeling better, too. It was nice to see Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis. Elizabeth) in church again also as he went through a time of illness.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz are thankful grandparents of Skyler Marie born to James and Sis. Julie McCullough (Toledo, OH).

Mother's Day is a wonderful time to remember our mothers and all they have done for us. Let us not take for granted the patience, wisdom, and unconditional love they have shown each one of us.

OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjos**

We are thankful once again to be reminded during the Easter season that our Lord and Saviour died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins. How grateful we are to be reassured that Jesus rose again on the third day and overcame death that we may have the hope of eternal life. Today is still the day of grace and Jesus is still calling souls. Now is the time to turn to Him in repentance and receive the free gift of salvation and peace.

Visiting on our pulpit was Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). Both of these brothers have family here in Latty and we enjoy having them come to visit from time to time.

This past month our congregation listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome Bro. Jeff

and Sis. Jenny Ross as our new brother and sister in faith. May the Lord's grace be with them as they continue on their journey. Sharing the Word with us that Sunday was Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

The congregation rejoices with Heidi Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam). She has found peace and is truly forgiven of God. We look forward to hearing her testimony.

Alan Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) has turned his back on the world and heeded the call to repentance. May he surrender his all to Christ and build on His firm foundation.

Congratulations to Mike Keysor (Bro. George and Sis. Sharon) and Kelly Fifer. They were joined in marriage this past month. May the Lord be with them as they walk through this life together.

Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor are grandparents again. Chad, Jennifer and big brother, Dylan Keysor welcome home Andrew George.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Shayla Shepard (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

If I walk in the pathway of duty,
If I work till the close of the day;
And if here I have earnestly
striven,
And have tried all His will to
obey,
I shall see the great King in His
beauty,
When I've gone the last mile of
the way.

Gospel Hymns #819

Three loved ones have parted us. Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Clarence Pfister and his family upon the passing of his wife, Sis. Ruth. We bid our last farewell to Bro. Benjamin Beer. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Betty, and her family. Our prayers and sympathy are also extended to the family of our departed Sis. Ella Harmon.

Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) was one of our guest ministers this month. We thank him for his willing service.

At Christmas, the world remembers our Saviour's birth. At Easter, many attend churches hearing of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. May we remember Him each day in prayer to God in Jesus' name.

We enjoyed our Sunday School children as they sang of Christ's resurrection at our Easter Program. May God continue to bless our children and Sunday School teachers.

God has blessed Steve and Melinda Robertson with a precious baby boy, Jacob Dillon. Thankful grandparents are Jim and Gloria Robertson and Bro. James and Sis. Clara Zimmer. May the Lord bless this dear family always.

Do you feel His blessed tread
Drawing near to our assembly,
Heav'nly gifts for us to spread,
Living bread and drink to
render?

Zion's Harp #24

On Saturday, April 10, Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder with the Lord's Supper.

John and Roma Them have at-

tended church with us many years. We thank our Heavenly Father for they wish to repent of their sins. Our prayers are with them.

Our congregation enjoyed many visitors on Easter Sunday! It was the wedding day of Bro. Sam Schlatter (late Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther) and Sis. Linda Morrison (late Bro. Robert and Sis. Kate). We wish them God's sustaining grace and love in their married life together. We will sure miss Sis. Linda, but hope they will visit us often. We appreciated many visiting ministers, all of whom attended the wedding. We thank Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) and Elder Bros. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May God richly bless each one who labored on our behalf.

Dear ones who have been hospitalized this month were: Bro. Philip Keiper (Sis. Theresa), Sis. LaVersa Sabo, Sis. Betty Beer, and Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty). May we include them in our prayers and visits.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lucy Gasser
Lynda Beery

O do Thou hold me fast;
From sin, O make me free,
So that henceforth my heart
Thy temple pure may be!

Zion's Harp #45

We are glad and thankful that two more souls have found the need for repentance and conversion and are seeking salvation in our Lord Jesus. Matt Rufener

(Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna) and Matt Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha) have recently begun this walk of faith.

Jeran Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie), Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel), and Bro. Neil Gasser (Sis. Donna) have all been hospitalized this past month. May our Heavenly Father heal and bless according to His will.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Mary Widmer were blessed with a precious baby boy to love and raise. On March 21, 7-month-old Alex Jon was added to their family circle. We are happy for them and wish them God's continued blessings. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Joann Widmer and Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler are thankful for the safe arrival of Kya Rose, born March 29. She is welcomed into the family by her brothers and sister, Mason, Baylor, and Tory, and also by her grandparents, Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH). May our Lord continue to bless and direct them as they raise their children in the fear and love of God.

Our Bro. John Steiner has finished his earthly race and has gone to be with the Lord. May our Heavenly Father comfort and encourage his dear wife, Sis. Wilma, and sons, Bro. Richard (Sis. Pat) and Bro. David (Sis. Lynn), and their children.

We also extend deep sympathy to Bro. David and Sis. Kathy Ault and family in the passing of his father, Melvin Ault.

This past month we have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers. On March 20, we assembled to remember the suffering of our Lord and Saviour Jesus

in partaking of Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer in the services that evening.

On Easter Sunday, Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) visited our congregation and ministered to us. Also visiting us this past month were Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We thank these brothers for serving us the Word of Life.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

"...and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Revelation 5:11-12

Bro. Dennis Miller has fractured both of his heels in a work related accident. May the Lord bestow healing on him as the days ahead may be somewhat painful and difficult.

Sis. Hazel Riggensbach has been hospitalized with pneumonia. May God also bless her with comfort and healing as we pray for her.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for their visits, phone calls, kindness, love and prayers, and all the sympathy cards in the loss of my dear sister, Sis. Rosella Figel. May God bless you all.

Sis. Almeda and John Brake

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:36

We are thankful that we live in America, and enjoy many blessings, especially the privilege to worship freely. But truly the greatest freedom is freedom from our past sins and guilt. We rejoice that God is extending His grace to souls who seek their salvation. As the angels in Heaven rejoice, we rejoice that Doug Nieman (Melaney) has answered God's call.

On March 17, Luke William Maibach joined the family circle of Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie, and sisters, Miranda and Rachel. Happy grandparents and Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer Bauman patiently wait until they can bring their newborn son, Travis Mitchel, home, as he arrived several weeks early, on March 30. Older sister, Shannon, and grandparents, Bro. Herbert and Sis. Berniece Bauman and Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler, also eagerly await his homecoming. May God richly bless these parents in their God-given responsibilities.

We appreciate the recent visit of

ministering Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). May the Lord bless him and prosper the Word.

Several of our congregation have required hospital care again this month: Sis. Mildred Hartzler, Bro. Don Stoller (Sis. Luzelda), Sis. Carol and Bro. George Schuster, and Miranda Maibach (Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie). We commit these loved ones to our Heavenly Father, that He give them strength and grace in their need. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19)

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

Jeremiah 31:3

As God draws us to Him, we are thankful that He provides leadership for our congregations. The counsel of our Elders is appreciated as we strive to be faithful to our Lord. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) shared the conclusions of the mid-winter Elder Conference with us at a recent mid-week service. Other visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). May the spoken Word they brought forth bring fruit in our lives.

Skyler Marie has arrived as a special blessing in the home of James and Sis. Julie McCullough. Sierra is glad to welcome a baby

sister. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH) and Jim and Paulette McCullough (Elyria).

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone! We hope everyone had a blessed Easter. It was very special to hear the young voices of our Sunday School students sing the beautiful hymns and narrate that well-known story, which holds such an awesome promise for those who believe. We appreciate the efforts put forth by the children. Our sincere thanks also to the teachers who worked with them.

It was nice to have Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht (Silverton, OR) join us on Easter Sunday. We thank Bro. Ed for sharing the Word with us that day.

We have had a steady flow of visitors this past month and wish to thank each and every one for taking the extra time to come our way. Our special gratitude to Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for ministering unto us recently.

OREGON, SILVERTON Rosa Lee Kuenzi

Sunday, April 4, we were blessed to hear two joyous announcements. First, as a result of the most important decision in her life, Kari Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) has the faith to believe that she has found peace with God and with all people, to the best of her knowledge. We rejoice with her and are thankful that now she waits for the opportunity to share her experience with the brethren and to be baptized into the Holy Family of our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ.

The second announcement involves two dear souls and also takes prayer and faith. Our Bro. Joel Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Laura Metzger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth) of the Lester, IA congregation have announced their plans of marriage. A June wedding is being planned at Lester. We pray that both families will feel the Lord's nearness and guidance during this joyous and busy time.

Easter 1999 is past and among our precious memories of the season is the Easter program presented by the Sunday School students. Thankfully, the story is old and unchanged but each year it is fresh and new as the many children so beautifully retell it through their carefully memorized pieces and songs. May they always keep this wonderful Gospel story in their hearts.

Several families are experiencing recoveries from illness, accident or surgeries. They would surely appreciate our thoughts and prayers for God's healing mercies. They are Dave Milo (Grace Bolliger Milo), Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess), Austin Kraft (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne), Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob).

We truly appreciate our visiting ministers throughout the past month. They were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan Gasser

This month our congregation was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear retired Elder Bro.

Ed Aeschleman. Bro. Ed ministered to our small flock for over 30 years, many of those years laboring alone on the pulpit. He and his wife, Sis. Nancy, moved to this area and began regular services with only a small handful of believers. Over the years, his faithfulness resulted in a steady growth of the congregation, through many joyous births, marriages, and baptisms. All of us who were blessed by knowing Bro. Ed and growing in the Lord under his care and encouragement can find strength in his example of selfless devotion to God. Our sympathies and our prayers are with Sis. Nancy and their children.

This month also brought wonderful news, and we rejoice as Travis Lanz has found grace to give his life to the Lord. Our prayers and encouragement are with him and his parents, Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz.

Finally, this month we were pleased to have retired Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL) visit our congregation. Bro. Dave spoke to us regarding biblical foundations and teachings on marriage; certainly valuable and much needed lessons in today's world. May we each examine Christ's faithfulness to the Church and strive toward that perfection in our own lives.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Gwen Leuthold

Mother's Day is a day that has been set aside to say thank you to our mothers. Remember to say thank you to your mother especially on this day as well as the whole year through and to thank God for her.

Thoughts for mothers: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God

with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:5-7)

This past month, we welcomed ministering Bros. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL). We especially wish to thank the Tremont congregation for their love and support in bringing a charter bus of friends, relatives and loved ones to Nashville on April 17-18. We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend of fellowship and worship and extend to all of you God's richest blessings.

We encourage anyone in the Nashville area to stop and worship with us. Please contact one of the numbers listed below to assist us in meal planning. We meet for regular services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. Contact Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946. Upcoming services are scheduled for June 6 (Rockville, CT); June 20 (LaCrosse, IN); July 4 (Francesville, IN); July 18 (Peoria, IL); August 1 (Eureka, IL), and August 15 (Milford, IN).

Faith shines brightest in the heart of a child.

—H.G. Bosch

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived

in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.

—*anonymous*

These quotes were from For Mom From a Thankful Heart

TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

"All things bright and beautiful..." At this time of year the fields and roadsides of Texas are ablaze with wildflower blooms. Just a small reminder of God's mighty hand in creating our world.

We appreciate our visitors who make the effort to support our small gathering. Ministers who have shared the Word with us this month include Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA).

Central Texas services are held on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month. The third

Sunday we meet in the San Antonio area 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

Many of our winter residents have returned to their homes in the northern states. We enjoyed a blessed winter and appreciate the time our winter residents and visi-

tors spent with us.

We are thankful that Bro. Dean Messner and his wife, Sis. Wanda (Winthrop, MN), came to visit us. We thank him for bringing us the Word.

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

Zion's Harp #207

A friend is someone who sings with you when you are on the mountain top and silently walks beside you through the valley.

Jesus is also our friend. He hears us sing when all is well, but He also comforts us when we carry a burden.

Let Jesus be your friend. He cares!



Sermon continued from page 2

community. He had passed away and we went to his visitation and I said to his son, "We believe and have a hope in the hereafter, and we are so grateful we can commit one another into the hands of a merciful and gracious God." He reminded me that it wasn't a hope; it was a sure thing. I was kind of surprised because we know the people well. I think of that often. They led a good life and they were good examples and they were also sure where they were going to go.

When I read this here, the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope, and surely He is our hope, we live with a deep anticipation of someday being able to be victorious over self in this life. Being victorious in that perfect end, then we will only know and be able to feel when this life is over. We know not how long we are going to live.

Surely we know not how it is going to be in our end, but we have a deep hope, loved ones, that it is going to be in Jesus, our Saviour and our Redeemer that died for us and shed His blood for the remission of our sins so that we could be forgiven and begin a new life, a purified life, because of His shed blood for the whole world.

Then he drew us, called us and revealed to us our lost and our wretched condition, and how humble we were. Then to come back to the church and feel their love and welcome into the midst of a body of believers whom we had forgotten and forsaken for many years. We wondered how it would be, but they were waiting with outstretched arms.

This really isn't man, it is the love of God in men. That is what we have. That is what we want to leave to those who follow behind us. There is no greater thing!

There isn't anything more that we can do for one another. We want to do the very best that we can, don't we?

Here the apostle said, "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith; so do." (I Timothy 1:3-4). Surely, we live in a day and time when these things are so prevalent in the world.

The Word teaches us that we are to judge ourselves and that is what we want to do. We don't judge the world and we don't want to spend too much time talking about the world because we know what their end is going to be if they do not repent and draw nigh unto God and be led and directed by God. We need to judge ourselves. We need to see where we stand in the sight of God's Word.

So that is why the apostle here wrote that we are not to teach any other doctrine and neither give heed to fables. We need to be careful that we aren't overtaken by things that are good, look good and sound good. There are a lot of things in the world today that are good, they look good and they sound good, but are they to the benefit of the deep need of the soul of man?

There are places in the Scripture where people came to Jesus and they said, "We need help. Tell us how to divide this or that or whatever it was." He said, "Oh, ye do greatly err. I came not for these things."

Time and time again, He separated Himself from that which was

material. He said, "I came for the souls of men and for the undying soul."

"...which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:" (I Timothy 1:4-5). A pure heart. We know of only one way of getting a pure heart, and that is, repenting and confessing. That empties us, but more so, it gives us the power to overcome the evil one. We know that the devil is even in our midst here if we permit him.

In an individual base, he can come and be in our midst in our heart, one, two, or five. We really believe that he is not in our midst, but he could be if we as individuals let him. Our mind would have to stray and if we think of something that is not good, that is the devil—that is him. That is how he comes. We don't believe he is here, but he is everywhere. He is waiting and he is just as far away as we keep him. He is as close as he can get. We know that.

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm" "I Timothy 1:6-7". Are we as grateful as we should be for our faith? How many times for those on the outside that say, "What school did you go to? What is your church background, and where did you get your schooling?"

I have to think of an old brother who came from German years ago. One morning as his family of his children and his dear wife were seated around the table, a neighbor stopped. He thought, "Now what am I going to do? Am I going

to have a loud prayer, or are we going to pray silent?"

Many times we pray silent, don't we, in our home? We are also taught that we are to have loud prayer with our family. He was moved to have a loud prayer. An old brother who had his schooling in Germany and here he was with a neighbor who was educated, even a teacher in the high school of that community. He was moved to have a loud prayer.

When he was through and they had taken care of the reason he came, he said, "I would like to have that prayer you had at the breakfast table. Would you give me that prayer?" This old brother said, "I can't give you that prayer." He said, "You don't have it down on paper? Didn't you learn that prayer?" He said, "No." He couldn't understand that.

Now what is it that we want to give our children, beloved? We labor and we go to school because we know that our children have to have a good education today in a degree. It might not do them a bit of good, but they are not going to get a job if they don't have it. But, what do we want to give our children? What is the most important thing that we could give our children?

How sad it would be if they would not be taught as the apostle here reminded the people so many years ago the things that are most important—the things that will bring us through when everything else fails.

"From which some having swerved have turned aside..." (I Timothy 1:6). We have to hold fast or we are going to lose the things that are most beneficial. In that day and time, it was no different and that is why the warnings are here. But today we feel they are so very, very necessary in our lives.

It says here, "Learning the Law." He said, "But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man..." (I Timothy 1:8-9). Probably a goodly number of us have experienced being stopped for one reason or another on the highways. If we had been within the law, we would not have been stopped. Let us try to remember that.

Right here it is, "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless..." for those who don't obey the law or the disobedient, for the ungodly and for the sinners.

Our law is lenient and we don't want to abuse that. We are grateful. For the most part, our law is lenient and we, too, are to be compassionate one with another. We know that. We need it and we appreciate it, but there is a limit to all these things.

"...for unholy and profane, for murderers..." (I Timothy 1:9). It starts little and it is all for the lawless, and for all those who break the law, and finally, for the murderers of fathers, mothers, manslayers, whoremongers and

for them that defile themselves with mankind. Surely we want to be of those who would not misuse and abuse the law to the full extent of the law.

When we speak of the law, I have to think of a young man, a brother in our faith in our area, and I believe it is that way wherever we find ourselves, there are those who come around and they have something to sell. There is nothing wrong with that, but this one man kept reminding everyone that he tried to sell, "This is not against the law. It is legal. You can do this. It is legal." Finally, this young brother said, "I am getting tired of you reminding me that it is legal." He said, "What is concerning me, is it right or wrong?"

Beloved, that is something that we need to remember. There is a great difference in the sight of God whether it is right or wrong, or whether it is legal. Who makes our laws? What are laws? We need them. We have to be careful that we don't let those things that are legal mislead us in our thinking between right and wrong.

"According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." (I Timothy 1:11). Beloved, this is for you and me to keep that which has been committed to us against that day. Someday we are all going to meet that day and it will be asked of us if we have kept those things that had been entrusted unto us which we cherish and know it is beneficial to our own dying soul.



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CASSETTES FROM EUROPE

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

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

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

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

Long Book tapes may be ordered from:

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

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

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

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

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

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.

For more information on this position, 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

NOTICE

In anticipation of dedication and open house, we are collecting 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

NOTICE

The Lamar Soldier's Reunion will not be held this year due to the World War II veterans reunion to be held in Latty, OH on June 5th and 6th.

**USED EYEGLASSES ARE
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IXTLAN CLINIC**

A free eye clinic is being established 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

- NOTICE -

**Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books,
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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 \$2,000.00 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

Gateway Woods Auction
Saturday, August 21, 1999

Silver Threads

In Times Like These

We read the headlines daily
 and listen to the news,
 We shake our heads despairingly
 and glumly sing the blues—
 We are restless and dissatisfied
 and we do not feel secure,
 We are vaguely discontented
 with the things we must endure...
 This violent age we live in
 is filled with nameless fears
 As we listen to the newscasts
 that come daily to our ears,
 And we view the threatening
 future with sad sobriety
 As we're surrounded daily
 by increased anxiety...
 How can we find security
 or stand on solid ground
 When there's violence and
 dissension
 and confusion all around;
 Where can we go for refuge
 from the rising tides of hate,
 Where can we find a haven
 to escape this shameful fate...
 So instead of reading headlines
 that disturb the heart and mind,
 Let us open up the BIBLE

and in doing so we'll find
 That this age is no different
 from the millions gone before,
 But in every hour of crisis
 God has opened up a door
 For all who seek His guidance
 and trust His all-wise plan,
 For God provides protection
 beyond that devised by man...
 And we learn that each
TOMORROW
 is not ours to understand,
 But lies safely in the keeping
 of the great Creator's Hand,
 And to have the steadfast
 knowledge
 that **WE NEVER WALK ALONE**
 and to rest in the assurance
 that our **EVERY NEED IS**
KNOWN
 Will help dispel our worries,
 our anxieties and care,
 For doubt and fear are vanquished
 in **THE PEACEFULNESS OF**
PRAYER.

—Helen Steiner Rice



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

In light of the war in Yugoslavia, the following "Remembering" article is excerpted from a booklet entitled Nazarenes in Yugoslavia. It was published in Syracuse, NY by what was then known as Apostolic Christian Publishing Co. This entity was a part of our "sister" church, and is not to be confused with our publishing house in Eureka, IL.

The "Nazarenes", in this instance, refers to the Froehlich movement in the Balkan nations, primarily Yugoslavia. They share our faith and practice.

Secular and governmental conflicts have existed for centuries in the Serbian areas. Much suffering stemming from ethnicity and religion has resulted. Our brethren have not been spared. The following remarks illustrate how our fellow-believers stood firm in the face of severe confrontation with state officials.

Incidents occurring in the 1920's in Yugoslavia follow:

A Strong Faith

In September, 1924, all men of military age (from 20 to 50) living in territories ceded to Serbia from Austria-Hungary as a result of the World War, were called to arms for the "defense" of the new government of Yugoslavia.

Because the Nazarenes (i.e., Apostolic Christians) could not take the oath in accordance with the Word of God, about 1,400 were imprisoned. Some of them, fettered in

chains, were led through villages. A high officer is reported to have said: "Rob them of everything, burn down their houses, do not buy anything from them." For a few weeks they (the believers) had to, at least in part, furnish their own board while in jail.

This imprisonment lasted for about four months. Nearly all meeting places of the Nazarenes were sealed, but many were opened again by tacit understanding.

In a conference which was held in Belgrade in the fall of 1924, an agreement was reached between some of the elders and the higher military authorities, that in the future they were no longer compelled to "swear", but would be given permission to "promise". Thereupon, the 1,400 Nazarenes were set at liberty toward the end of December, 1924.

Contrary to all expectations, only the Nazarenes of the military district Veliki Beckereck were called into the army on August 1, 1926, under this pretense: for the purpose of military drill. The greater number of these had already given their "promise" in December, 1924.

In spite of this fact, they were not asked for their "promise", but the officers insisted on the complete oath and the taking up of arms. Because their faith did not permit them to do this, they were arrested and tried for "insubordination" and also for belonging to a sect not rec-

ognized by the state.

Long Prison Terms

A little later, 50 of these 56 men were sentenced in Belgrade up to 10 years imprisonment. Among them were men nearly 50 years of age, some of whom had already been sentenced in Austria-Hungary two and three times for the same refusal and had served 8 to 12 years in prison. This was a long and severe period of suffering for the sake of their faith.

Six Nazarenes were called into the army in December, 1926, from the military district Sobor to "swear and to take up arms". Four of these men had already given their "promise" in December, 1924. In spite of this they were again asked to take the "oath"; this they refused to do. They suffered the same fate.

There were among the imprisoned Nazarenes men who were close to fifty years of age when they were arrested. And now they were supposed to serve 10 years in prison among the worst of criminals. They were to remain in prison under the severest of conditions until they reached sixty years old.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

II Timothy 3:12

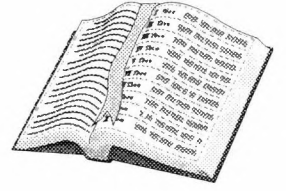
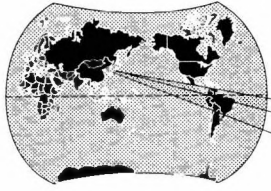
By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

More on Eastern Europe

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



希望の光

“Mothers Ponder”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Mothers ponder about many things. It is written of Mary, the mother of Jesus, “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)

To ponder something is to think deeply and carefully about it. In Mary’s case, she no doubt pondered the visit of the angel, Gabriel; her conversation with her cousin, Elizabeth; her difficult and uncomfortable trip to Bethlehem with Joseph; the birth of her baby in a stable; and last of all, the report of the shepherds that her baby’s birth had been announced to them by angels. He indeed, had a lot to ponder.

What about my mother and yours? They also had a lot to ponder. Will the baby be healthy and what can be done to help the baby, even before birth? Can I meet the needs of the baby in every way? The baby needs to hear singing and happy voices. The baby needs to be read stories, including those from the Bible, even before he or she can speak

or understand. It’s the facial expression and the tone of the voice which are so very important. Is everything all right, or must the baby begin to worry before beginning to speak? My mother and yours, no doubt pondered these things and many other things, in regard to you and me. Mothers ponder about many things. In the process, they forget themselves and work for the welfare of their babies. At least this is the way it should be.

What about today’s mothers? Do they ponder, too? I think so. Motherhood is an awesome responsibility. Every baby deserves a father and a mother to share in the responsibility of parenting.

When Jesus was 12 years old, Mary, and Joseph, too, no doubt pondered about His statement, “How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my father’s business?” (Luke 2:49). How did He know that He was the Son of God if they had not told Him about

His miraculous birth?

At the cross, Joseph is not mentioned. He must have died sometime during the previous 21 years. If so, Mary may have pondered why Jesus didn’t heal him or raise him from the dead, as He had done for others. Then what about her Son being crucified? That was really something to ponder.

Mary pondered the fact of Jesus’ birth but she also pondered the fact of His death. Fortunately, she could also ponder the fact of His resurrection.

I suppose all mothers ponder the birth of their helpless little babies, such as you and I once were. We would do well to remember how dependent we once were, and things haven’t changed very much. We are still dependent upon others from all over the world, for many things, and we are dependent upon God for the breath of life. Mothers know that, especially about babies. Mothers ponder about many things.

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*He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his
going down.*

*Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts
of the forest do creep forth.*

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