

The Silver Lining



*If a tree stands close to its neighbor, each will be protected from the elements.
So also it is with people on earth...*

March 2000

“BE CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS”

Sermon by Bro. Ben Wiegand, Philadelphia, PA

2 Chronicles 23:1-11 and Titus 3:1-9

As we have been reminded, certainly each one of us in the past day, of the most precious gift that was given to each one of us—the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, here upon this earth. He was given to us to show us the way. We can read about it in Paul’s writing to the church of Corinth, the more excellent way. But then, there are instructions for how we should walk.

Just as yesterday afternoon and evening, whenever the time would be as each family does it a little bit different, we open up a gift and on the gift sometimes there are instructions for usage. We know that if we want to get the full value out of the gift, we must use it in a certain way. There are instructions, there are helpful guidelines, and there are helpful things for us to do as believers to make sure the gift has been applied to our heart. The gift has actually been a part of our life. Maybe we just see the gift there upon the floor and put it in the corner and not use it. Or maybe we open it up and say, “Well, that is a nice gift, but maybe another day I will use it.”

As believers of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are instructed to show how much value we place upon this gift that someone gave us by the things that we do on a daily basis. Notice here, the first thought—and there are many thoughts through here—the first thought is we need to be careful of those things of the people that we are working with and we interact with here upon this earth.

What it means, loved ones, that so many times we say (or say to myself) we want to do something big and we want to do something that would really be important for

the Lord. What does the Lord ask of us to do? No more than we can. He reminds us that in every instance, and that is the thought, we should be what? Careful to maintain good works. We look and read of the Lord and Master and it says as His manner was on the Sabbath day, He went into the synagogue. As His manner was in the evening, He went to the mount to pray.

Loved ones, we don’t know much about the Lord when He was twelve until He was about thirty. Can’t we just imagine with an eye of faith and in our heart, He was learning patience...He was learning prayer...He was setting those good habits in order for when the battles of life came (which they did in His life)? Even certainly in our life, if the foundation is set and founded and sure upon none other than the Chief Cornerstone, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, but in all things here, we maintain good works so that in all things our manner of conversation can be known to all men.

Did you ever read the next verse after that? It says why the Lord is at hand. “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.” (Philippians 4:5). We probably thought about it many, many times, for the Lord, as we sing in a hymn, He will never leave us alone. When we wake up in the morning, He is right there with us. He is at our hand. He is right there at hand...walking beside us...just waiting there with His arms open. If we ask for help, He is ready to give it to us. He is at hand. You know He is also at hand knowing that one day He is going to come again. The time is at hand. Are we ready? Are we watchful? Are we prayerful?

You know how hard it is. I think if we would turn to James and try to find out about this one here in the first chapter. It says about one who tried to do two things. Maybe on Sunday, it would be a certain way, and then throughout the week, it would be a different way. Or maybe one of those people who they know will be one way, and then when around someone they

Sermon continued on page 44

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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

March 2000

Deception I

"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field..." "and the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die:..." (Gen. 3:1 & 4). Almost since the beginning of time mankind has been subjected to deceit and lies. The author of deception, of course, is Satan and his goal is to make us believe a lie.

To be deceived is to be in the unfortunate position of believing a lie and to be following a wrong course. Deception is often difficult to identify and even harder to unveil, because the one who is deceived genuinely believes that what he or she believes is the truth.

The scriptures contain many warnings about deception which seem to fall into two categories. The first category is the type of deception that is designed to aid selfish ambition and the second type of deception occurs when those who are deceived are in danger of eternal damnation.

The first type of deception is illustrated when Joseph's brothers lied to their father about what happened to Joseph. Because of their jealousy, the brothers used deception to achieve a selfish goal. Another example of this kind of deception involved Absalom, son of King David who wanted to be the king of the Children of Israel. Realizing there were others more likely to become king, Absalom put himself in a position where he influenced many of the Children of Israel by making them think if he were the king their concerns would be handled more justly than by King David, "...so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (II Sam. 15:6).

Not only do the deceivers put themselves in danger of eternal damnation, but, the second and more serious type of deception, where individuals are influenced to believe a lie, can also cause them to be put in danger of eternal damnation.

In Matthew 24:4-5, 11-12, Jesus warned of this kind of deception.

"Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." "And many false prophets shall rise, and

shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold". Thus, Jesus knew that there would be false teachers and false messages and that these would cause spiritual shipwreck for many.

Likewise, the Apostle Paul warned us that those who were involved in sin shall not inherit the kingdom of God. "Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters ...nor covetous ...shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:9-10). Further, there were those who taught that the grace of God was so great that it didn't really matter if one lived in sin as long as they believed in the grace of God. But Paul wrote "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Ro. 6:1-2).

Although the grace of God is boundless, we cannot, as Paul said, continue in sin and misuse the grace of God to cover these sins. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). The scripture is very clear that sin has its price and that we must be spiritually alert that we be not deceived.

Even though we typically assume that deception is reserved for those who have never known the Lord, we are warned that even believers can and will be deceived. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (II Thess. 2:3).

The Apostle Paul was writing to the church of the Thessalonians about believers who had once known the truth but had a "falling away". We cannot fall away from something we never had. These believers were encouraged to remain faithful and to avoid the teaching of anyone "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God" (II Thess. 2:4).

Likewise, we are encouraged to remain faithful to the teachings of God. Those who refuse to love the truth of God shall find themselves among those

who will feel the wrath of God. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they might all be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thess. 2:11).

How can we know whom we should follow? The scripture tells us plainly: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous ...He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning" (I John 3:7-8). "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16). Therefore, no matter how sincere someone may be about what he or she believes, if that individual's life does not measure up to the Word of God, we then know that he or she is not of God. The scripture promises us that "...every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit" (Matt. 7:17).

History is filled with examples of people who were sincere in what they believed, but unfortunately what they believed was wrong. One example of this type of deception is the prophets of Baal. They were completely convinced that they were right. They were so sincere that they were willing to call upon Baal from morning until the evening sacrifice. "And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them" (I Kings 18:28). Despite their sincerity and willingness to go beyond reasonable dedication, they received no answer. They were deceived into believing that Baal was real and would answer them.

The scriptures warn us that deception is a tool of the devil by which both those who deceive and those who are deceived are in danger of eternal damnation. We must continually "prove all things: hold fast to that which is good," for "there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (I Thess. 5:21; Prov. 14:12).

The next article will focus on how we become deceived.



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 Improves its Structure

Contributed by Bro. Arnold Gerst,
Chairman USA Board

The Lord has blessed the efforts of the World Relief Committee from its humble beginning to the present time. He has given our brotherhood countless opportunities to "do good to all men, especially unto those who are of the household of faith". (GALATIANS 6:10) AS the opportunities multiplied, the number of individuals involved and the complexity of the World Relief organization has increased. As with every successful and expanding endeavor, good communication can be difficult, if not impossible, when the correct individual does not receive needed information.

Several years ago the World Relief opportunities were assigned to the Caribbean Board, European Board, India Board, Mexico Board, and the USA Board, based on geographical areas. The current exception to the geographical criteria is the Child Sponsorship Board. Each board, with its counseling elder, is charged with the first line planning and decision making for World Relief activities in its particular region or area of responsibility. All new plans approved by the various boards are brought to the World Relief Committee for final approval and for funding if required. The Mission Committee sends two representatives to every World Relief Committee meeting to provide counsel regarding the spiritual aspects of existing and proposed projects.

All financial collections for World Relief, not retained for local projects, should be sent to Bro. Jerry

Bauman, World Relief Committee Treasurer. If there are funds designated for a particular region or project, this should be noted on the Treasurer Representative's Report and Transmittal form. Bro. Jerry will forward the designated funds to the board responsible for the region or project. His address is Jerry Bauman, 9652 Sterling Road, Rittman, OH 44270.

All communications with the national World Relief Committee, such as dealing with the procedures, minutes of the meetings and updating the Treasurer Representative list, should be send to the new World Relief Committee Secretary:

Bro. Terry Kuenzi.
6840 Burnett Street SE
Salem, OR 97301.
503/362-3275 Phone
503-362-3214 Fax

Questions, concerns, comments, and project suggestions should be directed to the regional board involved. The following contacts should provide the proper lines of communications for most, if not all, situations.

Child Sponsorship Board

Bro. Mark Wuthrich
309/263-0691 Phone
wuth@dpc.net

Caribbean Board

Bro. Roger Sauder
954/281-0947 Phone
954/581-3228 Fax

- ◆ Liaison Coordinators
- ◆ Work Teams – Schools
- ◆ Medical Ministries, Clinics, Hospitals, Nursing Homes
- ◆ Water Aid
- ◆ Agriculture Assistance
- ◆ Vocational Schools
- ◆ Grain Shipping

European Board

Bro. Gene Lehman,
219/261-3313 Phone
219/261-2842 Fax
opalehman@juno.com

- ◆ Hungary – Cash aid
- ◆ Romania – Cash, Food, Self-Help
- ◆ Yugoslavia & Ukraine
Cash, Self-Help
- ◆ Slovakia & Croatia – Cash

India Board

Elder Bro. John Klotzle
626/794-2262 Phone
626/794-0814 Fax

- ◆ Mission Activity
- ◆ Medical, Food, Clothing
- ◆ Orphanages
- ◆ Construction Aid

Mexico Board

Bro. Mike Fiechter
219/597-7330 Phone
219/597-7475 Fax

- ◆ Construction, Medical & Dental Work Teams
- ◆ Ixtlan
- ◆ Food, Supplies
- ◆ Orphanage

USA Board

Bro. Arnold Gerst
217/223-8424 Phone
217/223-0116 Fax

- ◆ Disaster Aid Work Teams
- ◆ School, Health Kits
- ◆ Soap Making
- ◆ Construction Teams
- ◆ Non-profit Organizations with needs

Finally, be ye all of one mind,
having compassion one of
another, love as brethren, be
pitiful, be courteous. (1 PETER 3:8)



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

The Kimono and Mt. Fuji

The kimono and Mt. Fuji are symbols of Japan. Our church in Japan is what this article is about. The kimono is a beautiful garment for ladies, although quite uncomfortable, I am told, because of the tight obi or waste band. Kimonos are now worn mostly on special occasions. As to Mt. Fuji, it is the most symmetrical mountain in the world, having been formed by a volcano, the last eruption, a small one, having taken place in 1707. Japan is the gateway to the huge continent of Asia, where the masses live, especially in China and India.

As to how we came to have a church in Japan, there is a write-up on the history of our Japan Church in the book, *Marching to Zion*.

We have two main churches in Japan, Shioda and Tokyo. The Shioda church was built and dedicated in 1956 and presently has 14 members, four brothers and 10 sisters. Four of these members are from Tamahata, about 12 miles from Shioda, where we have another church, the building of which is not used very much at the present time. There is now only one meeting a month in our Tamahata Church, the second Sunday of every month. Our numbers are few so we like to have the Tamahata members attend our Shioda Church. However, some friends in Tamahata earnestly request at least one meeting a month in that location.

The Shioda Church is about 80 miles west of Tokyo in a rural, peach growing area. It is surrounded by mountains, including the snow-capped South Alps. It is here that the church had an American Kindergarten for 26 years where American sisters came to teach. The kindergarten was closed in 1992 because it did not bring anyone into the church and because it was increasingly difficult to find teachers to come. Japan is a very affluent country and is no longer in need of assistance by volunteers from other countries. Even in the present, long-lasting recession, Japan is affluent as a whole, the second strongest economy in the world, although the population is about half that of the U.S. and the size of the country is about

1/25th the size of the U.S. Japan is about the size of California or Montana.

The Tokyo Church is located in the western part of the city, in the suburbs, in a place called Tsutsujiga-Oka, or Azalea Hill. It was built and dedicated in 1959. There is an expressway between the two churches so travel time by auto is about one hour and fifteen minutes, when the roads are not crowded with Tokyo traffic trying to get out of the city and then back in again, to get to work the following day. The charge for using the expressway between the two churches is 2,600 yen, or about \$23, one way, at the present rate of exchange of 109 yen to the dollar.

The Tokyo Church has 15 members, 6 of whom are brothers. There are 3 American sisters and 2 American brothers in Tokyo, while Shioda has just 1 American sister and 1 American brother. More are welcome to come and live in Japan, if they support the church well.

Less than 1% of the population of Japan professes to be Christian. The pressure to follow Buddhist and Shinto customs is very great. Many who make a beginning, return to the socially accepted practices of offering incense at Buddhist funerals and going to the Shinto Shrine at New Years to pray for health and prosperity during the new

year. To what gods they pray now is not clear, although during World War II, Shintoism was the instrument used by the government to instill extreme loyalty to the Emperor and to one's ancestors. Then they prayed to the Emperor, but after the war, General MacArthur required that he denounce his divinity. In our churches in Japan, we have lost more than 50% of those baptized so we are now trying to be more careful. Your prayers are appreciated.

We welcome guests to Japan and there is a friend in our Tokyo church who is generally available to be a guide for guests desiring to travel in Japan. If you come to Japan, the land of the Kimono and Mt. Fuji, and stay a while, you will come to understand America better. God bless you, we love you.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

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

Eccles. 3:1

The winter season is definitely upon us, as the snow continues to pile up outside. Snowmen and snowflakes are decorating many of the walls and bedrooms here at the home. Most recently, hearts have emerged for Valentine's Day, and we're already talking about the warmer weather "just around the corner". It reminds us all of the changing seasons and God's presence in this world. We're thankful He is in control.

"A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"

Eccles. 3:2

We are all saddened by the death of two of our beloved residents, Bernice Heiniger and Janet Smiley. Bernice has been with us for 23 years. She had such a sweet smile and was so easy to love. Janet has only lived here for three years, but it didn't take long for us all to become quite attached to her. We will miss them both. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

APRIL birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE are: Gail Kennedy (4), Velma Hoffman (6), Jason Gingrich (7), Angela Poehlman (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Zita Palko (27) and Jon Terhorst (30). At OAKWOOD ESTATE: Sonja Metzger (14) and Mark Gundy (17). At LINDEN ESTATE: Jane Kohler (1) and Nancy Jones (27).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

**Janice Anliker
Melissa Frieden**

It's 7:30 a.m. and time to begin our daily devotions at Gateway Woods School. This is truly the most important part of our day, as we pray that seeds of faith can be planted and someday bear fruit.

"A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with pa-

tience."

Luke 8:5-15

As teachers, we try to plant the seeds of Christ's all encompassing love, but we know that only God can give the increase.

Our day continues with two classrooms of students in 7th-12th grade and GED classes. The students study subjects including Pre-Algebra, Physical Science, Writing, World History, Literature, and an ethics course called Managing Your Life Under God. This course gives us the opportunity to teach the application of Christian principles in daily life. After lunch we then have a volunteer program, through a grant provided by Learn and Serve of Indiana. We split the time between L.A.M.B.'S Christian Daycare, where the students teach a Bible lesson and coordinate activities with a Kindergarten class, and Cedars Retirement Home where the students interact with the residents. This has really taught all of us to reach out to others and not be so focused on ourselves. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).

The new semester at Gateway Woods School has brought some exciting changes. We have accepted our first foster care student, Becca G., and we will soon be getting our first placement from the Dept. of Corrections. This has brought about new challenges as we expand our enrollment beyond our campus.

The children we have in Gateway Woods School have been placed here for several reasons, including behavior and attitude problems, expulsion, and suspensions. One of our goals is for them to be able to handle a public school environment, academically and socially. So far this semester we have

had two students, Dustin S. and Lydia A., graduate from our program and return to public school. Other campus news includes the arrival of Jasmine H. and Tyler J. to the Kipfer house and Amanda C. to the Bauman house. We will soon be saying our good-byes to Laura E. as she returns home to her family. Our Specialized Foster Care Program has recently placed two children, Kris and Victor, with the Snodgrass family.

We are rejoicing with the Wiegand's as they bring home baby Gabriella from the hospital. We are thankful that she is now over 3 pounds and breathing on her own. "...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14).

Please continue to pray for our current job openings. We have the need for an Education Coordinator, Alternate Houseparents, and Assistant Houseparents. Please see the notice in this issue or call for more details about these positions.

All are welcome to our Representative Meetings to be held on March 11 in Leo, Indiana, and on March 25 in Goodfield, Illinois. (PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THE GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS, MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE 25TH OF MARCH.) If you are interested in Gateway Woods, would like to learn more about our various programs, and meet with current Gateway Woods staff members, please join us. Contact the Gateway Woods Office for more information (toll-free: 888/443-4283).

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

**Athens, Alabama
Tom Schrenk**

As we begin the last month of this quarter, we see many changes in the lives of our little ones that come each day. They sense that our

winter is almost over and nice warm, sunny days mean more playtime outside. I was observing our circle time my first morning here and noticed how these children listened to the Bible story. When questions were asked, all hands raised to give an answer. It was a lesson for me because we, as adults, are sometimes hesitant to respond to a question concerning our faith and the peace and joy we have because of Jesus. As I begin my duties here at the school, and as all the staff has supported so well, we ask for your continued prayers that God's will be done.

A few weeks ago, Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) came and installed eight computers for us. We thank Bro. Tom and Sis. Susan for their work and fellowship. Along with the hour of classroom work, we now have added two thirty minute computer classes each day. The kids enjoy learning the different shapes, colors, numbers and Bible pictures and stories.

We are always thankful for those who come to give of themselves to work and spend time in the preschool. Bro. Sam Schlatter and his wife, Sis. Linda, recently spent six weeks here and we thank them for their service, both in the preschool and also in ministering God's Word to the church.

We continue to seek those who have a desire to serve God by helping the preschool. We have many different areas in which one could help, such as volunteer to help for a day, week or longer. As this school year comes to a close, there may be a need for a teacher, for the next school year, which starts in mid-August. It is not too early to seek God's direction in our lives, on how He would have us serve Him. Also we continue to need financial support through our child sponsorship program. This is sometimes done individually or through a group, such as a Sunday School

class.

We find that good things happen when we seek to do the Father's will. We are always thankful for the prayers and support of the church. For anyone wanting information concerning the preschool's needs, please contact Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035 or Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard

We were reminded of the brevity of life and the way of all mankind with the passing of our Bro. William Robinson on January 21. Bro. William is well remembered for his many years of service as he faithfully drove the church bus to pick up those who needed a ride to church. His funeral service was held on January 24 at the church and we wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to his family.

A note of apology for failing to mention the birth of McKayla Alexandria Flanagan on January 10 to Heather Flanagan. She is welcomed by grandparents, Jeff and Janice Flanagan, and great-grandparents, Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall. We pray all will go well with Heather as she has had a little trouble recovering and that little McKayla can be raised up to know our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Again, we would continue to lift up our Bro. Ed Haggemaker in prayer during his slow recovery. Please also remember his family during this trying time. We do hope he can reassemble with us soon.

We wish to express our thanks to Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) for their time of service here in Athens for six weeks. We really appreciated Bro. Sam allowing himself to be used, on the pulpit and off, as he spent a lot of time doing some maintenance work at the church

and preschool. We also are thankful for Sis. Linda's work at the preschool and for the church.

We are also thankful for Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) who shared by ministering to us, and for our other visitors that were with us this month. They were from Mansfield, OH; Milford, IN; and Princeville, IL. We do thank each one for being with us and ask that you come again anytime.

As the month of February is upon us, we think of the mid-winter Elder Conference. We ask that the Lord's work can be done, and that He will bless our church and our leaders. May each one seek the Lord's guidance with humility and fervor, and may each of us strive to follow according to God's Word.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

John 13:34

As we ready for Easter, our Lord's crucifixion is foremost in our minds, and His love multiplies when we share it with others. He went to the cross for you and me; let us give love to each other. As we read of Christ's ministry, each Gospel is a bit different. However, the cry "crucify Him" as you read in all four Gospels, puts you in the large group following Him. Praise be to God, He arose!

Leah Marie Witzig was born January 26 to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia. Alyssa will enjoy her playmate before long. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schamback (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lila Witzig (Peoria, IL).

Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) were our guest ministers. We thank them for their encouraging messages.

Candice Klopfenstein (Jeff) has peace with God and is awaiting baptism. We all rejoice when a loved one is ready for such an important event.

We need your prayers for our many loved ones not able to be out and about, including: Sis. Irene Emch, Bro. Richard Schupbach, Sis. Gladys Knoblock, who had back surgery, and Sis. Josie Esterling, who had heart bypass surgery.

Many attend World Relief workshops held bimonthly. Various activities and projects brighten other lives. Our World Relief Committee held a tea for our seniors on February 12. We enjoyed a lovely Valentine Brunch and may God bless each of you who made it possible.

Our monthly Church Fellowship dinner and singing was held January 30. We thank Sis. Cindy Langhofer and her committee for one of our most favorite get-togethers.

Our Elder brothers winter Conference is February 16-18. May they feel God's presence as our church order is prayed about and discussed. Preservation of our church for our grandchildren is our prayer and concern.

We are enjoying many winter visitors. Thank you for making our fellowship even more close knit. Big families are delightful, especially with God as the center of our lives.

Silver Lining offerings will be taken the month of March. Your checks or cash may be given to your reporters.

Got a problem? Talk to God!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalms 75:1

On February 13, we assembled for the first time in our beautiful new church. Over sixty attended our worship service with Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich bringing us God's message. We feel so blessed by God and thankful to Him and the many workers, lots of them volunteers, who made our church building a reality. We have held church services in the Prescott area since 1984, and as we sat in our own sanctuary that Sunday morning, many of us could hardly believe the day had finally arrived. Praise God! We invite all to come worship with us and share in our blessing.

In addition to Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, our ministering brothers in the last month included Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO). Bro. Arnie and his wife, Sis. Marjorie, plan to stay with us for a month, including our dedication service planned for March 12.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We recently enjoyed a visit from Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) who was willing to serve on the pulpit during his visit. We thank him for his service and ask that God would add His blessing.

Our converts, Carrie Kaufman, Mindy Bauer and Ben Gudeman, have been announced for peace.

March 18 is the date set for the testimonies with baptisms, Lord willing, following on March 19. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend.

Our Bible Class recently traveled to Phoenix over the President's Day weekend to fellowship with the Altadena, Phoenix and San Diego Bible classes. Many thanks to the Phoenix Sunday School for hosting a wonderful weekend for everyone.

We are enjoying a rainy, cold snap the last few days which is so much fun for us. We are starting up the fireplace and getting out our jackets. So nice for a change! We are thankful for the rain as we are really far behind in our rainfall this year.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

During Jesus' ministry, He not only fed, healed and taught thousands, but trained up a select group of disciples to spread the Gospel after His ascension. Realizing that His time on the earth was short, Jesus' every instruction was full of great wisdom. The principles which He taught them are still true and just as vital to believers today. Let's redeem the time allotted to us, making the words of Christ an integrated part of our lives. Here are some of the very words of our Lord.

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Matthew 7:3

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."

Matthew 5:6

"But the Comforter, which is

the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26

We thank those visitors who came to Altadena to help us celebrate the 70th birthday of our dear Elder Bro. John Klotzle. Among the visitors were ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Greg Lehman (Remington, IN).

Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl (Bro. Tom) is recovering after surgery this month.

Our friend, Dorothy Vermillion, spent two weeks in a nursing and therapy facility recovering from a broken hip, and is now at home under the care of her son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Gail Vermillion. We look forward to seeing her back in church again soon.

Bro. Virgil Graf has spent a week in Juarez, Mexico with a medical mission team.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

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

Psalms 122:1

Truly each and every time we go to God's house of worship, it makes us glad. Glad, most of all for the Word which He does share with us through His servants. But also for the blessed fellowship that we do share with our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord and our many friends. We were made glad this month also by the many winter visitors that have come. We were thankful to have had two ministering brothers and their wives among them: Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Ed

Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). We pray the Lord will bless them in their service to Him.

Our Bible Class traveled to Phoenix for their annual weekend of fellowship. They had an enjoyable time. We want to thank all those that had a part in making it so.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Laura Baxter

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Mark 10:9

On February 6, with much joy we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Nathan Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Miriam Fortenbacher (Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret). It was encouraging to see how God had worked in their lives to bring them together and to witness the love He has given them for each other. May they not allow any man to put asunder what God has joined together. We also warmly welcome Bro. Nathan to our congregation, as they are living in the Kitchener area.

We enjoyed the many visitors this past month and we thank our visiting ministers for their love and labors in the ministry. They were: our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), and Bros. Dan Stoller, Warren Zahner and Duane Reutter (all of Rockville, CT).

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

Reminder: March is the collection month in Kitchener for Silver Lining donations.

COLORADO, DENVER
Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

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

Romans 8:28

"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

Psalms 40:3

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."

Psalms 73:28

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

Psalms 91:2

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

Our congregation gathered with Bro. Verne and Sis. Leona Lehman to celebrate the 5th anniversary of Verne's "second life". Five years ago, Verne was very close to death as his heart was seriously ill. After a successful heart transplant, Verne recovered and has been telling people about the miraculous powers of the Great Physician ever since. As part of the celebration, Verne shared his life story, telling us of many times he could have or should have been dead. Instead, God decided that he should live. Verne is not trying to lean to his own understanding, but is praising and trusting God, and sharing God's Word with everyone he can. Maybe that's why God

wants him alive, because he is willing to share God's Word with anyone, however he can. Do you share God's good news enough that God would want to save your life for that reason? Congratulations, Verne and Leona. We do love you both!

Unfortunately, we all still live on this earth. And even though God allows some to live, He allows others to pass away. We sorrow with Sis. Erica Schambach as we heard of the passing of her Grandpa Berton Auld from St. Charles, IL. We pray that your trust in God will heal your sorrow. We are also thankful that your trip back to Illinois with your husband, Bro. Eric, and children was safe.

Last month we elected new volunteers to various positions to keep our church organized, growing, and caring. Sis. Mary Berg is now on the kitchen committee and has quickly proven her abilities. Sis. Marcel Huber is once again on the World Relief Committee where she is so capable. Bro. Doug Mangers is a trustee, a position where he can use many of the talents God has given him. Bro. Nate Lehman is the treasurer/secretary, keeping us organized and on budget, very similar to the way he so aptly performs this task at work. We do thank the previous holders of these positions: Sis. Leona Lehman, Sis. Cindy Schmidt, Bro. Joe Hohulin, and Bro. Eric Huber. Thanks for your dedication and hard work.

We deeply thank Elder Bros. Nate Steffen, John Lehman and Gene Marti for once again visiting us, enriching us and helping us conduct necessary church business. As always, we enjoy your visits and your fellowship. Please feel welcome to come any time. We also thank Bro. Ken Knapp and his wife, Sis. Phyllis, for stopping by on a Sunday during their vacation to our area.

With a unanimous vote, the Denver congregation decided that we should seek God's will in building a new church. Our attendance has grown significantly over the years; our assembly, dining room and fellowship area is often overflowing during the summer months; our current building is beginning to need substantial updates and refurbishment. We trust that God will direct our efforts to seek property, funds and commitment.

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat

Be present, gracious Father,
 To give away this bride,
 As Eve thou gav'st to Adam
 Out of his own pierced side.

Hymns of Zion #196

Bro. Nathan Reutter and Sis. Miriam Fortenbacher were united in Holy Matrimony on February 6. Their parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ontario, Canada). We will surely miss Bro. Nathan as he moves to Canada to join his wife, but we are joyful for the brethren in Kitchener who will surely benefit.

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

Proverbs 18:22

The engagement of Bro. Nathan Gasser (Dave and Gail, Philadelphia, PA) and Sis. Mary Elizabeth Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma) was made known unto us. God has also led Bro. Kevin Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Katie Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl) to be-

come husband and wife. As both of these couples prepare for their marriage, may they again seek His counsel and direction.

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). Our prayers and sympathy extend to the family of Sis. Helen Heintz. May God comfort her dear husband, Bro. Lester Heintz; son, Russell (Laurie); daughters, Jeannie VanSickle (Larry) and Sis. Marjorie (Champaign, IL); brothers, Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence) and Bro. Emmanuel Kloter (Sis. Helen), and other family members.

Our prayers also arise for loved ones that have been sick or hospitalized in the past days: Bro. Emmanuel Kloter (Sis. Helen), Ernie Limberger and Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl (Sis. Evelyn). May God heal according to His will.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

The Bible talks about the Lord coming suddenly and warns us to beware when people say peace and safety. We had a taste of that with snow this year. The evening news said we would get some snow beginning "tomorrow evening". I woke up the next morning to the radio closing all the schools and many of the businesses in the area. (Unfortunately they didn't close the Federal Government until Bro. Barry Steffen was on his way to work and returning trains only run in the evening.) Folks in the Midwest may find it strange, but around here if more than two inches of snow are predicted, the stores are crowded with folks buying milk, bread and toilet paper. If it is your regular evening to shop or you just run out of milk, plan on an extra half-hour to an hour at the store.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We appreciate these brothers and their families coming to serve us.

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one-mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30. If there is an interest expressed by our visitors, we gather Saturday evening for fellowship and/or singing.

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE Gretchen Webb

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me;

God wanted me now, He set me free.

—*author unknown*

Bro. Roy Van Norman passed away on January 27. We extend our love and sympathy to his wife, Sis. Delores, and pray the Lord will comfort her and her family during this time.

Robert and Beth Houk welcomed John Matthew into their home on December 13. He joins his sister, Juliana. Grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein. We pray God will bless the newest addition to their family.

The annual Sunday School Spa-

ghetti Supper was held on February 20. It was an evening when the church family could gather and fellowship together. Our Sunday School presented a program about Nehemiah. We were reminded to face our challenges and that we are tall when we fall on our knees. The Men's Choir sang a few selections. The evening was a blessing for all who attended.

We wish to extend our appreciation to our visiting ministers this month. We thank our counseling Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) for sharing the Word and the Memorandum with us. We also thank Bro. Brandon Emch for sharing the Word. We pray that God will bless him as he begins his work for the Lord.

FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS Anjie Baum

You know the old saying "it's famine or feast"? Well, our summer "famine" is over and we are certainly enjoying our winter "feast" of visitors! We want to extend our appreciation to all who have worshipped with us and particularly to the following visiting ministers for their teaching of the Word: Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MI), Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). Know that we are truly grateful for each of you.

Thank you to Elder Bros. Doug Sabo and Wendell Gudeman for sharing the Memorandum with us.

Ray and Rosemary Piper again hosted their annual Valentine's Day night of fellowship. Many people volunteered their talents in songs, readings and thoughts about the bountiful love we are privileged to share in our Lord Jesus. Ray and Rosemary are a fine example of this love, which makes it so easy to love and appreciate them.

Our church building was bursting with over 300 people when we recently hosted a potluck dinner and barbecue. A men's choir of 32 members from the Florida churches (including winter residents) sang for us. It was a blessed day of fellowship, worship and praise. Our thanks to the men who participated in the choir.

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

II Peter 1:2

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Rachel Sabo

The weekend of February 4 was a busy and blessed one for Sarasota. We were privileged to host the "Hands in Praise" team from Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf, Jamaica. On Friday evening they performed a very inspiring program using music, skits, and sign language. Then on Saturday morning, they were also present at our Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at the Fellowship Hall. This was a fundraiser for the young members who are going to Kingston, Jamaica, on a work team in March. A special "thank you" to all who helped at the breakfast and the program, and to all of you who showed your loving and generous support for our work at CCCD. The

young group also hosted a noon cook-out at Pinecraft Park on Saturday for the visiting Jamaicans.

We are so thankful to report that Bro. John Krstec (Sis. Biserka) is doing satisfactory following heart surgery. Let's continue to pray for Bro. John and his family.

Our love and appreciation goes to the following who visited us this past month: Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), and ministering Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Doyle Frauhofer (Bluffton North, IN) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

We are very thankful for each one who came and helped us this past weekend with our landscape project. The weather started out cool and drizzly but the sun came out and we were able to complete the project on Saturday. May God richly bless each one who came. We now have a date set for Open House and Dedication: July 1 and 2. We look forward to all who will be able to come.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been: Bros. Art Bauer (Princeville, IL), Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). We certainly appreciate their willingness to proclaim God's Holy Word in truth and purity. May God richly reward them for their labors.

Our church rejoices with Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser as God has brought Ashlyn Rose safely into this world. Also rejoicing are Drew, Elise and Sheree along with grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen Getz (Remington, IN). May God continue to grant

them Godly wisdom as they strive to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We look forward to seeing visitors in church. Fellowship is so important and we appreciate each one of you who come. Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at 6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd., Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 13. (The exit numbers are being changed to correspond with the mile markers. The new number will be Exit 64. This should take place by sometime this summer.) Go west four miles and the church will be on your left. Please contact one of the following brothers to let us know of your plans: Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554; Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701; or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Oh the peace and joy that we have in our hearts when we can share the gifts the Lord has blessed us with. We hope the rest home residents enjoyed our singing on January 23 as much as we enjoy praising the Lord by lifting our voices to praise and honor His name.

O, Thou Spirit which has given to me grace to seek my Lord,
Teach me strive for love of
Heaven

and to love Thy precious word
Love has mercy and is patient;
hasty ways it does not own;
Humbleness of mind is present;
With true peace it has its home.

Zion's Harp #37

As Valentine's Day is observed in the month of February, how blessed we are to know the love of the Lord and the peace from on high that the world knows nothing of.

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

I Cor. 11:28-29

We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach spend a Sunday with us and to share the Communion exhortation with us. How thankful we are for the efforts of our Elder brothers and ministering brethren who faithful remain the watchmen on the walls and who are concerned with our spiritual welfare. May we all spend some time on our knees making sure we are at peace with our brethren.

Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) once again shared the Word with a group of us who meet in Madison, WI. What a wonderful break in our week to be able to spend some much needed time in the Word and fellowship with kindred hearts and minds. Thank you, Bro. DeWayne, for sharing so much of your time with us. We appreciate your efforts.

Sundays are much looked forward to every week. How wonderful to be able to drop the cares of the world, to hear words of encouragement, to know loved ones are lifting you up in prayer. As the cares and worries of our busy life often weigh heavy on our shoulders, may we all take the advice of a dear Sister who said, "Don't worry, Mom, just keep praying!"

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Sara Streitmatter
Dana Knapp**

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 3:9

On January 16, we welcomed Bro. Tim Schmidgall and Sis. Alissa Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj) to our church family. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) was with us on Saturday night

and assisted Elder Bro. Everett Hari. We wish to express our thanks to Bro. Tom for his willingness to serve us in this way. On February 5 and 6, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three more souls, Sis. Jessica Basham, Sis. Brooke Basham (Fred, Remington, IN, and Sis. Mary) and Bro. John Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty). We thank Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for being with us and sharing with us God's Word. May the Lord continue to direct the steps of these young lambs.

We are also rejoicing that Brad Hays (Patty Hays, Chicago, IL) has surrendered his life to God's call. We wish him much grace in the months ahead.

Two new baby boys entered the world this month. Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Fischer became parents as their first child, Nathaniel Paul, was born on January 25. Grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Frederick Fischer of Roanoke, IL and the late Roger and Elizabeth Vail of Tiskilwa, IL.

Seth Matthew is the second child of Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp. Seth was born on February 3 and was welcomed home by big sister, Lexi, and proud grandparents, Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp and Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart (Fairbury, IL). We pray for God's guidance as these two couples raise their families.

We were excited to hear the engagement of Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) to Sis. Jamie Ringger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla, Gridley, IL) on January 16. May the Lord continue to guide you in all things as you prepare for married life.

We ask God to comfort Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine Mariani and their family as Bro. Larry's father has passed away. Bro. Mark Streitmatter's aunt has also passed away suddenly this month. May you have many wonderful memories in your heart of those that you love and are no longer on this earth.

Bro. Rick Hany spent a short time in the hospital this month. We pray for his continued healing and for all those who have suffered from winter sicknesses.

We welcome Sis. Charity Isabel from Remington, IN to our Bloomington-Normal church. We look forward to getting to know you better.

January 19 was our semi-annual business meeting. We heard updates on the building project and on various other things. We thank all those who help to make our church function.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. was with us on February 9 and talked about depression. He helped us identify what it is, what some of the causes are, what we can do about it and how we can help ourselves or others who are struggling with it. We thank Bro. Ted for sharing this

valuable information with us.

We are praying for the Elders as they are meeting at the mid-winter Conference. May God guide them in all things and give them much wisdom. We also would like to thank each of them, especially our Elder Bro. Everett Hari and his wife, Sis. Bev, for the many hours of travel, personal time, and prayers they spend on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Chad and LauraLee Plattner

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

Proverbs 11:14

It was a blessing to receive counsel through the Memorandum. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) with us for this occasion.

We are thankful to recently have had other visiting brothers minister to us. May God bless Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for their unselfishness in serving the Lord.

ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Samuel and Pamela Furrer

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

Eccles. 3:1

Sis. Margie Heintz experienced the loss of her mother, Sis. Helen Heintz, of Rockville, CT. We did not know Helen well since their visits here have not been frequent, but we do know how much Margie enjoyed the time she spent with her parents during breaks from her teaching career. Though we

know that those who are much older will someday depart from us, we still must deal with the actual parting and our missing their continuing presence in our lives. Our church's prayers are with Margie and her family through this time of parting and as they continue their lives without their very special one.

Though few from outside our own congregation were acquainted with her, Jane Scott was for many years a very vibrant part of our family here. Jane and her late husband Edward attended our church for more than 20 years, gracing us with a certain degree of elegance. Following a period of illness, Jane passed away in late January. At her visitation, the family displayed many photos from Jane's childhood in Chicago through her days as a young woman, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. Some of us there commented on what a graceful person she appeared to be even from the early photos. Jane's graceful demeanor, kind words, and ready joyfulness and cheer will certainly be missed.

Ryan Robb, one of our graduate students, was recently surprised to return from a quick trip to the grocery store and find a fire truck in his parking space. He was even more surprised to learn that a fire had started in his apartment while he was out for only that short time. The fire was quickly extinguished, but Ryan and his brother lost everything in their apartment. This will likely prolong his graduate studies, as part of his writing on his thesis was destroyed. We are thankful for God's protection that Ryan and Rusty were not harmed in the blaze and that they are doing well.

On a much more up-beat note, our children from the Sunday School have made the best of the

winter's snow. Our energetic (and perhaps brave) Sunday School teachers treated the kids to an evening of sledding on one of the area sledding hills. Though it was cold, the fun warmed each little body. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to our Sunday School teachers and our college students who so willingly give of their own time to be such important models for our young children.

Visiting his family here, Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) ministered to us on a Sunday in late January. Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) delivered the message on a Wednesday evening. We thank them for coming and for preaching the Word and ask a blessing on their duties. We also thank those individuals and couples who were with us for the day when we had our invite-a-friend Sunday. Visitors are always welcome!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

As I put these words on the paper, there is a freshly fallen blanket of snow blowing around outdoors. My children have requested hot chocolate to drink when they come in from playing in nature's newest delivery of snow. This week I have been battling the tendency to become cold and mechanical, just going through the motions without much enthusiasm or purpose. This world can chill our hearts like a wintry day does to our hands and feet, but thank goodness for God's Word. It can take the "chill" out of our lives like a warm drink after playing in the snow.

“Come ye yourselves apart, and rest a while.”

Mark 6:31

Our dear Sis. Anne Anliker is

having a time of rest as she recovers from knee surgery. We continue to pray for Anne during this slow and painful recovery process and look forward to having her back in church.

Sis. Phyllis Anderson is mourning the passing of her father, Bro. Phil Sauder. May she find comfort in God's Word and the support of a praying church.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. It felt as if our cup was running over this month. Bros. Ed Strahm (Elgin, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO), Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) blessed us with their presence.

We want to welcome three newcomers: Bro. Mark Triplett (Peoria, IL), Bro. Neil Banwart (Champaign, IL), and Sis. Ashley Wiegand (Oakville, IA). We hope they experience warm fellowship for their souls within our congregation.

We rejoice with our Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) and Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally) of Taylor, MO on the announcement of their engagement.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Darlene Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann**

We are thankful there are brothers willing to preach the Word in season and out. On Wednesday evening, January 26, Bro. Wayne Laubscher presented a topical Bible study on Being Thankful. Then on February 16, Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) presented a topical Bible study on the End Times. Also, Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) visited us this month. We thank these brothers for sharing their time and talents with us.

We were saddened at the death

of a very loving and faithful brother and sister in our congregation. Sis. Helen Knapp went to her eternal home. She is the mother of Sis. Eileen Greiner (Bro. Bob). She is an aunt to Bro. Max Yergler (Sis. Donna) and Sis. Frances Bahler (Bro. Alfred). Also, after a very long and blessed life, Bro. Phil Sauder was laid to rest. He will be missed by his family, Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine Sauder and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann, from our congregation.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

II Corinthians 4:17

Spending some time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Wanda Maul (Bro. Bill), Sis. Helen Lackey, Sis. Lorene Rocke, Bro. Art Hari (Sis. Lou), Sis. Mary Anderson, Bro. Stan Gudeman (Sis. Deb), and Walter Long (Bro. Walt and Sis. Sylvia Laubscher).

We rejoice with Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler as they became grandparents again. Dave and Karen Yergler (Fairbury, IL) had a daughter, MaKenna Rose.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Helen Knapp wishes to express thankfulness and appreciation for the loving support of prayers, cards, flowers and memorials during the passing of our dear mother and grandmother. May God bless each of you.

A pair of prescription glasses were left at the Cissna Park church. Please call Cheryl at 815/457-2862 if you think they are your glasses.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Renae Dietrich Glenna Rinkenberger

Thus united

And in concord

Let us walk the path of life.

Zion's Harp #237

December 12, 1999, was the wedding day of Sis. Liz Schieber and Bro. Ryan Knapp. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber and Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Our prayers are with this couple as they are now one in the Lord.

We have been blessed with three new baby girls. Ivy Lynnelle Knepp was born January 25 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette. Dawn, Heather and Joshua welcome her to the family, along with grandparents, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Norma Stahl and Gary Knepp of Eureka and Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington, IL). Sharing a birthday of February 9 are Cammi Caroline Hartman and Erica Brienne Rinkenberger. Cammi's family includes Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree, Perri, Nathan, Jayci, and Carli. Grandparents are Sis. Carrie Hartman and Sis. Marie Taufer (Morton, IL). Erica's parents are Bro. Grant and Sis. Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger and Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL). We encourage these families to strive to raise these precious children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Do not put off till tomorrow
Your repentance; come today!

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice when we can make known converts. At this time we span the ages from middle school to three score and ten. Wilber Knapp and his wife, Virginia, have been

allowed more time in this life to let Jesus change their hearts that they might spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Wilber's siblings here are Bros. Frederick and Jerry Knapp and Sis. Mary Steffen, and Sis. Lucille Blunier. Kent Wiegand has also rejected this present world for a heavenly hope. He is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue. Kate Craig in her very youth has answered the call to repentance. She is the daughter of Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol. We rejoice with them all that whatever stage of life they are in that they can let their light shine in this dark world.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ken Wertz (Cissna Park, IL). We always appreciate our servants. We were reminded after singing Zion's Harp #179, *Faithfulness in Small Things*, that faithfulness in small things now, leads to faithfulness in bigger things later on in our spiritual life. We must remember, "If thou the great sins wouldst be shunning, In fear of punishment and yet, The lesser faults in thee allowing T'would not true honesty beget. That would not be a true devotion, Which sacrifices all to God; T'would be to follow selfish motives And serve two masters in your thought." (verse 3)

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united...
Zion's Harp #79

Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria) had the privilege to make known to the congregation the engagement of his son, Bro. Brian, to Sis. Jennifer Stoller of Eureka. Jennifer's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet. May God bless them as their families blend in the unity

of the Lord.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach

Last month in our newsletter we failed to mention Sis. Marie Hugh and Bro. Gene (Sis. Sue) Braun were hospital patients. We're happy they are both doing well and assembling with us again.

Our sympathy to Sis. Sandy (Bro. Bill) Kinsinger who lost her father, Benny Jones, of Marion, IL, after an extended illness. We are thankful for the comfort they have knowing he turned to God in his latter years. Little did Sis. Sandy know that one day later she would have another little grandson.

On January 30, Rex Smithberg was born to Roger and Mary Kay (Kinsinger). Welcoming him home are Alexis and Maxwell. May God bless their little family.

The week of January 31 was our annual quilt marathon. Many worked together to put together 110 comforters for various World Relief efforts.

Wayne Sauder (Sis. Gert and the late Roger) and Jenny March announced their engagement. God's richest blessings to them as they make plans for a June wedding.

We continue to pray for Sis. Stephany Welzien who still does not know the whereabouts of her son, Brian, who disappeared New Year's Day in Chicago. In our time of trouble, where else can we go but to the Lord?

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

We are very thankful to God for His love and mercy in calling Bro. Lowell Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Matt Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary) into His

fold. On January 22 we were privileged to hear their testimonies and then witness their baptisms the following day. We appreciated Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) assisting our Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht in this good work. We also appreciated having with us that weekend, Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN).

On January 30, Bro. Jake Wiegand and Sis. T. Anne Rudin were united in Holy Matrimony at Forrest. Their parents are Dale and Sis. Freidora and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy (Forrest, IL).

On February 6, Bro. Dan Bradle and Sis. Holly Feuchtenberger were also united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane (Morris, MN). May God bless each dear couple with much joy and happiness as they start their married life together.

We wish God's blessings upon Sis. Jennifer Stoller and Bro. Brian Walder who have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet and Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria (Congerville, IL).

We remember those who have spent time in the hospital this past month: Sis. Lula Fehr, Bro. Willis Stoller and Sis. Janel Cottrell.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller and family in the death of her father, Bro. Loren Schlipf (Gridley, IL). He died Sunday, February 6.

We were privileged to have ministering Bro. Bill Dotterer and his wife, Sis. Sharon (Lamar, MO), with us recently as they were here visiting family. May God richly bless him for his labor in God's service.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. May God bless each of you for your kindness.

Bro. Willis Stoller

Only a thought, but the work it wrought,

Can never by tongue or pen be taught,

For it ran through life like a thread of gold

And the life bore fruit a hundred fold.

Only a word but 'twas spoken in love,

With a whispered prayer to the Lord above-

And the angels in heaven rejoiced once more,

For a newborn soul entered through the door.

—*Wings of Silver*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Sally Fehr

Joann Zehr

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

Job 13:15

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea

Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;

I will believe the Hand which never fails,

From seeming evil worketh good for me.

And though I weep because those sails are tattered,

Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered:

“I trust in Thee.”

I will not doubt, though all my prayers return

Unanswered from the still, white realm above;

I will believe it is an all-wise love Which has refused these things

for which I yearn;

And though at times I cannot keep from grieving,

Yet the pure ardor of my fixed believing

Undimmed shall burn.

I will not doubt, though sorrows fall like rain,

And troubles swarm like bees about a hive.

I will believe the heights for which I strive

Are only reached by anguish and by pain;

And though I groan and writhe beneath my crosses,

I yet shall see through my severest losses

The greater gain.

I will not doubt. Well anchored in this faith,

Like some staunch ship, my soul braves every gale;

So strong its courage that it will not quail

To breast the mighty unknown sea of death.

Oh, may I cry, though body parts with spirit,

“I do not doubt” so listening worlds may hear it,

With my last breath.

—*Streams in the Desert #1*

Esther Lynn Moser joined the family of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser on February 8. Esther's two older sisters are Myrna and Martha. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL).

We are rejoicing with Ruth Howard as she has found the need

for salvation and has made a beginning in her repentance. May the Lord's abundant grace and our prayers be with her.

We extend sympathy to Martha Roth and Salome Knapp in the passing of their brother, Carl.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Alma Steidinger would like to express their thanks to everyone for the many prayers, deeds of kindness, memorials, love and support shown to them during Sis. Alma's illness and passing. May God bless each and every one.

Bro. Maurice Steidinger and families

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp

Linda Anliker

“Feed the flock of God which is among you...”

I Peter 5:2

On January 22, we gathered together with our Fairbury brethren to receive instruction for our spiritual well-being through reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and our home Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker for timely words of godly wisdom shared with us so our inner man may be chastised, encouraged, comforted and strengthened.

Also, visiting and sharing with us from the Word of God were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). May they feel the Lord's blessings for their willingness to labor on our behalf.

“And now abideth faith, hope,

charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

On January 30, Bro. Jake Wiegand (Dale and Sis. Freidora, Eureka, IL) and Sis. T. Anne Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) were united in Holy Matrimony. February 6 was the wedding day for Sis. Molly Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette). May these two couples continue to seek direction from God as they journey together on the path of life.

Seeking the will of God in their lives, Bro. Ben Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Marge Wenger (Sis. Nathalia) announce their engagement.

Time swiftly glides past. As these couples look forward to spending years together as husband and wife, Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier are reflecting on the 50 years that have passed since their wedding day, February 19, 1950. May they continue to feel the Lord's blessing and nearness.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft are blessed with another boy, Stephan Paul. Also welcoming home a new brother are Joseph and Darren. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Sis. Michelle (Bro. Erik) Schaffer and Sis. Laverne (Bro. Mark) Aberle spent time in the hospital. We are thankful God has granted them returned strength and healing.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Norval (Sis. Wilma) Knapp with the passing of his brother, Bro. Carl Knapp (Goodfield, IL). Also in our thoughts is Sis. Laura Knapp in the death of her mother-in-law, Sis. Helen Knapp (Cissna Park,

IL).

Note of Thanks:

It is with great humbleness and gratitude I wish to thank everyone that remembered me on my 95th birthday with cards, gifts, good wishes and prayers.

"Life's Golden Autumn"

Looking back across the years
it's a joy to reminisce.

For memory opens wide the door
on a happy day like this,

And with a sweet nostalgia
we longingly recall

The happy days of long ago
that seem the best of all.

But time cannot be halted
in it's swift and endless flight

And age is sure to follow youth
as day comes after night.

But while our step grows slower
and we grow more tired too,

The soul goes soaring upward
to realms untouched and new,

For growing older only means
the spirit grows serene

And we behold things with our
souls that our eyes have never
seen.

And Birthdays are but Gateways
to eternal life above

Where "God's children" live for-
ever in the beauty of His love.

Bro. Eli Leman

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife." What a blessing it is when God's perfect will is done. Sis. Susie Wiegand and Bro. Tim Blunier were joined as one on February 6. Our prayers are with them as they begin a life together. Their parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis Blunier.

We were so pleased to hear the wedding announcement of Bro. Ben Bauman to Sis. Marge Wenger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman and Sis. Nathalia and the late Bro. Albert Wenger) of Forrest, IL. We pray for God's richest blessings as they plan a wedding and a new life together. God certainly provides for our every need.

Hospital patients this month were Bob Hess, Sis. Caroline Rokey, Bro. Kent Kloter, Sis. Lorene Kloter and Bro. Ben Hohulin. Let's try to remember them in prayer as some of them continue to recover at home or in the nursing home.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Shirley Debolt. She continues to have a lot of pain and suffering. We hope she can feel our love and the ever present comfort of God.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to our Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman and their family. Bro. Larry's sister, Sis. Charlyn Meyer, was called Home suddenly. Our prayer is that they can also feel God's comfort and the love and prayers of the church.

We were blessed with two new baby boys this month. Bro. Luke and Sis. Jill Rocke had their first child, Caleb Dean. His grandparents are Dean and Sis. Inge Zimmerman and Mark and Connie Rocke. Also blessed with a healthy boy are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kerstan Plattner. Happy sisters are Madison and Kelsie. Grandparents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane Descarpentrie and Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner.

Our thanks goes out to our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), and Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and

Brian Huber (Francesville, IN).

The annual business meeting was held this month. New Sunday School teachers are as follows: Bros. Joseph Beer, Steve Fehr, Ross Herrmann, Chad Leman, Greg Wagner, Dwight Wiegand and Sisters Shelley Rokey, Deb Steffen, Barb Wiegand and Pam Wiegand. Our thanks goes out to the teachers whose terms are up. We appreciate your time and effort in teaching our children. The Eureka Home trustee is Bro. Bill Hohulin. The new church trustee is Bro. Sam Plattner. Sis. Ann Zobrist will be our new member on the kitchen committee. Again, our thanks goes out to those who are rotating out, for your years of service.

On February 19-20 we heard the testimonies and witnessed baptisms of four new brothers and sisters in Christ: Bro. Duane and Sis. Vermeda Freidinger and Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna Young. We are so glad to welcome them to our family.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

On the morning of Sunday, February 6, we awoke to news of the sudden and unexpected death of Bro. Loren Schlipf, 76. To hear of the passing of this dedicated and devoted brother in faith brought sadness to our hearts. Yet, we could rejoice that Bro. Loren was well prepared for his summons into eternity.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sis. Mildred; a son, Bro. Dale Schlipf (Gridley); three daughters, Sis. Janet Stoller (Eureka, IL), Sis. Karen Baker (Washington, IL) and Sis. Elaine Witzig (Gridley); one brother, Bro. Ralph Schlipf (Gridley); one sister, Sis. Helen Hodel (Gridley); 16 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Loren's life is best defined by the word "zeal". He was energetic in all his endeavors. His heart was full of appreciation for the faith, and a main concern of his was its preservation. He had a heart of love for the friends of the truth and he had a kindly way of reminding them to prepare for eternity.

God gave him an artist's gift. His specialty was carving wood. He carved many pieces with a spiritual theme that were auctioned for charity and he gave all credit to the Lord.

For many years (in his 70's) he helped teach the Sunday School Bible Class, always with a zest that allowed the students to note his love for God and the plan of salvation.

Sis. Lillian Yergler, 92, passed away on January 21 at Fairview Haven, Fairbury, where she resided for several years.

She is survived by three sisters, Sis. Hermine Miller, Sis. Laura Martin and Sis. Lulu Schlipf, all of Gridley, and by several nieces and nephews.

Sis. Lillian had found salvation later in life. Her life was that of a housekeeper, a noble calling indeed. She had a kindly smile and a quiet sparkle of friendliness that we will miss.

Scott and Lisa Kiefer became the parents of a boy, Lukas Michael Blake Kiefer, born on February 8. He has a sister, Larissa, 8, and a brother, Zack, 6. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer, Gridley, and Mark and Nancy Williamson, Lexington.

Our new brother in faith, Bro. Sean Cornell, Pontiac, was taken up on the weekend of February 19-20. He is the grandson of Sis. Anna Marie Reutter, who resides at Sunrise Manor, Gridley. May God grant him much strength and grace to be steadfast in this high

calling.

Sis. Jamie Ringger was announced to be married to Bro. Clint Kaeb (Bloomington, IL). Her parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger and he is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb of Bloomington. Our prayers and hopes were with the Elders as they met in Wolcott, IN during February 17-19. Praise God that they confer often. Effective communication helps to build unity. May we dispel the enemy in these times.

Notes of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and love given to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless all of you for your kindness.

In Christian love,

Bro. Herband Sis. Jane Gramm

We want to thank everyone for all the gifts, prayers, food and love shown us during the illness and passing of our loved one, Bro. Ed Stoller. Also, the many memorials. It is really very humbling. May God bless you all.

The family of Bro. Ed Stoller

ILLINOIS, MORTON Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

On Saturday, February 12, the church enjoyed a pork chop dinner sponsored by our young group. It was followed by a hymn sing. We thank them for serving us and for the opportunity for fellowship and singing praises to our Lord.

Sis. Grace Birkey died at Apostolic Christian Restmor on February 4. May the Lord comfort and bless her sister, Sis. Vilas (Louis) Belsley; her three nieces, Sis. Jennifer Knobloch, Sis. Sallie Hoerr, and Sis. Wendy Kupferschmid; her great-nieces and nephews; and her many other

friends and relatives who will miss her so much.

Bro. Myron Springer was called to his eternal rest on February 9. May the Lord uphold his six daughters, Lydia (James) Clark, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Harold) Witzig, Marlene (Wayne) Galbraith, Marjorie (Robert) Gingerich, Sis. Judy Springer, and Carolyn (Jim) Isbell; his three sisters, Sis. Helen Schmidgall, Kathryn Grimm, and Sis. Viola Keller; his 20 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren. What a heritage he leaves to his loving family.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Pearl Rassi have recently reached a "milestone" in their lives. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May our Heavenly Father continue to richly bless them as they continue to walk life's pathway together hand in hand and heart in heart.

Notes of Thanks:

Emma Frank would like to thank everyone for the money, cards, and notes she received for her 90th birthday.

We would like to thank everyone for the love and support in prayers, visits, phone calls, food and cards in the passing of our dear sister, aunt and great-aunt.

The family of Sis. Grace Birkey

We wish to express our thanks for the love shown to our Dad during the years of his illness and your prayers and support at his passing. Our sincere thanks, too, for the many cards and memorials given in his memory. May God richly bless you all.

The Family of Bro. Myron Springer

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, and good

wishes sent to us for our 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord bless all of you for a very special memory.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Pearl Rassi

My many thanks to all that remembered me at Christmas and on my 93rd birthday. I enjoyed cookies and apples and the card from Germany telling me I am the only one still living of my beloved Karl's family. I appreciate those that take me to church and take me home. I also appreciate the funeral food that is brought to me. May God bless everyone and many thanks.

Sis. Minnie Glueck

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

The enthusiasm of the Bible Class students and their parents provided an evening of good food and fellowship on January 22 at the Annual Pancake Supper at the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will be used for Bible Class trips and local charities.

Baby girls are special in our lives, even more so when they arrive on grandfather's birthday: Leah Marie was born on January 26 to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig in Phoenix, AZ and we sincerely congratulate them and grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Leila Witzig. Sister Alyssa welcomed her home.

The life of Samson, a Nazarite (and Danite) Judge of Israel (not to be confused with Nazarene, a citizen of Nazareth of Galilee), provides lessons for us today. He did not take his vows seriously, a sad story of a man who was given the opportunity to serve God, but insisted on doing things his own way at the high cost of sin. God watches over us, but sin must be dealt with the way the Scriptures demand it. Samson loved Delilah, an evil per-

son with \$ signs in her eyes and interested in what she could receive for herself. Are we here to worship God or doing it for self with a personal gain? Samson's strength was not in his hair but in obedience to God. He took bees out of a dead lion, which was against the commandment of God as a Nazarite could not touch anything dead. His soul was vexed unto death, and he told Delilah all. Do we flirt with sin? We need to hold fast. "He wist not that the Lord was departed from him." (Judges 16:20). How many people don't know that the Lord has departed from them? Grinding in the prison house, with 3000 people on the roof making fun of him, was slave work. Samson pleaded one more time for strength. God is so great and performs so many miracles and we can only plead one more time to get rid of sin and correct the wrongs in our lives (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer).

How do we discern false teachers? Our standard must be the Bible: open our understanding, write it down, find out what the way is, study our Bible. We need to hear the Word and be a doer, change the attitude of our heart, share accountability, read and understand a portion and build on it, come to Church for transformation, not just information. You can continue to have an abundant life by living in Him...or stop. Delilah was like Satan: she didn't visit Samson on the threshing floor but spent the 1,100 pieces of silver she collected from the lords of the Philistines. Do you push God aside and say, "I'm doing pretty good myself."? How much glory is God receiving from us through Jesus? We have to face a fiery trial but our faithful Creator has given us a home while we were sinners yet. (Bro. Dave Obergfel 1/23).

Psalm 23 was the text of Bro.

Ken Hoerr's funeral services for Sis. Lois Nelson (82), who passed away at the Skylines on January 28. The good Shepherd leads us through the valley of the shadow of death to receive our new and eternal spiritual body. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Betty Purdom (her sister) and other members of her family. Sis. Helen Knapp (100) passed away at the Skylines on February 1 and Laszlo Kummer (80), father of Bro. Chris Kummer, on January 23 and we extend our sincere condolences to their families.

"Cleanse me from my sin, for I acknowledge my transgressions" (Psalm 51:2-3). We need to redeem the time because He is going to come back and in a moment God's judgment will come upon the earth. Even an atheist becomes agitated when confronted with death. How shall we live then? What's within us? We can fool man, but not God. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean." (Bro. Ken Hoerr).

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). God gives us some 20 years to raise our children. Let's tell them of the wonderful works of God; we don't have to be satisfied with the husks of this world. We need to be respectful, teach with our lives, take heed how we build our house, show God's system works, deny ungodliness and worldly lusts (Bro. Rick Plattner 1/30).

We thank Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) for his family night service on February 2 based on Joshua 5:13-15, "Facing Challenges and Crises in Life". Joshua was following in the big footsteps of Moses and experienced many challenges and crises in life, facing a new generation of people. Public victories are won in private when

we meet God in prayer. When we experience the Elijah-complex of feeling alone and nobody cares for us, we open ourselves up to the devil. God is with us in every situation of life. Paul says onboard the battered ship: Be of good cheer, God is with us. The ophany means God is taking on human form and is visible: a fourth man walked in the midst of the fiery furnace. God sends the right person at the right time into our lives. Whatever we do in life without God, we are either destined to fail or succeed even more miserably. Worship and warfare are closely related. We don't fight for victory, but from victory. God gives us victory thru Him: be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. We can serve God in three ways: do what we want to do and hope it works out; do what we want to do and ask God to bless it; find out what God wants us to do and then expect a blessing. Good soldiers know how to take orders, and when we go home to "our Jericho", remember: we are not alone, we are second in command, we are going to face challenges, we stand on Holy ground.

The frightful scenes of Rev. 12 and 13 show that we must call upon Jesus, Who will save us from the tribulation and we need to pray hard that we can be part of the rapture, and be gone. A third of the stars (angels leaving with Satan) fell on the earth, but God still has two-thirds and is in control. Finally Satan will be cast out of Heaven after fighting with Michael and the people will either be on God's side or his. Satan tries to accuse us, but Jesus says "I died for you" and "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 12:11). There will be woe to the inhabitants still on earth, but rejoicing in Heaven. Satan cannot create anything new, only counterfeits.

Are we serving the Lamb or the dragon? Jesus offered Himself by shedding His blood. Satan marks his people in the hand or forehead; they are mesmerized by him and can't see the truth. There will be much trouble on earth and we need to worry where we are going to be. Do we want the mark of Eternal Life, or the beast? Pray the Spirit will work as there is a battle going on for our souls, which, however, is already won by Jesus. (Bro. Dave Oberghel 2/6).

The window of opportunity for salvation is still open and we rejoice that the following converts could make the life-changing experiences of repentance and conversion and give their testimonies on February 5: Jesse Getz, Brianne Greenwood, Tara Meister and Lindsay Unsicker. We also welcome Miguel Inugay into our fellowship, who came from the sister church. We thank Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) for his ministry and presence at the baptismal services. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, wept for his nation and us (as a continuation of Israel and the entire human race). God is loving...and judgmental. We must fall into the loving arms of Jesus like the little blind girl trapped at the second floor window of her burning house. When the firemen ordered her to jump, she wouldn't until she heard her father's voice asking her to do it. Are we five and five (five minutes in the morning and five at night) or search Him with a heart-surrender, living-sacrifice concept for justification, sanctification and redemption?

Intercongregational fellowship has always been an essential part of our faith. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for their visit and ministry on

February 13.

We are glad to have Bro. Herb Schwenk assemble with us again after an absence of 12 weeks to recover from a fall. Other hospital patients were Bro. Don Geef and Sisters Ella Plattner (presently recuperating at the "Skylines"), Marie Schafer, Matilda Suttor and Marian Reutter. We wish them the Lord's healing mercies.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Bob Waibel fell on the ice nine years ago and was left with a severe head injury. Your prayers, love (God's love), many cards, visits, gifts of love and an unending list of kind deeds have sustained us throughout this journey. Some of you have even gone the extra mile, for which we are thankful. The Bible, the great source of strength and comfort, teaches "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28) and we have found this to be true. We thank you so much for your love and support. Continue to keep us in your prayers. May God richly bless all of you.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waibel

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Crystal Streitmatter

Mary Ehle

We are privileged to be able to hear God's Word each Sunday and mid-week. Recently, we were reminded of the importance and meaning of prayer. It was expressed that the letters P R A Y can mean P-Praise to God for His love, goodness and gift of salvation; R-Repentance with looking into our own lives and repenting for our failings and shortcomings; A-Always thinking of others and remembering to pray for their needs; and S-Self, or praying for our own needs.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany

Plattner were blessed with a daughter, Abrey Lane, born February 10. Big brother, Tyler, welcomes her home. She is a granddaughter of Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. May they feel God's guidance in raising their children to fear the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Stephanie Streitmatter in the death of her father, Homer Andrews (Carthage, IL). Bro. Roy Mueller and Sis. Elsie Mueller have also experienced loss in the passing of their sister, Lorraine Grigsby (Norris, IL). May God's nearness and comfort be felt now and in the days to come.

Four new lambs were brought into the fold on January 23-24. Our new brothers and sisters are Sis. Rachel Baer (Ron and Sis. Deann), Sis. Taunya Rumbold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie), Bro. Derek Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay), and Bro. Brian Joos (Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda). Visiting Elders for the occasion were Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL). Visiting ministering brothers were Bros. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) also visited us this past month. We thank each of them for sharing God's Word with us.

Our congregation rejoices in that two more souls have answered the call and are turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Lacey Harwood and Al Baer (Helen). "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10).

Hospital patients have been Bro. Nathan Martin (Sis. Esther) and Al Baer (Helen). Additionally,

Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Bro. Nick) has had back surgery and is recovering in Phoenix, AZ. May we remember to pray for them as they endure physical affliction.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Anna Siebenthal wishes to express their sincere appreciation for the love and sympathy shown to them since the passing of their loved one. Our sincere thanks to each one for the cards, food, flowers, phone calls, memorials and your prayers. May God bless each one as He alone can.

Martha Jane Siebenthal

Kenneth Siebenthal

Eugene and Kay Siebenthal and family

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Linda Hodel

Boni Stoller

"For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the market place, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from

the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny."

St. Matthew 20:1-10

We were blessed to have these verses vividly portrayed to our congregation in this past month as we have heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of the very young (14) to the aged (in their 70's). We are so thankful that every one can receive the same blessed reward of eternal life. On January 22-23, we welcomed Bro. Ben Fehr Jr. (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Jon and Sis. Jill Fehr, and Bro. John Koehler.

On Wednesday, January 26, our hearts were deeply touched when Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Fehr shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized. It was a testimony in itself that despite Sis. Betty's poor health, she desired so much to be baptized in church instead of at home.

February 19 and 20 was a special weekend for Bro. Ryan Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie), Bro. Kirby Leman (Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen), Sis. Kristi Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni), and Sis. Amy Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane) when they were welcomed into the family of God. Our prayers continue to be with these precious lambs of the flock that they can remain true and faithful all the days of their lives.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven for our new converts, Norm and Jan Reckhammer. We look forward to having them for our Brother and Sister.

Sunday evening, February 6, was a blessing for all who gathered

for family sing. The Gridley choir was here to lift their voices in praise to our Father. Such sweet fellowship.

On February 6 the earthly cares of Ed Hodel were finally relieved and he was laid to rest. Our sympathy is extended to all of his family, especially his children; Ed (Linda), and Sis. Julie Wagenbach of Roanoke, and Howard (Patricia) of Los Angeles.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Elsie Sauder who passed away February 13. Also to Sis. Marilyn Roth and Bro. Melvin Weyeneth, whose brother, Donald (Doc) Weyeneth, died February 15 and was relieved of his pain and suffering.

We rejoice with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer that the adoption of their daughter, Emma Kaitlin (4 1/2), was at last completed on February 9. Emma joined their family on January 11, 1996. She has been a precious addition to our church family as well.

Wayne and Michelle Farney are rejoicing in the birth of their sweet little son, Jacob Henry, on February 13. Derek and Nicholas welcome their little brother. Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney and Lloyd Welsh and Christine Welsh are happy grandparents.

We lift our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital to the Father and pray for His comfort and healing on them. Please continue to pray for JoAnne Burton (Richard), Sisters Marge Plattner (Bro. Russ) and Cindy Leman and little Willie Fortune.

Willie has had to endure yet another surgery since our last report.

We were so very blessed with many visiting ministers this month. On January 23, Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) was here to share the work of Bro. Tom for testimonies and baptisms. Bro.

Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) brought the Word to us on February 13. On February 19-20, Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Jon Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and ministering Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were with us. Thank you all; we appreciate so much your labors on our behalf.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill
Barb Kaeb**

"And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury."

Luke 21:1

On Saturday evening, February 5, we gathered together in the Lord's house to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) with us for this service and his message on Sunday. Bro. John Stoller (Leo, IN) also visited us this past month. We pray God will richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Hospital patients this month were little Isaac Blunier (Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie), Sis. Emma Aberle (Bro. Al) and Sis. Sally Koch (Bro. Roger). May God continue to be with those who are sick and shut in, is our prayer.

We rejoice with our Sis. Kim Sauder (Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) of Latty, OH as their engagement and forthcoming marriage was announced. We pray God will bless them as they plan their future lives together.

A daughter, Hannah Rose, was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner on January 22. Her brother, Mahlon, Joseph and Daniel, welcomed Hannah home. Her

grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA).

Naomi Ruth was born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach on January 26. She was welcomed home by Paul, Gary, Holly, Lisa, Wendy, David, Emily, Mary and Lydia.

We wish God's blessings upon these families as they look to Him for guidance and direction in raising their children.

Our sympathy is extended to the nieces, nephews and sisters-in-law of Sis. Ida Musselman who has gone to her Heavenly reward.

We also think of the family of Bro. Bob Hodel, as his earthly suffering is over.

Our Bro. Philip Sauder (Cissna Park), who for many years lived in Tremont, has gone to his Heavenly Home. We remember his brother, Bro. Willis (Sis. Pauline), his nieces and nephews who are in our congregation. We pray God will grant His comfort to all who are sorrowing.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Sue Ruppert
Denise Romersberger

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14

All of us have done things we regret, or things we neglected to do that we knew we should have done. We blame no one but ourselves. Few of such incidents really have lasting consequences. For example, a student fails an important exam because he attended a party

instead of studying. The next time he will know better.

But there are some things committed or omitted for which we find it difficult to forgive ourselves. A mother, heartbroken at the death of her infant son: "If only I had not left him alone when I answered the phone!" Or a wife who spoke harshly to her husband when he left for work, and upon hearing of his fatal automobile accident: "If only I had bit my tongue!" When such tragedies occur, memories may not fade entirely nor the pain ever fully subside, but self-blame has no place in God's will for us.

Paul grieved deeply over the persecutions he had inflicted on the young Christian church. When Jesus revealed Himself, Paul knew that the Saviour's sacrifice for sin included Paul's sin as well as that of others. Although his regrets were still with him, Paul found peace in God's complete forgiveness.

This month we were privileged to have two guest ministers who came and proclaimed the Gospel of Christ to us in its truth and purity. They were Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and for Bible Study, Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL). Thank you, brothers, for your efforts.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Sue Ruppert. Sue is home and doing great. Thank you to all who visited and prayed for Sue.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Catrina Rinkenberger
Beth Aschliman

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
 ye soldiers of the cross,
 lift high His royal banner,
 it must not suffer loss;
 From victory unto victory,
 His army shall He lead,

till every foe is vanquished
 and Christ is Lord indeed.

Hymns of Zion #219

We have two young people who have decided to stand up for Jesus and give their hearts to Him. They are Ryan Donaghy and Shaunda Bedwell (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy).

Five young men have found victory and were announced for peace. They are: Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Denny Gore (Roger and Phyllis), Jarod Studabaker (Larry and Carol), Aaron Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) and Ryan Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon).

God has blessed Bro. Dick and Sis. Lil Yergler with 50 years together as husband and wife. Their children are Bro. Rick (Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Jan (Bro. Jim) Schwartz. This is an added special blessing as their granddaughter, Amber Yergler, announced her upcoming marriage to Ben Merchant. Amber's parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce. We wish both of these couples God's richest blessings.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Marcene Gilliom have an added blessing to their family. Kade Ryan was born on February 9 to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Molli Moser. Bro. Butch and Sis. Pat are Kade's grandparents from Bluffton North. Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller welcomed Clayton Anthony into their family circle. Clayton's parents are Scott and Jamie Johnson. May God help both of these young couples raise their blessings from Him.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Marie (Bro. Kenny) Gilliom as her mother, Polly Murray, passed away. Our love and prayers are also extended to Sis. Louise (Bro. Bob) Reimschisel during the passing of her father, Bro. Ervin Fiechter (Bluffton North). Bro. Chris (Sis.

Kara) Pulver's dad, Bro. Lester, passed on to his Heavenly Home. Bro. Kenny Schaeffer went to be with Jesus as well. His sons are Sam and Dave. May God be the comfort each of these dear families seek during this time.

Those spending time in the hospital this month are: Bro. Gerald (Sis. Eunice) Fiechter, Sis. Sally (Bro. Les) Schwartz, Mitchel Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda), Abigail Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli), Herman Heyerley, Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Sutter and Bro. Curt (Sis. Jeanette) Tonner. May God be with all of those that are not feeling well or spending time in the hospital.

We extend a hearty welcome to Gabriel Clough as he has decided to make Bluffton his home church. So from Bluffton, we say "Welcome, Gabriel!"

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest
frame,

But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Hymns of Zion #99

We are rejoicing that four new converts are turning to the solid Rock of Christ in their lives. They are: Jane Braselton (Lee and Julie), Andy Rupel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Rhonda), Brandon Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) and Jon Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra). May they find joy as they lean on Jesus' name and courage to be a witness at their high school.

On January 29, we heard the precious testimonies of three young souls that came to the Lord on their first call. We welcome Sis. Laura Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val), Sis. Abby Ringger (Bro. Sam and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Ashlee Meyer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) into the fold. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) came in spite of the snowy weather to assist at the baptisms while Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) shared the morning message. We were also blessed this month to have Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sarah, Bloomington, IL) minister to us. We hope they will all visit again soon.

Bro. Benji Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev) was united to his bride, Sis. Jenny Bynum (Ron and Brenda Werling), in the Lord on January 23. May their home be a shining example of Christ's love.

The Lord decided on February 13 to call Bro. Ervin Fiechter Home after he spent many years at Christian Care Retirement Home. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Ellen, and daughters, Sis. Louise Reimschisel (Bro. Bob) and Rinda Ulrich (Paul), along with many brothers, sisters and grandchildren.

The next day, Bro. Lester Pulver was suddenly called into eternity. No one suspected the day before that it was his last Sunday at church. His wife, Sis. Aldulla, and his 11 children, including Bro. Chris (Sis. Kara), will miss him along with his 21 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

We said goodbye to two older brothers at church, but hello to new little baby, Maranda Kay Craighead. She was born January 12 of first-time parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen. Her grandparents, Bro. Mike and Kay Craighead and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber

(Bluffton) think she is really special. Also blessed with a new granddaughter are Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis Bucher. Born February 12 was Brittany Grace into the home of Rod and Connie Bucher along with Brock, Brody and Brooke.

Our prayers for healing are with Sis. Pat Wall who is home recovering from major back surgery. We also remember Joey Leamon, the grandson of Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger, who was injured in a serious car accident.

At the first of the year, we said farewell to Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman who had a job transfer to Indianapolis. We sure appreciated the years they served as Superintendents and they will be greatly missed.

Does it seem like life is always changing? Some changes are good, some are bad, some are even great...but life is always changing. How thankful we can be that we have the Solid Rock to build upon, so when changes come, we are not sinking in the sand but standing firm.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Lily Pelsy**

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Galatians 6:7-8

We thank Bro. Steve Gutwein for an inspiring Bible Study on seven laws of sowing and harvest.

We rejoice with two ladies in high school who are sowing in the Spirit. Those finding peace with God and man are Britni Gudeman (Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky) and Erin Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis.

Sandi).

May God be near to Bro. Joe Gray (Sis. Esther) as the cancer has returned. We are glad that he has been given strength to worship with us.

"Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you."

1 Peter 5:7

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

**Nancy Witzig
Lauretta Schafer**

"Even as the springtime flowers grow beneath the sun's warm rays, so the Lord by His own powers makes us garlands for His praise." Are we showing the beauty of the Lord in our praise for Him—as garlands of flowers for His praise?

Visiting ministers this month included Bros. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan). We are grateful for the spiritual food shared with us.

At our annual business meeting it was voted to have our Wednesday evening services start at 7:30 p.m. year round beginning after Memorial Day. The first Wednesday of each month is Outreach evening. Time is spent at a nursing home, the boy's prison, or wherever there is a need. It was reported that the number of Indianapolis members has increased by 20 percent in the last two years. Elected offices filled were Sis. Nancy (Bro. Fred) Witzig, Silver Lining; Bro. Bill (Sis. Conni) Witzig, Trustee; Bro. Wayne (Sis. Dawn) Anliker, usher; Bro. Chris (Sis. Sara) Frauhiger, Missions Committee; Bro. Blake (Sis. Kim) Wuethrich, Head Song Leader; Bro. Jay (Sis. Lorri) Wiegand, Assistant Song Leader; Bro. Tom (Sis. Kathy)

Freed, Sound System (head); Bro. Phil (Sis. Judy) Schlatter, Sound System (assistant).

Our voices blended together in a farewell song for our dear Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein and their little son, Clayton. They have moved to Chicago and we will miss them.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Heidi Stoller

February was a month for much rejoicing for the LaCrosse congregation. Two young souls have made a decision to seek their Saviour. Heidi Nuest (Bro. Don and Sis. Deb) and Brad Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) can use the prayers of all as they begin their repentance.

We pray for God's blessing upon the marriage of Bro. Josh Zimmerman and Sis. Molly Frank. They were united as husband and wife on February 6. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeannette Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank. The LaCrosse congregation will miss Sis. Molly but our prayers are with her as she makes her new home with Bro. Josh in Forrest, IL.

Bro. Aaron Heinold, Sis. Lucille Heiniger and Jorrie Massner (daughter of Jenny Massner) have been hospitalized, and the prayers of our brethren arise for them. All are back in their homes now.

The following poem was submitted by the family of Sis. Mary Troxel who passed away in January.

Family

She raised her children to love
the Lord
To Him "praise be" alone
Then strung the silver flexing
cord
From each and every home.

They formed a family in trust
In love and ever caring
For love for all was a must,
No holes, no tears, no wearing.

She drove the tractor, hayed and
seeded
This tiny, wee dynamo
Did whatever there was that was
needed
Then cooked and baked, face
aglow.

Each child knew their special
worth
She worried about each one
Cajoled and filled their lives with
mirth
'Til at last her job was done.

And now she goes to meet her
Saviour
To His mansion in the sky
In her faith, never a waver
She'll see you all bye and bye.

Correction: Daughter Fay and her husband, Roger Bell, of West Lafayette, IN were inadvertently omitted from Sis. Mary Troxel's obituary last month.

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

On February 6, Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock were blessed with a baby girl, Honor Lais. She was very welcome, having three brothers, Hudson, Hunter and Graham. Her grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Washington, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol Broquard (Bay City, MI). Congratulations to all with God's blessings.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand brought little Gabriella home from the hospital on February 13, weighing 3 1/2 pounds. She

is eating well so by now has gained much more.

It was good to have Bro. Gene Stoller and Tod Klopfenstein worshipping with us again. God is good.

We were blessed with the Lord's inspiration through our own ministers, Bros. Brace Wieland, John Stoller and Lynn Stieglitz, this month. They also conducted the January topical Bible study on "Authority" in the family, local church and on a national level. Thank you, brothers.

On February 16, the topical Bible study was presented by Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN). His topic was "The Secret of David's Success". Thoughts he shared why David was successful, "...he was a man after mine own heart..." (Acts 13:22), "...a good report through faith" (Hebrews 11:39), "...he behaved himself wisely" (I Sam. 18:15). It is recorded a total of seven times that he behaved himself wisely. Seven is the number of completion, this is important to God. David was not perfect, but totally available to God's purpose and plan. He had a humble, contrite heart and was disciplined for God. He had a remarkable capacity to repent, was not haughty or arrogant as was his predecessor, King Saul. David realized he was gifted and did not hide it. He was a gifted musician, composer, fearless and brilliant military leader, outstanding statesman, astute financier, true shepherd and true prophet all for God's glory. The Psalms prove that God was his God. Bro. Will encouraged us to consider our gifts and use them. The message was humbling and we were encouraged. Thank you, Bro. Will and Sis. Sue, for giving us your time.

"Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation:

and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine: thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what are my people that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

I Chron. 29:10-14

INDIANA, MILFORD
Marguerite Hoerr
Pam Beer

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's host are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most
High?
Zion's Harp #194

We thank Bros. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) for letting the Spirit work through them as they brought forth God's Word to us this past month.

Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) was with us the weekend of January 29-30 for the reading of the Conference letter. He and Bro. Bob Beebe (South

Bend, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer. We also appreciated their willingness to come and minister to us.

Our convert Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) has been ill lately and undergoing medical tests. We lift her up in our prayers that she would not grow discouraged, but that she could feel God's healing touch and nearness.

Several from our Milford congregation are traveling to Mexico for medical and work teams in the next couple of weeks. Our prayers go with Bro. Bob Hoerr, Bro. Marvin Wieland and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer.

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."

—John Wesley

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

One highlight of the year for our congregation remains riding the bus to food packaging out in Bluffton. This takes place the last Thursday of January and young and old get to partake in the fun, food and work. Recently, I was pondering all the variety of opportunities to serve others that our church brethren have created since World Relief began in the early 60's. When one considers the choices of going on a mission trip to several countries, working at a children's home, serving at a home for handicapped citizens, teaching pre-school, packaging food for overseas, assisting disaster victims in our own country, distributing Bibles, participating in clothing drives and local charity cases, cooking meals for food kitchens,

etc., there truly exists an outlet of service for anybody interested. If anyone hasn't yet experienced the blessing of serving in one or more of these areas, you can begin at any age. How grateful I am to our visionary forefathers who saw the need of organizing opportunities for us to serve in and a special thank you to those who continue to spend much midnight oil planning details with current projects. Many brethren continue to express how mission trips and other World Relief opportunities have changed their lives towards a deeper sense of purpose.

A special highlight this month was co-hosting the winter Elder Conference. When one considers the hours our Elder brethren spend on behalf of us, it was a pleasure to spend hours together in serving them. Approximately 55 elders attended with 45 of their wives on February 15-18. Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) ministered at Tuesday evening church services. Also sharing our pulpit this past month was Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and for our bi-monthly Bible study was Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Funeral services were held for Achsa Nussbaum on February 14. Her daughters are Mrs. Don (Delores) English (Wolcott, IN) and Mrs. Larry (Doris) Tyler (Hartford City, IN).

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
DeAnn Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer

We are so thankful that even with the snow this winter we have not had to cancel a church service. What an additional blessing when we get to church to have visitors join us to worship. We thank you for coming.

It has become a tradition in South Bend to have supper at the home of an Amish family in the area once a year. In February, we gathered under the glow of kerosene lanterns and partook of home baked bread, and many other dishes which please the palate. This year we were blessed to have Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig (originally of Altadena) and their children join us for the supper and singing which follows, along with church on Sunday.

In the coming weeks our ministers will be leading two work teams to Haiti and Mexico. Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe, along with Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn Schlatter, are traveling to Haiti in February. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley Lehman are leading a work team to Agua Prieta, Mexico in March. Many college students on spring break will be going and working with them. We pray that God will protect them, bless their labor, and bless the lives of those they meet. And for all of us, may we never forget that our greatest mission field is just beyond the borders of our own backyards, in our offices, schools, and communities. What greater privilege than to spread the good news of salvation by faith through Christ Jesus our Lord.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Hope Bucher

Our annual meeting was held this month. We wish to thank those who have given of their time and talents in various duties. We give a special "thank you" to our Bro. Rollie Meiss for his many faithful years in serving as our church treasurer.

We are thankful for the ministers that visited us this month. We always appreciate the ministry of Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and we were also blessed by the

ministry of Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN).

Many in our congregation enjoyed a special weekend in Bluffton, IN as our church was invited to spend time with our brothers and sisters there. Thank you to all who put forth much time and effort to so graciously host us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Mary Beth Lehman
Beckie Lehman

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

We were thankful this past month to have the privilege of hosting the Winter Conference here in Wolcott. It gave us just a glimpse of the hours and effort that the Elders so lovingly give on behalf of the church. Our prayers were with them as they counseled together. May the Lord bless each one as they strive to do His will in shepherding His flocks.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Karla Gerst
Brenda Schulz

We thank Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) for sharing the Word of God with us this past month.

We were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of a dear soul on February 5-6. We welcome Bro. Philip Schulz (Bro. Gary and the late Sis. Karen) into the fold. Ordained Deacon Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in this most important work.

Jesse Gerst (Randy and Sis. Juanita) recently accepted a job in the Denver area. We wish him God's blessings and direction and hope he comes back to visit us of-

ten.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn (Massner) Wulf on the death of their nephew, Landon Wulf (Lester, IA). Joy was mixed with sadness as several from our area were able to attend the wedding of Carolyn's father, Bro. Lloyd Massner, to Sis. Mary Metzger (Lester, IA) that weekend. We heartily welcome Sis. Mary to our Burlington congregation!

IOWA, ELGIN
Heidi Butikofer
Gloria Frieden

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

Our small flock here in Elgin is also rejoicing with the angels in Heaven and with our friend, Mark Stork, who has found grace to repent and has found mercy and peace and is now looking forward to giving his testimony of faith and baptism.

We are thankful that Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Bro. Lon) is home again and gaining new strength daily following surgery. May God continue to rest His healing hand on her.

Our prayers are with the Elder brethren as they assemble for the mid-winter Conference. May God's presence be felt in their midst.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thanks to brethren and friends for all the prayers, cards and encouraging phone calls after Paul's surgery and recovery. May God bless you all.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Butikofer

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

Praise the Lord for freedom to travel and gather together to worship Him! Visiting ministers have been Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL). We thank these brothers and their families for traveling to share God's Word with us.

Thanks also to the Morton, IL congregation for inviting us to share a blessed weekend with them. It is a privilege to gather together with believers.

A recent ice storm left a glaze on every surface. What a glorious sight to see the world in glittering beauty, with crystal trees and fences and a clean carpet of light snow! It was a brilliant reminder to look at life with child-like wonder and refresh one's soul in the beauty of God's handiwork.

We thank God for His protection of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky Snodgrass' family. They had a chimney fire, but due to Sis. Becky's quick actions, the response of firemen, and God's loving protection, only a small portion of the roof was damaged.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We wish to thank and ask for God's blessings for all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). Please know that all of your efforts in traveling and worshipping with us are very much appreciated.

It seems there have been so many tragedies and so many of our brethren are faced with circumstances of sorrow or suffering. While we know God knows what is

best for each of us, there are times He gives us trials or temptations we never understand. Our natural tendency is to want to "fix" their problems, but we do not want to interfere with God's perfect plan for their lives. Even as we seek ways to lighten their burdens, we must always pray for God's will to be done, and if He does not see fit to "take this cup" from them, we can only lift up each one in prayer and hope they will go to the Source of comfort in their pain.

"Come, come," He saith, "O soul oppressed and weary,
Come to the shadows of my
desert rest;

Come walk with Me far from
life's babbling discords,
And peace shall breathe like music
in thy breast."

"My peace I give in times of deepest grief,
Imparting calm and trust and My relief.

My peace I give when prayer
seems lost, unheard;
Know that My promises are ever
in My Word.

My peace I give when thou art
left alone—
The nightingale at night has
sweetest tone.

My peace I give in time of utter
loss.
The way of glory leads right to
the cross.

My peace I give when enemies
will blame.
Thy fellowship is sweet through
cruel shame.

My peace I give in agony and

sweat,
For mine own brow with bloody
drops was wet.

My peace I give when nearest
friend betrays—
Peace that is merged in love, and
for them prays.

My peace I give when there's but
death for thee—
The gateway is the cross to get to
Me."

—*L.S.P. Streams in the Desert*

**IOWA, LESTER
Sue Warner
Cindy Leuthold**

Very happy and thankful for their new baby girl are Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia Blomgren. Kaysha Lin was born on January 7. She has a big sister Kinzi who is 3 1/2 to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and Harry and Bernice Blomgren. Then on the very same day little Parker Allen made his arrival to first-time parents, Craig and Kelly Metzger. His excited and happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger and Larry and Debra Peterson. What a blessing new babies can be!

January 23 was the wedding day for Bro. Lloyd Massner and Sis. Mary Metzger. We extend our congratulations to them as they begin their married life together. We will miss Sis. Mary as she moves to become a part of the Burlington, IA congregation.

Visiting ministers here for the special day were Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). Also lending himself from the pulpit this month was Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS). We appreciate and enjoy visiting ministers and invite

them to return again.

Chad Ter Wee and Sandi Meyer, whose parents are Jerry and Mary Ter Wee and Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn Meyer, exchanged marriage vows on February 12 at the Fellowship Hall and became husband and wife. May God look down on and bless Chad and Sandi as they become one.

Tears of sorrow and heartache flow with the untimely death of Landon Wulf, the 11-year old son of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra. He was involved in an automobile accident with his mom, Sis. Myra. Suffering the loss of such a precious pearl are his parents along with his sisters, Monica and Tonya. Also surviving are his grandparents, Bro. Wilhelm and Sis. Leona Wulf and Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser, along with numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Sis. Myra received very serious injuries at the time of the accident and remains hospitalized at the time of this writing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these loved ones as Myra recovers from her injuries. May the dear Lord comfort and console.

Just a little over three weeks later, tragedy again struck our congregation. At the conclusion of her daughter's wedding reception, Sis. Charlyn Meyer, 56, was suddenly called Home to her Heavenly Father. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, Bro.

George, along with eight children: Sid, Sandi Ter Wee and her husband Chad, Clark and his wife Suzi, Cathi, Wes, Wayne, Gwen and Glen. Also surviving are Sis. Twyla (Bro. Pat) Meyer, Sis. Elaine (Bro. Lawrence) Wagenbach and Bro. Larry (Sis. Betty) Bauman.

This family experienced two seasons of life in one day; the happiness of a wedding and the grief of the loss of life. Our heartfelt sym-

pathy and compassion is extended to the family of Sis. Charlyn.

Other hospital patients this month have been Bro. Ronald Kellenberger and Allison Klostergaard (Brad and Sis. Linda). May they feel the healing power of the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank my dear family, all my friends and relatives that came to help me celebrate my 90th birthday and for the cards, flowers and gifts. It was a real pleasure seeing all of you. May God bless you all.

Sis. Emma Gerber

**IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach**

Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed with testimonies and baptisms the last weekend in January. We extend a warm welcome into our precious brotherhood to our new sisters, Aimee Wagenbach (Matthew), Kelli Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina), Dusty Edle (Richard and Connie), and brothers, Curt Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) and Steve Lindeen (Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera). May they feel the blessing and peace of God now and throughout their lives.

May Matthew and Sis. Aimee Wiegand and Lydia feel the prayers of those who love them in the loss of their infant daughter, Emily Marie. We cannot always understand the Lord's ways, but if we put our trust in Him, He will help us cope with the trials and sufferings of this life. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Clem and Sis. Kate Heiniger (Aimee's grandparents), and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Sr. (Matthew's parents), and Jeff and

Becky Heiniger Wrage and Craig and Ruth Schafer (Aimee's parents).

As I sit down to type up this month's news, we have a prediction for a winter storm warning. I can hear the whistle of the wind that seems to indicate that the storm is approaching, yet we are warm and safe in our homes and therefore feel no fear. I have to think of the storm warnings in our spiritual lives. As we hear the wind and know a storm could be approaching, we often recoil in fear and dismay. Let us put our trust in the Master of the storms of our lives and rest in peace and comfort knowing that He lovingly guides every footstep.

IOWA, PULASKI
Lisa Knecht

Our congregation wishes to express a sincere thank you to Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie and family, Roanoke, IL) for visiting Pulaski and ministering to us. May the Lord bless his labors of love.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Jeff Birkner's (Sis. Angie) mother. We trust the comfort of the Holy Spirit would surely be felt.

We rejoice with Daryl Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) as he has left the ways of the world and now confesses this wonderful peace. Lord willing, he will be taken into the fold the weekend of March 11-12. Our prayers will be with him.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."

Psalm 34:14

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Eunice Fehr

On January 16, Bro. Karl Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Denise Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne) became husband and wife in the Lord. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr with the duty of uniting our loved ones. Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) also shared in proclaiming God's Word.

January 29-30 was a special weekend when Dawn Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose), Jason Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Ruth Zaugg (Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris) gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome our new brother and sisters in Christ. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) assisted in the duties. Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), and Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) also shared in preaching the Word.

On February 25, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) assisted Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in reading the Memorandum. We were kindly reminded of our duties and encouraged in our walk with the Lord.

We were so happy to see Wendy Schmidt (Clay) in church on February 6 after her 7 week stay in the hospital following a car accident. Our prayers were answered and we continue to pray for her and their family as she will have many new adjustments to face. Our other hospital patients were Isaiah Banwart (Steve and Sis. Kris), Bro. Art Banwart (Madeline) and Bro. Lawrence Schneider (Sis. Ella);

they have all been in for medical treatment.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Kay Banwart (Bob), Margaret Grimm (Eli Jr.), Irene Banwart (Dean), Sis. Polly Zaugg (Bro. Norm), and Sis. Lila Wirtz (Bro. Mike) as the death angel called Home their sister-in-law, Sis. Charlyn Meyer (Bro. George), from Lester, IA. May this family feel God's loving arms around them as they grieve for their loved one.

Congratulations and best wishes go out to LaRae Banwart (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene) and Jeff Montag (Ed and Luann). May they look to God for direction as they plan a May wedding.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Akihiro Ito

The members of both the Tokyo and Shioda Church members got together at Tokyo on February 11 because we have a brother meeting once a year. We have this meeting every February. In the morning, the Elders told us about the content of the Elder Conference which was held last summer in America. In the afternoon, we discussed our church in Japan. The brother meeting is important for us to confirm our faith, our life, and our standing with God and the Church. Our churches are so small that we need to help each other for the growth of our churches. Tokyo and Shioda are not so far apart, about one hour and fifteen minutes by car if it's not crowded on the highway. Some members often go to one or the other church like either church is their home church. If there is a problem in one church, we try to think of it together and resolve it.

We discussed whether or not we should rebuild our Tokyo Church. We haven't decided it yet. We de-

cided to pray for it to God. We wait for God's will through the Bible and through our prayers. We prayed that God will lead us and give our church the wealthy love of Jesus Christ.

We have many medical problems recently. The older we become, the more disease we have. But we thank God that the technique of medicine makes it possible for us to live longer than in the old days. We can share the wonderful life with each other longer. We pray God will protect us against the disease and give us the wonderful life as long as possible until we go to Heaven.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! February has been a very cold month, and I think most of us are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Spring!

We have been praying for our Church Elders in America as this is the month they meet for the winter Conference. Our own Elder Bro. Akito Inoue is in the States right now for the Conference, plus work related business and to visit with his son, Makoto, who is repenting in Indianapolis Church. We just heard over the weekend that Bro. Akito took an unexpected trip to Bloomington, Illinois, as his brother, Bro. Hisato Inoue, underwent emergency heart surgery. From the latest report, we are so thankful to hear that Bro. Hisato is on the road to recovery. We will continue to keep him and his family in our prayers.

We had our annual Japan Brother meeting on February 11, which was held at Tokyo Church this year. In the morning, subjects pertaining to the previous summer Conference in America are presented by one of our Elders. Then,

after a time of lunch and fellowship together, we all meet again for discussion over topics pertaining to our local churches. This year, our Tokyo Church building project was a main topic, and it was agreed to hold a meeting once a month from now on for further discussion about this until a peaceful conclusion can be attained. We continue to pray for the Lord's clear leading in this.

Also, as most of you probably heard or read by now, our Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle of Shioda Church recently had surgery, and he and Sis. Lois said they would greatly appreciate any extra help on Sundays from those of us in Tokyo, which we would like to honor.

We rejoice and thank God with the Ehnle's that he is recuperating very well, and we will continue to pray for complete healing and strength from the Lord. It is wonderful to serve a living God who hears our every prayer and provides for us in the ways that are best.

KANSAS, BERN

Jill Hartter

Lori Baumgartner

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so it is with every one that is born of the Spirit."

John 3:8

As I sat listening to the wind howling this evening, my mind wandered back several years to a time when I was earnestly seeking God's direction in a major decision I was making. I had felt God directing me but yet I continued to doubt His leading. Then I opened to the beautiful scripture of Luke 24. The chapter tells of the two disciples

walking the road to Emmaus. Jesus drew near to them and walked the path with them while discussing the events that had recently taken place. But it wasn't until Jesus vanished out of their sight that they realized that this stranger was their Lord and Saviour.

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Luke 24:32

Upon reading this I instantly knew that God was directing me through His Spirit and His Word because my heart had "burned within me" when He had opened the scriptures unto me. Earlier I had heard the Spirit of God but as the wind that blows, I could not tell from where it came or where it was going. What beautiful peace we all can find when we see that God's Spirit and His Word are in agreement!

On January 29 our hearts did once again burn within us as the scriptures were opened unto us during the reading of the Memorandum. Visiting Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) were here to help our Elder Bro. John Lehman, and our deacon, Bro. Galen Rokey, in this work. Other visiting ministers that have visited our congregation this past month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We have appreciated their labors on our behalf and invite each one to visit us again.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself

maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Romans 8:26

Many prayers from our congregation continue to ascend to the Father's throne on behalf of Sara Popkess (Ed) who is still undergoing very extensive chemotherapy in New York. Also, our prayers are with Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard) who is battling cancer and undergoing chemotherapy at this time. May the Lord grant each of them and their families the grace necessary to meet whatever lies ahead.

Undergoing outpatient surgery during this past month were Austin Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) and Bro. Christopher Menold (Sis. Amy). Spending time in the hospital were Dorothy Strahm (Bro. Matt) and Christian Meyer (Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly). We are thankful for the Lord's healing touch.

In times like these we need a Saviour... We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller and their family on the death of their nephew, Landon Wulf, son of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra of the Lester, IA congregation. Landon died in a car accident on January 21.

A car accident also claimed the life of Jason Jorgensen of Eugene, OR. He is the 24-year-old nephew of Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to them and their family.

Our annual business meeting was held the evening of January 13. We offer our prayerful support to those who have been given church offices and express our thanks and appreciation to those who have fulfilled their duties in the past year. Let us never forget that whether we hold an office or

not, we each have a duty and responsibility to pray for one another and to pray that God's Word goes forth each Lord's day.

Sunday, February 6, was a special day for Bro. Lynn Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby) and Sis. Sally Hartter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth, Sabetha). Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally were joined together in marriage in the Sabetha congregation. We rejoice with them and welcome Sis. Sally into our congregation.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

We are thankful that Chris Kraft (Roger) is recovering from surgery and that all went well. May God continue to keep His loving hand on her and her family as she gets her full strength back. We look forward to seeing her back in church soon.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Laura Wagenbach Jennifer Stewart

Though the skies be gray above
me
And I can't see the light of day
There's a ray breaking through
the shadows
And His smile can't be far away.

Though the earth seemed bleak
and barren
And the seeds lay brown and
dead
Yet the promise of life throbbed
within them
And I knew spring was just
ahead.

Thank God for the promise of
springtime
Once again my heart will sing
There's a brand new day that is
dawning
Thank God for the promise of

Spring.

*#110 in Hymns for
the Family of God*

As the weather trends in Kiowa are warming, "Spring fever" abounds. Spirits are lifted with the promise of new life.

We held our annual business meeting February 9. The usual reports of various committees and financial statements were given. Our only elections this year were re-election of Bro. Frank Kisling to the cemetery board; the re-election of Bro. Larry Frieden as trustee, and after 26 years of faithful service as head of the kitchen committee, Sis. Mildred Farney asked to resign and Sis. Darcy Kisling was voted as her successor.

As our Elder brothers assemble for the mid-winter Conference, we ask the Lord's guidance to be with them.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Sarah Somerhalder

What a blessed weekend January 22-23 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy). We welcome Bro. Kent into the fold. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) who assisted our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in this most important work. Also visiting was ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). May God bless them for their labors of love.

Our annual meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 19. May each brother and sister willingly carry out the duties assigned to them.

Our sympathy is extended to both Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan) and Sis. Matilda Beyer in the passing of their brother and sister, Frank and

Clara Kraft (husband and wife). They died three weeks apart.

We are thankful to God that Bro. Max Burnham was spared crippling injuries after falling 15 feet from a ladder to concrete. Our prayers are also with Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan) who underwent surgery and has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks. May the Lord grant healing to both of them.

Our prayers are with our Elders as they gather in Wolcott, IN for the mid-winter Conference. The Lord will surely reward them richly for the many hours they spend in His service.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Brenda Grimm

Mary Kay Wenger

"When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!..." Sis. Helen Strahm passed away January 23. Our love and prayers are extended to her children, locally including Bro. Don Strahm and Velma Albin.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Eli Meyer (Sis. Lois) on the death of his sister, Sis. Alma Steidinger, from Fairbury, IL.

We are rejoicing with Kenny Miller (Kalynn) and Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) as they have begun their repentance. May God be near them and grant them much grace.

Our annual business meeting was held January 18. We are thankful for the efforts of those whose terms have expired and wish God's guidance and direction upon those who have new responsibilities.

January 29 we gathered with the Bern congregation to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for the kind exhortations and the encouragement expressed by Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), John Lehman,

Gerry Hertzell and Ordained Deacon Bro. Galen Rokey.

"There is beauty all around, When there's love at home..." Sis. Sally Hartter and Bro. Lynn Strahm were united in marriage on February 6. Sis. Sally is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter and Bro. Lynn is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm from Bern. May God's blessing be with them in their life together.

We appreciate the many visitors that were with us that weekend and are especially thankful for the presence of Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO), and John Lehman (Bern, KS), and ministering Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Galen Rokey and Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn Wiegand as their 21-month old son, Joel, is scheduled to have heart surgery this month. May God's healing power and strength be with him.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The latest report I've had on Bro. Philip Bowers is that he is mending slowly. The Wednesday night Bible Study group met in his home recently so Bro. Phil could participate. That is one blessing in our being a small congregation. It is possible to notify everyone of changes on short notice.

Bro. Galen Rokey was our visiting minister on February 13. His wife, Sis. Nancy, and another couple from the Bern congregation accompanied him. We appreciate the willingness of our ministers to spend their time and energy for our spiritual benefit.

I'd like to close this article with the lines from a card we received

recently:

To know Jesus Christ
To celebrate Him as our Saviour
Love Him as our Brother
Trust Him as our Friend
Worship Him as our King
And live every day to His glory
These are the greatest gifts we
could ever be given.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Erica Schambach

Holidays are always a time of excitement filled with family, gifts, fun and no school. Although the break from studies technically ended a month ago, the children who were coming for classes before Christmas have apparently not had enough "holiday". So, the teachers patiently wait for the students to tire of playing and return to class. The vacation has to end some time! How is it with us? Might we be on a spiritual "vacation", neglecting the instruction of our Heavenly Teacher and putting off the studying of the Scripture until we're not so busy with the cares of life? If so, He is waiting for us to return. We don't even have to worry about seeking Him out during "school hours". At any moment we decide that we've been absent too long and desire to learn, He'll be ready and waiting to guide us step by step. "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation." (Psalm 25:5).

In January, we completed the purchase of the lot on the south side of the church. Lord willing, we plan to build a small house with an educational wing on this property.

Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) shared his time and talents with us the last week of January when he performed five cataract removals and two muscle surgeries to correct eye crossing on young

children. All of the patients live in Ixtlan or attend church here and are very thankful for their improved eyesight. We pray that their spiritual eyes may be opened as well.

Meet Sis. Maria Cervantes

Sis. Maria is the daughter of Sis. Carmen and the sixth of nine children. Sis. Maria made the decision to follow Christ four months after her mother. Due to the fact that there was not yet an established church in Ixtlan, a minister from the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church in Tecate, Mexico would come two or three times a year to have Bible studies with Sis. Carmen and her family. It was during one of these visits that Maria felt the conviction of her sins and confessed her need for a Saviour to the counseling Elder for Tecate. Five months later, when Maria went to Tecate to spend time with her older brother and his family, the Elder questioned her about the desire to repent that she had expressed months earlier. So with the support of the church and counseling of the Elder, Maria converted while in Tecate. Friends and family, alike, were surprised at the news as a visit to see her brother had turned into a life changing experience. Her mother, Sis. Carmen, was overjoyed and very thankful. There would now be two believers in Ixtlan! Maria was baptized on November 2, 1987, in Tecate. After returning to Ixtlan, Sis. Maria relates that it was very difficult for her and her mother. They felt like they were in a desert, being the only Christians around, with no others to fellowship with. However, the brethren in Tecate sent Bible studies, tapes, notes of encouragement, constantly lifted them up in prayer and the good Shepherd never ceased to provide for His two lambs. Sis. Maria's

membership was transferred to the Apostolic Christian Church on November 24, 1997, along with her mother, Sis. Carmen, after being interviewed by several of our Elders.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte

Here in West Michigan, we do not have the sunshine in the winter that other parts of the country have. Much of our winter is overcast and cloudy. Bro. Bill Gerst reminded us on those days when the sun does not shine that we should be looking to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to light our way. His light will always shine for us and to us. Someone else once told me that on those gloomy days we have the unique opportunity to be able to look out our windows and see the trees, leafless, reaching up to the skies in praise to our Creator. Romans 8:22 tells us, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Even creation awaits the return of the Lord. It is hard to imagine the glory to come when the Son of God comes to set up His kingdom. I Cor. 2:9, "But it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

We were blessed this last month by Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) who came to minister the Word to us. He challenged us to look at the life of Esther, and how God put her in the Persian city of Susa, at that time in history to save a nation. We each need to think about what God's purpose is for us, too, remembering that God's plan is not always our plan. We also wish to thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) for his

Wednesday night services.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Christine Wingeier and Danielle Oesch who are at home recovering from physical ailments. Sis. Margaret Wingeier is getting ready to have some minor surgery and we pray for a speedy recovery. Phil. 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Our teens hosted a Valentine Dinner for our seniors. The teens shared their talents to show the seniors that they are loved and appreciated.

As Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen traveled to Wolcott, IN for the winter Elder Conference, our prayers went with him for safe travel and that the Spirit of the Lord would direct the yearly meeting, blessing all those that attended.

Alto has several young adults in college this year. Sis. Sarah Gerst at Grand Valley State University, Bro. Brett and Aaron Plattner at Kansas State, Bro. Brian Knudstrup at Michigan State, Betty Jo Meyers at Michigan State, Joanne Blough at Battle Creek Community, Steven Zaagman at Calvin College and Mark Schutte at Grand Rapids Community. We wish to send out our love, prayers and encouragement to them, reminding them that the Lord is with you wherever you are. He is always only a prayer away. Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

There is nothing in life quite like the joy of new birth. We were thrilled to hear that Honor Lais was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Heidi Schrock (Leo, IN). Proud big

brothers, Hudson, Hunter and Graham, welcomed her home. We are also excited for grandparents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Carol Broquard, and great - grandparents, Frank and Sis. Irma Bragiell. It is our prayer that Honor will bring joy and sunshine into the lives of those who love her.

With all the winter weather, we have all been struggling with illness. However, this month we only had one person in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam) and hope that she will continue to feel God's nearness as she recuperates.

When Jesus gave the great commission to His disciples in Mark 14:15, He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Sometimes the greatest way to show God's love to others is through acts of kindness and service. Our World Relief has provided many outlets for those who feel called to help the less fortunate to do just that. One of the ways we have available to help is to go to Haiti on work teams. Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak did just that along with many others from not only our congregation in Bay City, but also several other congregations as well. We are so encouraged to hear their stories of God's love being proclaimed to the Haitian people. Our gratitude goes out to Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie and all that gave of their time to go and help.

May God bless each one of you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier

"That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth,

the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise."

Ephesians 1:12-13

We rejoice with Bro. Lalo Ugalde as he committed his life to Christ and was baptized in His name this month. We will continue to keep Bro. Lalo in our prayers as he grows as a Christian and follows God's direction for his life.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:13

Alexis Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) and Danielle Mojic (Laza and Ranka) were announced that they have been granted peace with God and man. We are looking forward to witnessing their covenant with Christ as they prepare for baptism. It has been wonderful for our congregation to watch the two of them grow over the past several months. They are a great addition to our church and especially our growing single group.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 28:19

The Detroit congregation was also blessed to have Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie) from Tokyo, Japan, here to share God's Word. Thank you, Bro. Akito, for allowing God to use you as His messenger. It was wonderful to hear the Word and to be able to visit with you.

Sis. Ann Tacher was hospitalized this month and we are very thankful she is feeling better. It is nice to see her again! We so often

take our health for granted but every day it is a blessing and gift from Heaven above.

Our sympathies go out to the Denes family as Bro. Ference Denes Sr. has passed from this life into the next. He was the father of the late Bro. Frank and Sis. Sanche Denes. We will keep their family in our hearts and prayers. May God comfort you during this difficult time.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Delores Sauder

There are times in our busy schedules we need to sit back and assess the situation. We may need to spend a moment in prayer.

A Prayer for Patience
 God, teach me to be patient—
 Teach me to go slow
 Teach me how to "wait on You"
 When my way I do not know.
 Teach me sweet forbearance
 When things do not go right
 So I remain unruffled
 When others are uptight.
 Teach me how to quiet
 My racing, rising heart
 So I may hear the answer
 You are trying to impart...
 Teach me to let go, dear God
 And pray undisturbed until
 My heart is filled with inner
 peace
 And I learn to know Your will!
 —Helen Steiner Rice

We appreciated a visit from our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and his wife, Sis. JoAnn. We thank him for sharing God's Word with us.

We had our annual business meeting. We thank those who had responsibilities for their labors, and pray that those who were given new duties receive God's direction

to carry them out.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Nancy Wulf

Dianne Kellenberger

Our congregation was blessed with two visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA). We extend our special thanks to each of them.

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

Hebrews 13:17

Because of their concern and safekeeping of our souls, our Elder brethren have met for their annual winter Conference.

Lori Schmidgall and Delayne Stickling (Lester, IA) have announced their engagement and have a wedding date set for May 27. Parents of the couple are Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling. We pray for them God's guidance and blessings.

We ask for a heavenly blessing upon Sis. Holly Feuchtenberger and Bro. Dan Bradle (Eureka, IL) who were united in marriage on February 6. Their parents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain created man.

These souls betrothed before
thee stand
Thy blessing we implore;

Unite Thou them in heart and
hand,
And guide them evermore.

As they go forth upon life's way,
Sustain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey
And live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286

God has blessed Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Domnick with the arrival of their firstborn child, little Stephanie Lynn, on February 8. Loving first-time grandparents are Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick. May they seek God's grace in raising their precious newborn.

We ask that you pray for those that have been hospitalized this past month: Sis. Mabel Schmidgall and Courtney Timmerman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Connie).

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Ann Messner

Becky Braulick

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:27

We are thankful our Elder brethren continue to hold mid-winter Conferences to oversee and guide the flocks across the lands. May God continue to find favor in them and their decisions.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll are the parents of a new son, Thomas Monroe. His brothers and sisters were very excited about his homecoming. May the Lord bless them all. Grandparents are Gib and Sis. Vickie Knobloch (Lester, IA), Ed Stoll (TX) and Betty Milam (FL).

Hospital patients were Bro. Dick VanDeest (Sis. Nancy), Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda), and EmmaJo Elder (Bro. John and Sis. Jolene). We are thankful they are on the road to recovery.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brent Kellenberger

Spring, which begins on March 20, is a season often associated with rebirth and newness. In Kansas City, we are rejoicing with three souls who have turned their backs on the world and are seeking this rebirth and newness of life. Our prayers are with Jonathon Wales, Neal Kellenberger and Gayle McAfee as they take the most rewarding step in life. We hope they can maintain the enthusiastic and humble attitudes they have now throughout their lives.

On January 11, we had our annual business meeting. Our new trustee is Bro. Garry (Sis. Marty) Rokey. Bro. Barry Metzger (Sis. Gina) was elected treasurer and Sis. Jamie Marti is now on the food committee. We pray that the Lord will provide for those with responsibilities in the church. Regardless of whether we hold an office, we all have responsibilities in the church. We trust that by doing our part, each one of us can find a blessing. We all need to strive to fulfill our God-given duties, both in church and in life.

Over the past several years, writing the Silver Lining article has been a blessing, and I'm thankful I had the opportunity to do so. Sis. Komari Neal will be replacing me starting next month.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristi Huber
Kristen Braker**

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

Bro. Charles Marti (Sis. Alice) announced his decision to retire from the ministry. We appreciate his many years of laboring and trust the Lord will richly bless him. We pray the Lord will be near and guide Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon) as he has been called upon to minister the Word.

Ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) visited our congregation this past month. May the Lord bless him for his labors on our behalf.

Hospital patients included Sis. Arlene Marti (late Bro. Dean) and Jack Thiebaud (Betty). We pray God will provide healing in each of them as He sees best.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

In a recent sermon we heard that we must learn to cross out the "I" in our lives. In so doing, we turn the "I" into a "+" (cross). This especially hits close to home as our little congregation anticipates the departure of one of our dear sisters. We must not concentrate on our diminished number, but instead we should look to the cross and ask what else we can do for Him.

This past month we as a congregation learned that our Sis. Joyce Martin has accepted a job transfer that will take her from St. Louis to the Phoenix, AZ area. Sis. Joyce has been a great asset to our church, living and serving here for 11 years. We trust that God will

continue to use her in other places as she moves on. May God bless you, our dear sister.

We thank God for blessing us by bringing His Word to us through our minister and visiting ministers. The brothers who came and labored in His vineyard for us this month include Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), and Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL). May God bless the seeds that they have sown.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

I Peter 1:3

A baby girl, Ally Lou, was born to Kevin and Chris Weaner on February 10. Grandparents are Louie and Janet Beck and great-grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and Harriet Lasher.

Sis. Esther (Bro. John) Rauhe has had surgery on her back in Providence, RI and she is at her daughter's home at 30 Audobon Ave. N., Providence, RI 02908. We pray she will soon recover. Our prayers are with her.

Leona Briot was killed in an auto accident. She is an aunt to Sis. Karen Farney (Elder Bro. Duane).

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that our convert,

Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan), has received peace, and we are looking forward to his testimony and baptism.

Sis. Joyce Schamback is rotating off our World Relief Activities Committee and we appreciate very much the extra duties she has done and is doing for our group. Sis. Lynell Palitto was put on the committee.

Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Canada) ministered to us and we appreciated his message. May the Lord bless him for coming.

Bro. John Graf had surgery on his ankle, and was transferred for therapy to the Edwin Shaw Hospital for Rehabilitation. We wish for Bro. John the Lord's blessing in his recovery.

Bro. Greg Henico has agreed to serve another term as our World Relief Local Treasurer/Representative. We appreciate Bro. Greg's willingness to serve in this capacity.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

On January 22, Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) lovingly exhorted us through the reading of the Memorandum. How blessed we are to have these Elder brothers who care about each one of us individually.

The following day we had our annual business meeting. We appreciate the efforts of those who have previously filled these positions, especially those who have filled more than one position. The following positions were filled at our business meeting: Sunday School Superintendent - Bro. Neil Knobloch; kitchen committee - Sis. June Knobloch; and Trustee - Bro. Nathan Steiner.

On February 13, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH)

shared the duties on the pulpit during our Invite-A-Friend weekend. We would like to thank each one who came. We always enjoy visitors.

Also serving us from the pulpit this month were Bros. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). May God richly reward them for their efforts.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Andy Hunyady who has been ill this past month. We hope to see him back in church soon.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Please forgive me for forgetting to report the results of our annual business meeting. We sure appreciate the efforts of those who have served us in the past. May God bless you for your time and effort spent in fulfilling these duties. The following brothers were voted in for the various positions: Tony Manz as Home for the Handicapped Representative, Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda) as World Relief Representative, and Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen) as our Head Song Leader. We pray that you, too, will receive a blessing for serving.

Kyle Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) had knee surgery this past month. We are thankful that the surgery went well.

We were pleased and thankful to hear the wedding engagement of our Bro. Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) to Sis. Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) of the Latty congregation. We wish you God's blessings and direction as you make plans for your wedding and future lives together.

OHIO, LATTY Heidi Hackenjos Kathy Sinn

This past month our congregation added three dear souls into the fold. What a privilege to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our new brothers in faith, Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay), Doug Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce), and Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth). Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) came to assist our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn. We appreciate the other ministers who came to share the weekend with us: Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH).

We are thankful that our convert, Nicole Steffen (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen), has been announced as having peace in her heart.

Another soul has taken up the cross to follow Jesus. We rejoice with Gabe Stoller (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shirley). We wish Gabe a rich measure of God's grace during his repentance and throughout his new walk of life.

Our prayers are with two young couples who have announced their engagement. Sis. Erica Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) to Bro. Chris Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH); and Bro. Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) to Sis. Kim Sauder (Bro. Rich and Sis. Evelyn, Tremont, IL). May these couples humble themselves before the Lord as they think of the responsibilities of establishing a Christian home together.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sheila Sinn welcome home Elias Justus. His big brothers, David and Jonathan, are looking forward to a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Walt

and Sis. Renee Sinn, James Franklin, and Jackie Foor.

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Paul Rywalski (Sis. Teresa, Toledo, OH). Teresa is the daughter of Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby Stoller. Our prayers are with Sis. Teresa during this time of grieving. Our sympathy is also with Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Melvene Stoller (Bro. Russ) because of the death of their brother-in-law, Bro. Roy VanNorman (Sis. Dolores, Ft. Lauderdale).

Sis. Janet Sinn's (Bro. Todd) mother, Sis. Alma Steidinger (Bro. Maurice, Fairbury, IL), went to be with the Lord. May the Lord grant healing to Sis. Janet and her family during this time of sadness.

May the Lord grant healing to those that spent time in the hospital: Glen Stoller (Sis. Edie), Ester Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Carol Eisenmann (Bro. Bill), and Ethan Linder (Sis. Jane and Jim).

OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

On January 15, Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer were blessed with another son, Ezekiel Daniel. His brother, Austin, is excited. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder (Columbus, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer.

Trent William was born to first-time parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Beer, on February 11. Happy grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen Baltic and Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer. May God bless these couples as they raise their children.

Our prayers are extended for those who were hospitalized this past month: Bro. Dave Bauman (Sis. Lucy) and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer.

fer (Bro. John).

We express our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Pat Beer (Bro. Ken) at the loss of her mother, Eve Eichof. May God comfort the Eichof family.

After many years of service, Bro. Larry Bocka is retiring as our representative of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped and Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children's Home. We thank Bro. Larry for his willing service and welcome our new representatives: Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna) for the Home for the Handicapped and Bro. Pete Webel (Sis. Linda) for Gateway Woods.

"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

Exodus 4:12

With joy, we welcome our newly elected minister, Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy). We extend our love and prayerful support to Bro. Tim, Sis. Wendy, and their family.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Beth Beery
Lynda Beery**

We are grateful to God and to our beloved Elder and ministering brothers for their faithful service to the Church. Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) recently assisted Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler and Andy Stoller (Smithville) in reading the Memorandum to the Rittman and Smithville congregations. May we take earnest heed to their exhortations, knowing that they watch for our souls "as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief" (Hebrews 13:17). We pray that God's Holy Spirit will prevail as our dear Elder brothers meet together for the winter Conference.

Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH)

also visited us recently. We appreciate his willingness to serve us the Bread of Life, God's Holy Word.

Sis. Marie Bauman has a new little grandson, Kaleb James. He was born on January 26 to Sis. Marie's son, Jim, and daughter-in-law, Joy.

As we rejoice when a new baby is born, so do we much more rejoice when a soul is REborn. Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) and Megan Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) have seen their need for a Saviour and are seeking the Lord in repentance. We wish them much grace and spiritual understanding.

Kurt Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) and Kelly Bauman (Sis. Nancy) exchanged wedding vows on February 5. May God bless them richly and be the Unseen Guest in their home.

On February 7, Rachel Winkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Jane) and Ryan Mlynczak were united in marriage. We also wish them God's blessings and will miss seeing Rachel in our assembly as they will be living in California.

The engagement of Bro. Ryan Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail, Smithville) to Sis. Laura Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) was made known on February 13. We pray that God will help and bless them as they prepare for their wedding day, and much more, for a lifelong marriage in the Lord.

Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Sis. Neva Gasser and Randy Moore (Sis. Bev) have been hospitalized recently. May they feel the nearness of our loving God.

Sis. Eva Van Nostran left this earth and went to be with the Lord on February 8. She leaves her two daughters, Mrs. Richard (Eleanor) Winkler and Mrs. Charles (Lillian) Greer and their families.

Another dear soul, Wayne

Beery, was called out of this life on February 14. We pray that God will comfort his mother, Sis. Martha Beery, and the rest of his family. Three of his sisters attend the Rittman church. They are: Sis. Norene Miller (Bro. Mike, Sr.), Sis. Carole Steiner (Bro. Dave), and Sis. Elverna Zollinger.

OHIO, SARDIS Angie Figel

"For, lo, the winter is past, and the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; the fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Are not the words of God's book as beautiful as Spring itself?

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

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

Hebrews 13:17

On January 29, as we gathered at Rittman Church, our Elder Bros. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI), Merle Hartzler and Andy Stoller read the Memorandum to the Rittman and Smithville congregations. We appreciate their kindly advice and direction, and hope we can be obedient. May the Lord reward Bro. Andy Virkler and his wife for traveling the miles and his sharing the Gospel with us on

Sunday.

"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."

Psalm 86:5

We are so happy to report that Shari Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis) has called upon the Lord to seek her soul's salvation. May she find the Lord plenteous in mercy, leading to true peace and contentment. We were also pleased to hear that converts, Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Kristin Rufener (Bro. John W. and Sis. Emily), have experienced a conversion and found that peace and forgiveness. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in the future.

Hospital patients this past month were Joan Gasser (Ed) and Bro. Herbert Bauman (Sis. Berniece). Often we know little of the needs and crosses our loved ones bear, but surely God knows and cares. May they know the power and care of the great Physician.

Some of our congregation again have felt sorrow as a loved one was called Home. Sis. Rhonda Gerber (Bro. Scott) has lost a brother-in-law, Bro. Paul Rywalski, of the Toledo congregation. Also, Bro. Gaylord Beery (Sis. Cheryl) and Sis. Roberta Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy) laid to rest a dear brother, Wayne Beery (son of Sis. Martha, Rittman). May they feel our prayers and the comfort of the Holy Spirit in each need.

Am I sick and pressed with grief,
No one near to give relief?
Jesus, my Physician dear,
And my Helper will be near.

Am I needy, faint and tried,

Is my sorrow multiplied?
Jesus is my strength indeed,
And my friend in every need.

Hymns of Zion #277

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We were blessed to hear the Memorandum read to us last month. Instruction from God's Word and the loving admonition from our Elder brothers is precious to us. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for sharing with us in the letter and in ministering from the Word.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalm 23:4

We were reminded once again of the uncertainty of life with the unexpected death of our Bro. Paul Rywalski. We are thankful that he was ready to meet his Lord, and could trust in the comfort of God's rod and staff. We pray that God's comfort will be with his wife, Sis. Teresa, and daughter, Ella.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

On Sunday, January 16, we had the pleasure of having Bro. Arnold Gerst and his wife, Sis. Marjorie, visit our congregation. They were visiting Oregon from Taylor, MO. We sure appreciated Bro. Arnold's willingness to serve us from the pulpit that Sunday with two inspiring sermons. May the Lord bless Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marjorie for their efforts and support.

In early February, Sis. Ann Rumbold suffered another stroke. It was considered a fairly mild one

and we thank the Lord she has recovered so rapidly. At the time of this writing, she is doing well and has returned home from her brief stay at the hospital. Our prayers are with her and her family.

We are thankful as well for the quick recovery for Sis. Ginny Cooper, who had eye surgery around the middle of February. How thankful we can be for the God given talents in the medical field!

Our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Art Metz and Bro. Ed Knecht and their dear wives (Sis. Betty and Sis. Judie, respectively) from Silverton, OR for visiting and sharing the Word with us. We sincerely appreciate all visitors we have had this past month. May the Lord bless them all for showing interest and support.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

The last weekend in January was a very special one as we added a brother and two sisters to the fold. We rejoice to welcome Bro. Brian and Sis. Milena Suster and Sis. Rachel Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth). Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) was here to work with our Elder Bro. Art Metz in this wonderful work of the Lord. These weekends are uplifting to us all and we are truly thankful for the opportunity to witness God's miracles in the lives of His children.

Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Terry Kuenzi (Sis. Ann) recently gave an interesting World Relief presentation. Many topics were covered, from work teams to local and distant disaster relief and more.

We extend our best wishes to Tonya Dettwyler and Tim Mallorie who have announced their engagement recently. Tonya's parents are Bernie and

Margaret Dettwyler of Silverton, and Tim's parents are Rob and Nancy Mallorie of Culver, OR. An August 5 wedding is planned. We pray they will look to God for guidance throughout their married life.

With joy, we heard the announcement that Ryan Hari (Harold and Sis. Linda) believes he has received the peace and forgiveness from God, that he has sought in his repentance. He now awaits his opportunity to come before the church with his testimony of faith. Our prayers and encouragement are especially appreciated during this time.

God has blessed Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi with a baby girl, Holly Ann, born Friday, February 18. Holly's big sister is Kaitlin. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR). We do appreciate their willingness to serve. We lend our prayerful support that God's true Word can continue to go forth from our pulpits.

March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. If you have any address additions or corrections, now would be a good time to tell your correspondent.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan Gasser**

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his

gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Psalms 100

The Lord has again showed His power and His grace at work in the lives of His children this month. The engagement of Bro. Nathan Gasser (David and Gail) and Sis. Mary Elizabeth Luginbuhl (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma, Rockville, CT) was announced, with a wedding planned for May 7 in Rockville. May His continued grace be upon their lives in this time and throughout their years together.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

On February 6, we enjoyed the ministry and fellowship of ministering Bro. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL). We are so thankful for our ministering brothers who so willingly give of themselves to serve the Lord by serving those of us in small congregations. We cannot adequately repay them for their efforts and their love, but we trust that the Lord will, both in this life and in our blessed eternal home. We were also privileged to enjoy fellowship with many visitors from Cissna Park and Washington, IL and Francesville, IN.

We enjoyed the opportunity to host church in our home one Sunday in late January, shortly after the birth of our daughter, Sasha. Since we have a church building, this isn't our normal custom, but since our baby was only four days old and the congregation was small that Sunday, we decided to gather at our home. It was a joy to be able to gather together in our

home and listen to a tape service, but it also helped us to appreciate all the more, the blessing that we have on a regular basis to gather together in a building dedicated for the purpose of worshipping our Lord.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We truly feel blessed to have the opportunity to meet and fellowship with brethren from so many congregations. We have visiting ministers scheduled on the first and third Sundays of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Athens, AL (March 19); Champaign, IL (April 2); Bluffton, IN (April 16); Smithville, OH (May 7); Chicago, IL (May 21) and Forrest, IL (May 28). Please note, as stated above, we do plan to have a visiting minister on Memorial Day weekend (May 28). This is the same weekend as the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend at the Athens, AL church and the Tennessee Fellowship Area in Pulaski, TN.

If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933 (email: Michael.Fritz@juno.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

**TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder**

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), and Bros. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bill Emch (Sis. Susan (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN) and Darrel Stoller

(Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS).

Our April schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 2nd at San Antonio (Latty, OH); 9th at Austin (Francesville, IN); 16th at San Antonio (Lamar, MO); and 30th at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Mansfield, OH).

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

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

On January 16, with thankful hearts we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. As there are many grains used to make a loaf of bread, so are there many brethren to make up the church, which signifies the body of Christ. Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) was assisted by our Bro. Leland Plattner. We thank Bro. Ray for this service.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), and Roy Ehle (Bradford, IL). Retired ministers were Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). We thank them for sharing the precious Word with us.

Our business meeting was held on January 23. Bro. Marlyn Messner was elected to replace Bro. Norm Frank as trustee. Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold were elected for the kitchen committee. They replaced Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart. Bro. Richard Bricker was re-elected for usher and Bro. Wayne Rufener took the place of Bro. Norm Frank on the sound system.

Bro. Leo Messner was hospitalized in Laredo. We're glad he is home and able to assemble with us.

Andy Plattner and Kristi Brogdon have announced their engagement and are planning a May 20 wedding. Andy is the son of Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner.

How great is God's creation! We saw the green valley, the stony terrain and the mountains. It is interesting how God supplies plants in the desert for survival. Some are for medicine, others for food and even a plant for mending clothes. The spiny lechuguilla is stringy inside and by using an attached spine as a needle, it can be used as needle and thread. Thirty-eight brethren from various churches enjoyed the fellowship on a trip to Big Bend National Park. God's magnitude cannot be imagined until it is seen.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Ones, Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I wish to extend thanks for prayer and for caring and sharing while I was in the hospital and at home. Humbly and sincere thanks.

Sis. Lillie Koehl



Sermon continued from page 2

don't know, another way.

What does James tell us? It says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8). In all his ways. So when we put the whole Word, the entire counsel of God together, we are instructed that a consistent manner of conversation and all things with our family, our work here, those with the principalities and powers here upon this earth, the magistrates there who would talk to us and ask us to do certain things, we are to be ready to do every good work.

There are sometimes—if not here but just maybe to close the thought for a second—there are some that tell us (I think we read in Hebrews) to remember them which have the rule over you whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Yet, there are those who are supposed to be subject to Him here on this earth, but then even how much more so in the household of God? Remember them? Consider the end of their conversation.

Then what does It say? It says to obey them. Submit yourselves to them. If we do it in one, how easy then to do in the next. We were visiting with one here a little after lunch, and we said, "How do we interact one with another?" What did Paul write to the church in Ephesus? How are we reminded every time we have a wedding service? Here It says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;" (Ephesians 5:20). Then if we are thankful, it is easy to submit ourselves.

Here, if we are subject to principalities and powers to do the good works, then certainly we can have a consistent walk of life. Can you imagine if you try to rise up in pride to the things of this earth?

How do we then in the house of God? Likewise, the other way, but here are the instructions.

Sometimes my children say, "Dad, I am not sure what you mean. You tell me what to do, but I'm not sure what you mean." Here we are instructed clearly to speak evil of no man. I believe Paul wrote to the church in Rome, and said that when we visit one with another, are we full of gentleness and goodness? Do we think the best of the other? Or, is there wrath in our heart, or a little hatred?

When we look in the Book of Galatians, those are the works of the flesh. Now we who have been called to a better way, a way where maybe someone we see is an example of our Lord and Saviour. How when He was mocked and spit upon, He didn't answer them a word. When He taught that if you are smote on one cheek, give to them the other. That is the example we are taught.

"To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers..." (Titus 3:2). Are we brawling about, fighting for the things of this earth, or things that will have no lasting value? Or is our mind, our thoughts focused, our affections set on the things in heaven where Jesus Christ is? We are taught, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34).

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:" (Proverbs 23-7). We are taught in the Word, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." (I Corinthians 15:33). "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." (Matthew 12:34). So if someone would say, "I love you," and then if they would brawl, and they would speak evil of someone, it just doesn't make any sense. There is not the consistency of God's Word. Instead of

speaking evil and instead of being brawlers, we are taught to be gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. No respect to a person from the one of all different callings, all different estates, wherever we are to show all meekness.

Who was the perfect example? Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It takes application. They know, loved ones, the only way we can do it, is a second at a time. The only way we can do it, is if we start right now. Today is the day of grace. Today is the day we need to make application to our heart.

There is this one that we are reminded about that likes to tell you that tomorrow is a better day. Tomorrow is a new day...a new day that has never been used before; why don't you just wait until tomorrow? Then you can take care of all those things. Today it is almost one o'clock—there is only eleven hours left in this day and that is probably not enough time to do anything. Just wait until tomorrow. That would be a better day as there is a whole twenty-four hours left in it.

But what are we taught? Tomorrow never comes, does it? That next day gets pushed off until the next day. We also are taught that the Lord never asks us any more than we can do or any more than we can bear. He just asks us to do little things. He did the most biggest thing for us by dying upon the cross.

Sometimes we need to be reminded where we came from. We were foolish. We were disobedient. We were deceived. We were, at some time, thought that tomorrow was a better day. We also thought sometimes that, no, we really weren't living that bad of a life. Instead of listening to the counsel of the Psalmist of old, Da-

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Sermon continued from page 44

vid, who said, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1). We thought we could build our own house in our own heart, and we can take of things our own way, and we were deceived, weren't we? The deceiver had come in and deceived us. We were disobedient to the teachings of the Lord.

Loved ones, I hope I am not out of line saying this. Those of us who have godly mothers and fathers, it is awful hard for me to understand sometimes if we say we are obedient to the Lord and not obedient to our parents. God's gift to us of godly parents is giving us opportunities to prepare ourselves. We are told that we are charged and commanded to work and to go on to perfection. What does that mean? To completion so that we can be complete and one day we can be with our Lord and Master in heaven.

He gives us opportunities here upon this earth. Parents ask us to do simple things...simple things! Are we disobedient? Are we foolish sometimes as we read here later to get into asking foolish questions or contentions, get caught up in genealogies and sort of change the focus as we are taught where things and people in this life take things that are incorruptible—which is Jesus Christ and Him crucified—and make it into corruptible things?

No, we're told to show meekness unto all men, not to go back and look at those things "...serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." (Titus 3:3). But, no, we were reminded that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Jesus Christ came. Jesus Christ came!

Let's think about it for a second.

I was visiting with someone one day this week, and we talked about how one sometimes their temper just gets a little bit better of themselves and they said some things they didn't want to. It was hard; that is how it is. We are told in James that no man can tame a tongue, but with God's help all things are possible.

The thought just came out as we visited, God's Spirit bringing the thought out. I asked him, "Have you ever had this problem in church?" He said, "Well, I know I wouldn't. How could you raise your voice in church? How could you say something like that to somebody? Well, that's God's house. How could you ever do something like that?"

Then we went on and thought about Moses there—Moses and the burning bush. What did God tell Moses? He said, "Take your shoes off; the ground where you are standing is holy." What do we sing in that hymn—"Wherever God's people are found, is holy ground." God is with us. Satan sometimes likes to confuse us, doesn't he? Now when you leave the church, you're free to say whatever you want. No, have a consistent walk of life. If we can remember, the Lord is at our hand. He is right there by our side.

You know, at Christmas time, we just want to give our parents anything we could because we love them so much. Isn't that the same love we have for our Father? Sometimes, we forget about our parents, if we are thousands of miles away, just for a few minutes. But you know, our heavenly Father is right there with us at all times. Let's remember that.

Let's remember what He did for us—His love and His kindness. It wasn't anything that we have done. No. What is the thought that

came out? We are created unto good works. This new body that arose out of the watery grave, buried and risen in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that is how He made us—created unto good works. We are saved by grace through faith.

Why not? Why would it not be of works? It says, "...lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:9). We have been created in His workmanship so that the fruit of His Spirit can be made evident in our life. According to His mercy, He saved us. He went ahead and paid the way for us, so that we could live more abundantly here upon this earth, and have that peace that passes understanding and have a beautiful home in heaven.

What does He ask us to do? To share His gifts with others. He doesn't ask us to climb any mountains, solve some calculus equations which we could never in as many, many years ever do, or speak some language that we never know. No. He does ask us to speak one language—it's the language of love, the language of charity. The language where we esteem the other higher than ourselves, whether they are of lowly estate, whether they are a magistrate, or more importantly, whether they are our brother or sister. If we bear one another's burdens, that we love them or kindly affectionate one to another, maybe we just pray for one another because we need those prayers of those we love.

"...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:5-7). All these things

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Sermon continued...

He has done for us so that we could have that hope of life eternal, an abundant life here upon this earth, and what a return on the investment—a home in heaven for all eternity, time without end!

He asked us His challenge, His instructions for living for each one of us, maintain good works, affirm these things constantly, be careful in all things that you do. Be careful.

At times yesterday I had to think about it. Yesterday we were sitting around the supper table and our three-year-old son was right there. Things were placed on the plate in front of him and I noticed he just didn't put everything in his mouth right away, but he looked it over a couple of times. He made sure it was good, at least, what he thought was good, and then if it passed those tests, it went into his mouth and he ate it. How about us? Do we just maybe open up a book without thinking and just put it right into our heart without any filters?

Do we go to certain places? Do we let certain things come in front of our vision without being careful? What happens? If we think back, I know if we eat something that would not be helpful to us, what happens? There is usually some pain or some sickness and sometimes those things have to be brought back up to rid it from our body. That is the same way it is for each one of us. Are we careful that we are maintaining good works and that we don't let evil thoughts

come right into our heart? Why? Because sometimes they are going to come back out and hurt somebody. They will hurt us as well.

If you have, as we have heard, that sword of the Spirit (we heard in the Old Testament time), God's armour upon us to protect us, His Word hidden in our heart, are you prepared for the onslaught of Satan? Then what happens? We'll have a profit.

These things are good. They are profitable unto all men. A profit, loved ones, doesn't say how much, but we go back and think of the story of the lord and master, a husbandman of a vineyard, and asked them to come. Some worked throughout the day and some worked for just an hour. At the end of the day, they each received a reward from the husbandman of a penny. That one penny would gain them entrance into heaven.

That is what He asks of us to do. Do we do those things that are profitable, not for things here upon this earth, but to be profitable for us to gain heaven?

Perhaps just a thought in closing because we spent a lot of time thinking about those things that are profitable. That is good for us because that certainly should be and is the desire of each one of a believer's heart, is to work for those things that are profitable. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

We are reminded here in the last verse that some things are unprofitable, some things that are

vain or vanity. To be forewarned about them is to be forearmed. What are they? Here it says, "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." (Titus 3:9). Let us be careful what we talk about. Let us be careful what we think about. Are we trying to sort split hairs, as the world would say, being more worried caught up?

It is good sometimes, loved ones, to know genealogies, but as we are told, for unto us a child is born...unto us a Son is given. It is for you and it is for me. It is for parents, it is for grandfathers, and yes, it is for our great - grandfathers. Even as we saw in the Old Testament times what happened to David, it didn't affect Solomon that much. Somewhat it did. But each individually, that is how each one is as well.

Avoid foolish questions. The things that we should be speaking about are the things that we should be talking about. When we have time hearing the family time at Christmas is time to teach our children as the Israelites taught their children and how good God was to them.

We could spend a lot of time talking about Y2K and about what is coming up in the world and we could spend a lot of time talking about the goodness of Jesus Christ Who was crucified. Let us walk the more excellent way.



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 1999-2000

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409. Note: Bro. Harold Witzig has retired from the coordinating position.

| COUNTRY | GROUP | DATE | AREA | COORDINATOR | PROJECT | CAP. | FULL |
|---------|------------|-------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|-------|------|
| Haiti | SEED | Mar 30-Apr 7, '00 | Les Cayes | Art Mueller | Agriculture Aid | 11 | 100% |
| Haiti | MEBSH | Mar 23-31, '00 | Les Cayes | Phil Isabel | Grade School | 11 | 40% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | Apr 13-21, '00 | Kingston | (1) Roanoke Bible Cl. | Deaf School | 40/50 | 100% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | May 12-20, '00 | Deaf Village | Andy Bauman | Work Place | 40 | 100% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | May 12-20, '00 | Montego Bay | TBA | Deaf School | 40 | 100% |
| Haiti | Palm Grove | May 20-27, '00 | Puits Sales | Tom Hitz | Grade School | 11 | 100% |
| Haiti | AWA-FRW | May 25/June2, '00 | Les Cayes | Duane Schieler | Vocational Sch. | 5 | 100% |
| Haiti | AWA-T | May25/June2, '00 | Les Cayes | Derek Sauder | Water Aid | 5 | 100% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | June 3-10, '00 | Deaf Village | (4) Taylor/Princeville Sunday School | Work Place | 40/50 | 100% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | June 10-17, '00 | Kingston | (2) Morton Bible Cl. | Deaf School | 40/50 | 100% |
| Jamaica | CCCD | Jul 15-22, '00 | Knockpatrick | (3) Mansfield Bible Cl. | Deaf School | 40/50 | 100% |
| Haiti | AWA-FRW | Oct 19-27, '00 | Les Cayes | Duane Schieler | Vocational Sch. | 4 | 50% |
| Haiti | AWA-T | Oct 19-27, '00 | Les Cayes | Derek Sauder | Water Aid | 4 | 50% |
| Haiti | MEBSH | Postponed til '01 | Les Cayes | Bob Pflederer | Hospital Lumiere | TBA | 0% |

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville,
Remington, Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

| COORDINATOR | PHONE | FAX |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Derek Sauder | 309-925-7502 | |
| Duane Schieler | 765-567-2922 | 765-567-2922 |
| Craig Emch | 330-939-4591 | 330-939-4591 |
| Dean Pashek | 517-662-7685 | 517-662-7099 |
| Jim Walter | 815-692-3158 | 815-692-2851 |
| Bob Beebe | 219-291-2158 | 219-299-8173 |
| Phil Isabel | 219-261-3541 | 219-261-2885 |
| Terry Miller | 309-747-2212 or 941-485-4302 | |
| Tom Hitz | 734-454-9229 | TBA |
| Bob Pflederer | 309-266-5853 | 309-676-8455 |
| (1) Kevin Fischer | 309-923-7684 | |
| (2) John Knobloch | 309-263-1092 | |
| (3) Pete Webel | 419-756-2587 | |
| (4) Kent Heimer | 573-393-2440 | |
| Andy Bauman | 309-965-2174 | 309-691-6739 |
| Les Gerber | 219-824-2734 | 219-824-8048 |
| Art Mueller | 608-676-4365 | 608-676-5200 |

Mexico Work Teams

Construction - Juarez
March 18-25, 2000
 Contact Bro. Jay Grube
 (219) 565-3402

Construction - Juarez
March 25 - April 1, 2000
 Contact Bro. Jeff Leman
 (219) 565-3815

Call To Subscribe

Please call the Gateway Woods' Office at 888/443-4283 to receive The Gate Post, a free newsletter about Gateway Woods published three times yearly.

Revelation and Genesis

The Bible is all one story. The last part of the last book in the Bible reads like the close of the story begun in the first part of the first book in the Bible.

The first word in Genesis:

"In the beginning God created the Heavens and Earth." (Gen. 1:1)

Almost the last word in Revelation:

"I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth." (Rev. 21:1)

"The gathering together of waters He called the Sea." (Gen. 1:10)

"And the sea is no more." (Rev. 21:1)

"The Darkness he called Night." (Gen. 1:5)

"There shall be no night there." (Rev. 21:25)

"God made the two great lights (sun and moon)." (Gen. 1:16)

"The city has no need of the sun nor the moon." (Rev. 21:23)

"In the day you eat thereof you shall surely die." (Gen. 2:17)

"Death shall be no more." (Rev. 21:4)

"Cursed is the ground for your sake." (Gen. 3:17)

"There shall be No More Curse." (Rev. 22:3)

Satan appears as deceiver of mankind. (Gen. 3:1,4)

Satan disappears forever. (Rev. 20:10)

They were driven from the Tree of Life. (Gen. 3:22-24)

The Tree of Life re-appears. (Rev. 22:2)

They were driven from God's Presence. (Gen. 3:24)

"They shall see His face." (Rev. 22:4)

Man's primeval home was by a river. (Gen. 2:10)

Man's eternal home will be beside a river (Rev. 22:1)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE 1-800-747-9049

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

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

The hotline will not provide diagnosis or treatment.

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE 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

Gateway Woods Auction Saturday, August 19, 2000

Director of Operations

(formerly Assistant Administrator)
 Position available Feb/March 2000

Desired credentials:

Godly focus, committed to Church
 Strong financial skills (CPA or equivalent)
 Managerial experience (Staff supervision)
 Skillful and comfortable with people
 (Communication)

Benefits:

Attractive compensation and benefit package
 Career Ladder: Opportunity for advancement
 Positive, growth-oriented culture

Responses handled confidentially at:

Woodhaven Retirement Community

29667 Wentworth Avenue
 Livonia, MI 48154-3256
 Attn: Randy Gasser
 (734) 261-9000



Assistant Houseparents Needed

Sis. Jill Gramm and Sis. Teri Gramm will both be leaving Gateway Woods in March of this year. As a result, we have two immediate openings for single sisters, directed of the Lord, to work in full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship working with brothers and sisters working toward a common goal. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf or Phil Stettner
 (Address and phone on next page)

- NOTICE -

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

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

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S
 HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO
 NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-
 TRIBUTE 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



Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. At this time, however, we are experiencing several staff openings. Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lisa Kipfer have informed us that they will be leaving their full-time Houseparent position in the fall of 2000. In addition, Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel plan to leave their full-time Alternate Houseparent position and return to Foster Parenting. This offers an opportunity for two couples, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. These positions offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

*Ed Graf or Phil Stettner
(Address and Phone listed below)*

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,
Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

ATTENTION WW II Veterans REUNION AT

Morton, IL, June 3-4, 2000

All veterans of WWII are invited. Brothers, sisters, and friends. Watch for Registration cards to be sent to all Apostolic Christian Churches.

Atlanta Open House & Dedication

In anticipation of our Open House & Dedication on July 1 and 2, we are collecting names and addresses of those who live in the Atlanta area. Please submit names of anyone you know to: Tom Waldbeser, 2910 Maple Vista Ln., Lawrenceville, GA, 30044 or call him at (770)935-1451. Thank you.



Education Coordinator

Gateway Woods needs an experienced, organized, licensed teacher to fill the position of Education Coordinator. Responsibilities include: coordinate Gateway Woods School including teachers and students, organize Gateway Woods' summer program, teach remedial classes, supervise tutors in our after-school program, enroll residents in GWS or public school, serve as a liaison with public school, maintain education records and be a Christ-like example in serving others for His glory. If you feel the Lord leading you to inquire about this position, please contact us.

Ed Graf
Child Care Supervisor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159 or (888) 443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
1780 N 450 E
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219) 565-3499



Brethren Jailed

This article is a continuation of a series of significant events in our church during the 1900's.

Persecutions

The Scriptures teach that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. History records atrocious acts of hostility against professed believers over the centuries.

When Samuel Froehlich began preaching in Switzerland, state authorities often interfered. In a meeting in 1834, participants at a meeting were manhandled to the shedding of blood with sticks and stones.

In 1837, a church meeting at Berne was stormed by police. The preacher was banned from the canton. In Thurgau, newly baptized persons were beaten.

In 1842, Bro. Froehlich was jailed and fined 150 francs. He was deported for seven years.

Jailing in Georgia

In America, believers were accorded a constitutional right to worship freely according to their beliefs. Isolated occurrences of persecution have occurred, but it has been very minor compared to centuries past.

One notable act of police persecution against our members occurred in 1918 at Macon, Georgia, during the time of World War I.

Bro. Gustave Bucher of Gridley, Illinois, father of Harry Bucher, and Elder Barthol Rapp of Morton, Illinois, journeyed to Camp Wheeler to visit the young men of the church who were stationed there. On arriving, they sought

permission from camp authorities (from Major General Leroy S. Lyon) to conduct church services for several soldiers of the Apostolic Christian Church. These services were held on the afternoon of July 29, 1918, at Hotel Lanier in Macon.

The servicemen of the church and two civilians, Gustave Bucher and Barthol Rapp, gathered in one of the hotel's rooms. They locked the door and pulled down the window shades. They passed out German language hymnals, sang from them, and Rapp conducted worship services in the German language, this at a time when the United States was involved in a war with Germany and anti - German feeling in the nation was gaining in intensity.

Both the military police and the local Macon police were evidently unaware that the worship meeting was authorized by the camp's high command. On hearing the singing and the German language, police came in and broke up the meeting, arrested the participants, and marched them down to the city jail.

A Macon, Georgia, newspaper contained the headline, "German Religious Services Broken Up By the Police". It noted that 20 soldiers and two civilians had been arrested and jailed. When it was learned that the meeting was sanctioned by military authorities at Camp Wheeler (near Macon), the men and boys were released. It was a misunderstanding.

Gridley, IL

The incident at Hotel Lanier was obviously controversial, and the news spread rapidly. Word soon reached Gridley, Illinois, the home of soldiers, William Gramm and Harry Bucher. Be-

cause of the war with German, anti-German feeling in Gridley ran high among some people. In fact, soon after the incident at Macon, vandals splashed a bold sign in yellow paint on the front of the Apostolic Christian Church at Gridley.

This occurred on a Saturday night. When members arrived for worship the next morning, they saw the big yellow sign which read, "NO MORE GERMAN". This, of course, made reference to the German language which was used during worship services at the Gridley church. The sign symbolized the anti-German feeling that existed, not only in Gridley, but across the nation.

The sign stunned the congregation and deeply offended many of the brethren. Fearfully, they wondered, "What will happen next?" This unpleasant incident ultimately led to the use of the English language during worship at Gridley. The change to English occurred across the church nationwide as well.

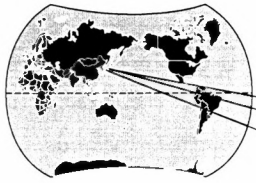
Following Scriptures

If one adheres to the Bible, he very likely will, at times, receive the scorn of the unbeliever, either overtly or covertly. But we must realize that suffering for the Lord's sake is a noble calling. God is pleased when we follow His ways!

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

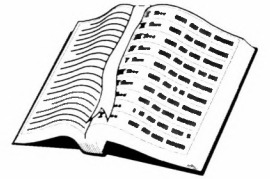
Choosing a church name



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“SHE DID WHAT SHE COULD”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We may not always be able to do enough, well enough, but we should do what we can. I am comforted by the account in Mark 14 of the woman who anointed Jesus' head with an expensive box of ointment. She was criticized for wasting the ointment which could have been better used, but Jesus defended her. It wasn't that Jesus didn't care about the poor; He devoted his life to helping the poor, those who are poor spiritually and financially. The financially poor can get along better by living a pure and simple life as Jesus taught, and the spiritually poor can become spiritually rich by repenting and becoming a follower of Jesus. We read in II Corinthians 8:9, "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

Jesus looked past the price of the ointment to the intention and motivation of the woman. The woman had probably spent a lot of her own money to buy that oint-

ment. To her, it may have been a great sacrifice to buy it. In any case, her heart was in the right place in regard to what she was doing. Jesus, knowing this, said when He heard her being criticized, "Let her alone...She hath done what she could." He further stated that she had done it as a preparation for His burial.

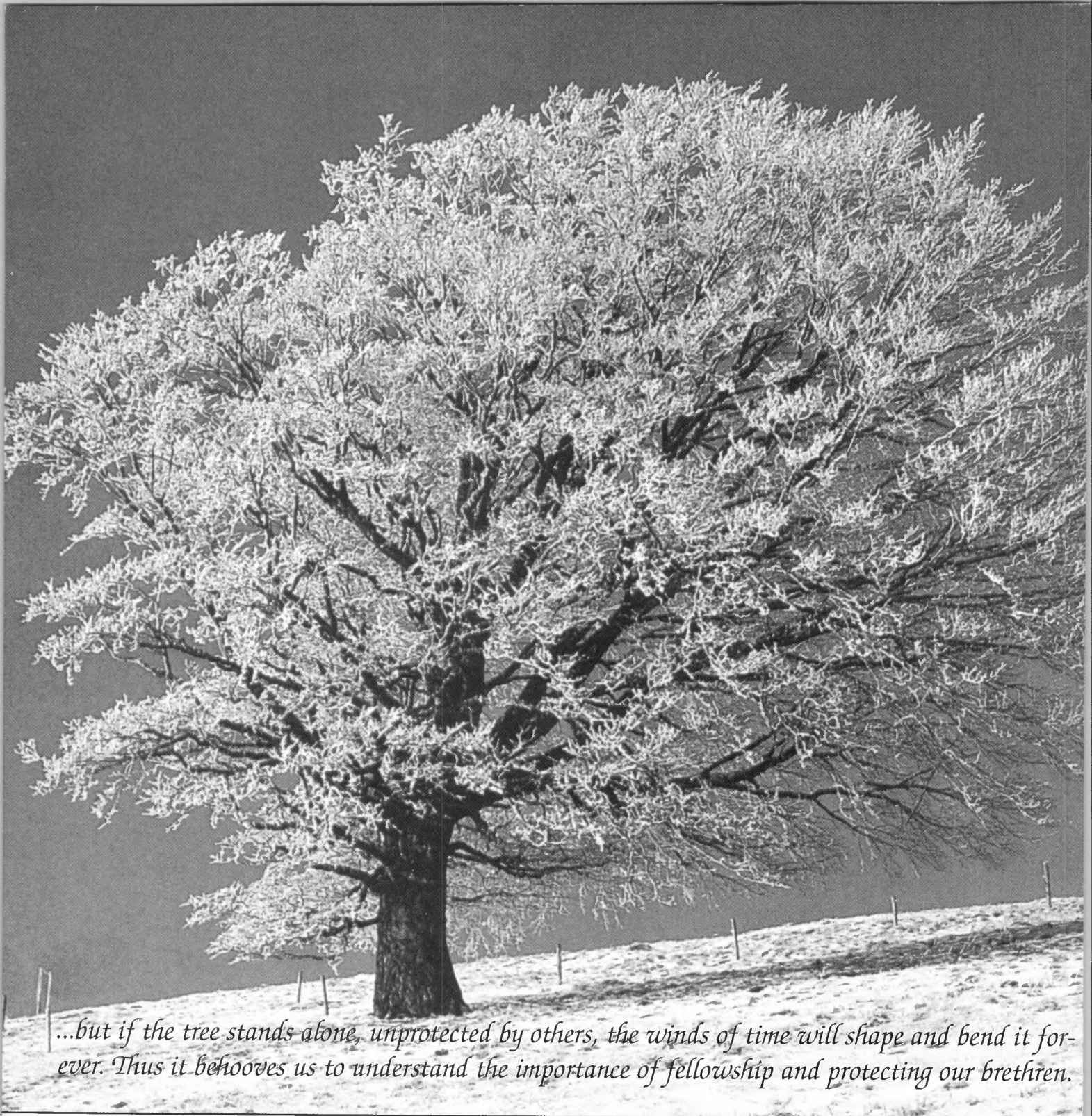
The question arises as to whether or not this woman, usually spoken of as Mary, knew that Jesus was to be crucified. God may have given her an insight into the coming crucifixion, or the Holy Spirit may have prompted her to do it without her realizing exactly why. You and I may also be prompted to do certain things although we may not know exactly why. The important thing is that we do what we can to honor the Lord Jesus and bring glory to God.

How is it with you? Do you always do so well in your daily walk of life that you are confident and comforted by your constant successes in sharing God's message with oth-

ers and in living a really holy life? If so, God bless you for your excellent service. As for me, I often take comfort in many situations by saying to myself, "At least I tried. I did what I thought was right. I did what I could."

Others may not need Jesus' words, "Let her alone. She hath done what she could," but I need those words. My life is filled with failures. I failed the Japanese course at the university, receiving only half as many credits as I would have received had I been able to handle the course. I had hoped and prayed that we would see a new church started in Japan every three years but after three churches (buildings at least) were started, we became bogged down in just keeping our churches alive and continuing. At least, I wanted to succeed in maintaining my health, but, nevertheless, I have had some health problems. I did what I could so I'm happy anyway. You, too, please.

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...but if the tree stands alone, unprotected by others, the winds of time will shape and bend it forever. Thus it behooves us to understand the importance of fellowship and protecting our brethren.

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