

The Silver Lining

As winter fadeth into the spring, the earth doth bring forth its dormant beauty ...

April 2000

"GOD ALWAYS WANTS HIS BEST FOR ALL"

Sermon by Bro. Galen Rokey, Bern, KS
 Jeremiah 22 and I Timothy 6

I am sure that all of us can say that when we read God's Word, whether it be the chapter that we considered here this morning, or when in our own homes we take His Word and sit down and read it, that there are verses and portions of Scriptures that are perhaps hard to understand. We may not receive what we would consider a blessing from reading those words. Then there are other words that speak to us so plainly and so openly and that are so easy to understand.

We consider several verses here in this particular chapter and there should be no doubt in our minds about what God is teaching us. We consider first of all here in this chapter, which was written, if I err not, from Paul to Timothy, if we consider the fact that Timothy was a young man who had just begun to work in the Lord's vineyard. Paul had sent him forth for a specific purpose in the church as directed by God, and that was to labor in His vineyard as a servant and as a minister in God's work.

So the teachings that he spoke here, we may think were for Timothy; but we can all be "Timothys" in our walk of life, no matter where we are, no matter what our lot and station is. If we are in school, in the workplace, on the farm, wherever, let us take heed and let us consider together the words that we read.

"Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all, honour..." (I Timothy 6:1). I think all of us can say that when we look back in our lifetime whether it was in school when we were as a student under a teacher, whether we worked for our parents or whether we labored for someone else, maybe as a young individual or maybe even throughout our lifetime, when we were an employee, we were all at some point in our life, we are really servants, so to speak.

What does he say here? What are the instructions here? He says, "These servants should count their

own masters worthy of all honour." We have examples in the Scriptures of this. There was a particular young man whose name was Onesimus. We can read about this in Paul's own writings here as he was inspired by God. This particular man was considered a slave in that day and time, in that he was purchased, as I understand, to work for this particular man whose name was Philemon.

Onesimus, as maybe many of us would be inclined to do, came to the point in his life where he did not honor his master. If we read those words carefully, we can read where he ran away. He was considered a runaway slave. Then he came to the knowledge of the truth and he repented and he came to Paul asking him, "What shall I do? I have run away from my master and have not honored him." Paul advised him, as he was inspired by God, that he should go back to his master, and that he would receive him lovingly.

Paul then wrote by his own hand a letter to Philemon saying, "Receive this man for he has changed. He realizes the error of his way." We are not, so to speak, servants and we could be servants of Satan. We really are not slaves in this life. We are all servants of the Living God, I hope and trust.

If we do not serve God, if God is not our master, then we ought to examine our lives and see just who are we serving. Because certainly we would want to honor God.

It says here that all of us should count their masters worthy of all honor. Just as we as an employee, or as a student under someone else, we would certainly want to respect and honor our masters.

He said we need to do this. "...that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed." (I Timothy 6:1). Is it serious? It seems like it doesn't necessarily refer to a matter of life and death, but it is serious. Because Jesus once said that blasphemy was the only sin that could not be forgiven after one has come to the knowledge of

the truth. So we should be careful here that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.

God's Word is so wonderful. He gives direction to servants. He gives directions for those of us who work for someone else. Then He also gives directions for the employer and for the masters here.

Then he says, "And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren."

Sermon continued on page 45

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2000

Deception II

"Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:10). Deception is a tool of Satan by which both those who deceive and those who are deceived are in danger of eternal damnation. How then do we know when we are being deceived?

Sometimes deception comes so slowly it may take years or even several generations to occur. Only by careful observation can this gradual change be detected; therefore, it is necessary to be certain we have a solid basis from which to operate, keeping the standard for comparison unchanged and enabling us to more easily recognize deception.

Because the Word of God is unchanging, we can use the Bible as our standard of comparison. If any generation changes even a small amount in a given area, it will always be possible to detect these changes if we truly examine them in the light of God's Word.

Sometimes, however, we are deceived because we use people instead of Jesus Christ as our model. "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (II Cor. 10:12). "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth" (II Cor. 10:18). Therefore, it is clear that the only safe measure to ensure that we are not deceived is Jesus Christ.

Deception can also occur because we refuse to accept the Lord's will for our lives. We often persist in asking for something we should not have until the Lord allows us to have it - but it is not without consequences. "They soon forgot his works; They waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Ps. 106:13-15).

Furthermore, we also can be deceived by associating with the wrong kinds of people or going the wrong places. If we spend time with those who engage in sinful or questionable behavior, we can eventually

have our consciences dulled and can no longer sense the spiritual danger of sin. If we do not maintain a sharp line of separation from sin, the line gets blurred and we no longer can tell if we are in danger. An example of this can be found in the entertainment industry. If we expose ourselves to unwholesome standards long enough, our senses will become dulled, and our behavior begins to change. Soon the sin that was obvious at the beginning no longer seems so sinful. We read in I Timothy 4:1-2, "...that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

In Acts 28:27 we are similarly reminded of the danger of exposure to sin. "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

Since deception is a state of sincere belief that we are right when in fact we are wrong, how can we tell if we are deceived? There are several questions that we can ask ourselves that may help.

1.) Do we find ourselves less offended by sin than we were at one time? Do we find ourselves accepting certain kinds of behavior that we would not have accepted when we were first converted? If so, we may have lowered our standards to be more in tune with the world. Since the world is getting more evil, the gap between what the world accepts and what a child of God finds acceptable should be getting greater. If the gap is the same, have we been deceived into moving the same pace on the journey to sinful living that the world has?

2.) Do we find ourselves at odds with the doctrine and traditions of our brotherhood? The doctrine and traditions have stood the test of time. If we find ourselves in opposition to them, or trying to find excuses for not supporting them, a thorough self-examination could reveal that Satan has deceived us into believing that the standards of the church no longer matter.

3.) Do we find ourselves searching the scripture to defend questionable behavior rather than to draw closer to the Lord? The Word of God is not a law book to be altered to meet a particular desire of ours. It is rather a stable set of guidelines that will help us construct a solid foundation upon which to build a household of faith.

4.) Do we find ourselves making excuses for doing things that we have been taught that we shouldn't do?

5.) Instead of supporting church leadership, do we find ourselves criticizing them because they uphold the standards of old?

6.) Do we find ourselves saying "Since I do not have a conviction about an issue, if I follow it I will be a hypocrite"?

7.) Do we find ourselves listening to modern evangelists and theologians to support beliefs that differ from the doctrines and practices of the Apostolic Christian Church?

8.) Do we find excuses to not attend special services such as the reading of the memorandum, conference tapes and testimonies because we don't want to hear the messages?

9.) Is what we are doing a stumbling block to others or have the appearance of evil?

10.) Does it glorify God or quench the Holy Spirit in you?

11.) When Jesus comes again, would you like to be found doing it?

If we find we are living contrary to God's Word, we must spend time searching the scriptures to find the truth lest we be deceived.

Although Satan's use of deception is powerful, we can be encouraged and that we have a more powerful tool to guide our lives: Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Through Him we shall be able to overcome if we keep our focus Heavenward. In Mark 13:33-37, Jesus says, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is... Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."



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

Distribution Centers Play a Key Role

A common thread seems to run through the experiences of brethren and friends who participate in World Relief activities both at home and abroad. Most of them say that their lives are enriched by this opportunity. The following article was written by a brother who has helped in organizing as well as delivering goods. We want to share his experiences with our readers with the knowledge that this is just one of many persons who carry out the work.

“Is that stuff all for us?”

The truck driver looked down from the back of his semi in the direction of the voice. A young man with his shoulders hunched forward sat astride a well-used bicycle. “Oh! Is that stuff all for us?” came the high-pitched voice. Big eyes peered up at the driver through thick glasses that wanted to slide off the end of his nose. Although the body had to be at least late teens, his mind was obviously much younger.

The driver took a quick survey of the contents of this load. There was a good quantity of clothes, a nice supply of frozen meat, medicines, school supplies, cleaning products, and a lot of canned food. It appeared to be about ten pallets. He looked again at the big eyes, thought about his own healthy children at home and swallowed a lump in his throat before he softly replied, “Yeah, buddy, it’s all for you.” “Thanks a lot!” came the reply, “We sure can use that.”

Yes, they sure could use that load. Though that was just one incident, similar scenes to that have been repeated many times as loads of

materials have moved from our Distribution Centers to needy people throughout the world.

Distribution Center Coordinator Committee

In the last few months, the brothers of the Distribution Center Coordinator Committee have been busy enhancing the organization of all our distribution centers. It is their objective to meet needs more specifically, fulfill more requests, facilitate smooth transportation, and avoid shipping unneeded items. This also gives us the opportunity to give more useful items through World Relief and channel them to the proper destinations.

The changing role of distribution centers

At its inception, the primary purpose of the first facility at Wing, Illinois was to collect and sort clothes. With three current centers shipping internationally, and three supporting centers with a fourth being planned at Rittman, Ohio, the role of these centers has changed considerably. While all of the centers still receive clothes and other useful daily sustenance items, most have individual capabilities that make them unique.

At Goodfield, Illinois, good used furniture is collected, minor cleaning and repair is done and then it is shipped or distributed.

Making and packaging soup mixes and putting bulk cereal into family-sized packages has become a major project at the Fairbury Material Aid Center.

Bay City, Michigan has brothers raising edible beans for commercial production. It was only natural that the center there would become a primary bean packaging facility.

For several years the Bluffton Distribution Center has been putting together food packages for needy brethren in Romania. In the last few years, the Campbell Food Company has been sending semi load quantities of soup here for distribution to other centers.

International shipping

In 1999 it was decided that only the centers at Bluffton, Fairbury, and Goodfield would be used for international shipments. The others would serve as points of collection, preparation, and forwarding. All centers are also used in local and regional distribution directly to the needy or to organizations approved by World Relief.

Blessings continue

Over the years, our brotherhood has been richly blessed. There have been many opportunities to be of service to needy people throughout the world. Needs have been filled many times because of generous brethren. Now, as our opportunities continue to expand, we can individually and collectively make a positive effect on the lives of many people, including ourselves.

When that handicapped person who has spent most of his life living without necessary material things looks up and says, “Is that stuff all for us?”, there is no doubt that God’s blessing has been put upon another load of life-sustaining necessities.

I know. I looked at those eyes, I swallowed that lump. I got to drive the truck.

... He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6



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

Growth of Churches in Mexico

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold continue the work of ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the rural Mexican people. Their base lies in the town of Ixtlan in central Mexico. They provide the Mission Committee with monthly reports of their activities.

New members are added

The weekend of November 11, 1999, Elder Brothers Roy Grimm and Chuck Hemmer traveled to Ixtlan. On that weekend, eight souls were added to the group of believers in Mexico. Seven were Mexican converts who gave their testimony, were baptized, and now are members of the church. Three of them are attending services in Morelia as outlined further in this article.

One brother who had been a member of the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean) in Argentina brought his testimony and is now a brother in our church. This continues the ongoing practice of accepting members of the sister church as members of our church when they bring their testimony of faith. Elders of both groups are in support of this.

At this time there are 24 members in Mexico, and about 12 more are repenting and awaiting baptism. It is our prayer that God will continue to direct these efforts and provide divine guidance in all we do.

Sunday services

Currently church attendance is over 40 adults and 30 children. In June 1999, the order of services was changed. Now they hold Sunday

School for children as well as adults at 11:00 AM followed by a worship service at 12:20 PM. Then at 5:00 PM there is singing in the church or in the home of someone with a short devotional to follow.

Additions to Ixtlan property

The lot next to the church has been purchased and this will give us access to the church directly from the street plus a place to accommodate classrooms and a dormitory for the workers who come to help in Ixtlan. As of this writing, construction work is in progress.

Sister Erica Schambach from Elgin, IL, is now in Ixtlan and she is working in the school teaching English and music. She has been a big help.

Searching for clean water

There is a group of brothers from the World Relief Committee that are investigating drilling wells, which are much needed in the Ixtlan area, as they are in similar areas throughout the world.

Eye care work is expanding

Bros. Loren Schrenk and Bryan Stoller have worked to establish a clinic where eye care services can be provided to those who otherwise would have none. Room for this clinic has been provided in the second floor of the Ixtlan Church. Also equipment to allow microscopic surgery has been placed in a hospital 30 minutes from Ixtlan in Zamora. Teams of brethren from the USA performed 5 operations in 1999 and 7 thus far in 2000.

Some of the people that were treated left with tears in their eyes

as they said they could see well for the first time in years. People who need help often come to the door of our facility wanting to know when the doctor will be here again.

Bringing the gospel to other areas

The Ixtlan church reaches out into four other communities with Bible studies during the week. People are brought in the church van to the church from these villages to the regular services.

Services are being held once a week in a house in Morelia (approximately two hours drive from Ixtlan) which was purchased for this purpose. Two sisters, one brother and some converts live in Morelia.

One of the outreaches is in LaBarca, a city of 80,000 people where Bible study is held each Friday afternoon. The people in this area are responding, as many continue to come in search of the gospel truth.

Status of the boys' ranch

The search for property that would fit the needs for the boys' ranch is still ongoing. The Lord has not opened the way for purchase of any additional property for this work.

The Lord surely has been blessing the work in Mexico, and it appears that He wants His church to be established and grounded before we proceed with the boys' ranch.

A word of thanks

The Mission Committee and everyone involved in this work thank all of our brethren and friends for their support and interest in these efforts as well as for the financial contributions we have received.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord."

John 20:19-20

How many times has fear been displaced with glad when we could see that Jesus was in the midst of the circumstance!

Princeville Sunday School children have established an Easter tradition here at Timber Ridge. A group has come for many years to dye eggs with our residents, and we are anticipating that event again this year.

The community homes host Easter egg hunts for residents and staff family members, a time of gladness especially for the children.

Early springtime brings the excitement of planning mini-vacations for many of the residents of our homes. Horse riding therapy also starts up again during this season, which gives such a wonderful sense of freedom and mobility to those who participate.

Training for Special Olympics that are coming up requires some extra effort and discipline on the part of those folks who will be taking part in the various events.

Jackie Barton, of 650 Detroit home, is spending time with her family in Michigan while she is recuperating from surgery. Her address while there is: 35502 Woodfield Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331.

MAY birthdays at TIMBER

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Arlo Kipfer

March! Ah, spring comes again. Already we have been blessed with two unusually warm weeks in February, and the effect that the weather has had on the kids and us is energizing. We are thankful to live in a part of this great country where seasons change, and we can be reminded, especially during spring, of the regeneration and new birth that the Father has worked in us through His Son. Part of the changes that we at Gateway Woods are now experiencing are several staff openings. We do have the need for an Education Coordinator, Alternate Houseparents, and an Assistant Houseparent (see the notice in this issue or call for more details). The Lord is faithful, though, and we trust that He will either call some of His own to fill these positions or give us the strength to endure a staff shortage. Please pray with us about this. As an answer to prayer (ours and yours), Sis. Becky Stoller has accepted one of the Assistant Houseparent positions, and moved out here to Leo from Roanoke, IL. She will be working with Wiegand's in their house. Welcome, Becky!

We do say farewell to Sis. Jill Gramm and Sis. Terri Gramm as they are leaving their positions as Assistant Houseparents. Both Jill and Terri plan on staying in Leo, so we will still get to fellowship with them. Still, staff and kids alike who

are used to seeing them daily still will miss them.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

II Timothy 2:24-26

Few verses describe what we as Houseparents, Counselors and Teachers do in applying this passage out of Paul's second letter to Timothy. As we work with the children placed in our care, it is often humbling to see our own problems in them. We all have often heard our ministers say how hard and sobering it is to expound the Word, while realizing how far they fall short of the perfect measure of what they are preaching. As parents and Houseparents, it is similar, as we "call" our kids on their behaviors, and confront them on the attitudes of their hearts - only to find that what they struggle with are the same issues we ourselves deal with daily. Praise be to God, for thankfully, He provided a way for this sinful nature to be crucified with His Son, freeing us from the law of sin and death (Romans 7). So while we deal with those that "oppose themselves", we are also encouraged to be gentle, ready and consistent ("apt to teach"), and to do it meekly. This passage also challenges us to pray that God will allow these children to seek Him in repentance and full acknowledgment of the Truth. Thanks to all who pray regularly for this work with troubled children, and we shall see clearer some day as to what really was accomplished here.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Athens, Alabama

Tom Schrenk

As we leave the month of March and begin April, I was listening to the children this morning as they sang songs about Jesus and recited their Bible verses. Each month we learn Bible verses that go along with letters of the alphabet. We are doing: U - "Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks." (Psalm 75:1). V - "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." (John 16:23). W - "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." (Psalm 56:3). X - "Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us." (II Peter 1:4). Y - "Ye are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14). What an inspiration it is to listen as these little ones learn these verses and then with enthusiasm recite them to their teachers.

At our last writing, we asked for your prayers in considering God's direction in a sister or brother's life concerning coming to the Preschool as a teacher. We are now asking that if God is working in your heart about this, to talk with your local Elder and then to call Bro. Lavoyd Moore (256-232-2035) or Bro. Tom Schrenk (256-232-0037) for information. We do have a need for a teacher and also for volunteers to come for a day, week or what time you can to help during summer classes.

We have received several inquiries about our sponsorship program. We continue to have a need financially to help families pay expenses and also to help the Preschool as we continue to work as God gives direction. We do appreciate the prayers and support that so many have given. For information about any question you may have, call the Preschool at (256) 233-

0591 or e-mail apostolicpreschool@juno.com.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

Spring is here with all of the newness and freshness that it brings! We can feel the quickening of our pace as we walk around outside. The grass is green, the air is fresh, and the beauty of new life is all around us. This is a time of year that is looked forward to by many. How much more are we looking forward to that time in Heaven, when all will have a new spiritual body. When we can and will see Jesus face to face. When He will wipe away all tears from our eyes and we will never be separated from Him or our loved ones ever again. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20).

The fellowship we have with one another is, perhaps, a small foretaste of what is to come in Heaven and we are thankful for this time of year when we do get many visitors. This month we had visitors from Chicago, Fairbury, Forrest, Morton, Peoria, and Princeville, IL; Francesville, Milford, Wolcott, IN; and from Smithville, OH. What a joy it is to pull into the parking lot at church and see cars there from other states. Thank you, each one, for coming.

Memorial Day is coming up and for us here in Athens (and Nashville) this means planning and preparation for the annual Tennessee Fellowship Area Singing! We anticipate a great crowd and encourage anyone who wants to come to make your plans. If you haven't been here before, then we especially invite you to join us for a weekend of fellowship and singing on the weekend of May 27-28. For more information, please call Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore at (256) 232-2035 or Sis. Gwen Leuthold at

(615) 662-2946. If you plan to attend, please let us know by May 1 so we can get an accurate number for the program and meals. Call one of the numbers above, or e-mail Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard at treinhard@juno.com.

Two of our congregation had surgery this month. Sis. Nancy Sizemore had her knee operated on, and Pete Perry had bypass surgery on his heart. We pray for healing and restoration of health for both of them and look forward to having them assemble with us again for church. They would both appreciate your prayers.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

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

Acts 3:19

Two dear souls who have worshipped with us for years heard the Master's call and said, "Yes, Lord." We rejoice with Jerry Tooley (Sis. June) and Richard Kraft (late Sis. Dorothy) as they are repenting to become a child of God. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

"I called upon the Lord in my distress, the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place."

Psalms 118:5

Our beloved Sis. Irene Emch entered Heaven's gates at 12:29 a.m., February 21. She joined her beloved husband, Bro. Paul, who died July 3, 1999. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church for 64 years. Her quiet manner was a great vessel to radiate God's love to everyone!

Funeral services were at the

church on February 25. Two grandsons, Bro. James Emch and Bro. Todd Zollinger, and Bro. Ken Lawson had the services. Internment was in East Resthaven Cemetery.

Sis. Irene is survived by Bro. Don, Bro. Jerry, Bob and Bill, Sis. Shirley Zollinger and many other relatives.

May God comfort all of us, as Sis. Irene was a real cornerstone in our church.

Eddie Dotterer passed away on February 20. His funeral services were held at Green Acres Mortuary on February 24. We extend our sympathy to Anna Emch Dotterer's relatives on their uncle's death.

Shanon and Kolleen Maurer became first-time parents when they were blessed with the birth of Sophia Rose on February 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer. We pray God's blessings on our new family.

Phoenix Sunday School Jr. and Sr. High were hosts to California and Arizona Sunday School classes February 19-21. It is encouraging to have our youth have Christian fellowship and seek God's will in their lives. We are thankful to each of our brothers and sisters who shared in this labor of love. God always adds His blessings to you.

"...Shall we continue in sin?...God forbid..."

Romans 6:1-2

On February 26, a large crowd gathered to hear the testimonies of Chris and Heather Thorpe and Candice Klopfenstein. It is a joy to hear how God works in our hearts when we repent and become saved.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) assisted Elder Bro.

Jon Kokanovich in the baptisms. Bro. Chris, Sis. Heather and Sis. Candice, we welcome you into God's family as do your moms, dads and husband, Jeff. May Romans 6 be your steadfast guide (Scripture your Elders used).

Later we enjoyed a church dinner and reading the Conference letter.

How befitting that Elder Bros. Jon and Dale read the Conference letter on a day of baptisms. Our converts are to be firmly grounded in repentance and church doctrine. We all know this doesn't happen overnight. We are to be overcomers and see our commitment to the finish.

Kolette Niemeyer and Nick Hysong exchanged wedding vows on March 11 in an outdoor ceremony at the Embassy Suites on Greenway. Their parents are Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Lois Niemeyer and Cranston and Sue Hysong. We pray God's blessing on them.

We always enjoy our winter visitors and this winter brought visiting ministers as well. We thank Bros. Ben Wiegand, Todd Zollinger, Warren Zahner, Dan Beer, Ralph Garber, and Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and John Lehman for proclaiming God's Word.

We had many to pray for, including those who had medical procedures: Bro. Richard Schupbach, Bro. John Kaufman, Bro. Clarence Beyer, Bro. Adam Knochel, Shanon Maurer and Sis. Gerry Beyer. Kathie Labudde has been missing church for some time. We are grateful for God's protection of Mike Emch when his car was totaled.

Many of our Phoenix folks went to Prescott for Open House and Dedication services on March 11-12.

Do you rejoice over the good things the Lord has given you? See

Deut. 26:11.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

One hundred, twenty-five people, including two Elders and four ministers, attended the dedication services of our new church on March 12. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) had the services. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Ken Lawson (Phoenix) were also in attendance. Our first baptism was held in the afternoon. Tim Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) became our new brother in Christ. In the evening, after a church dinner, we had the first Communion services in our new church. It was a blessed day of fellowship and unity. An added blessing was the beautiful weather and scenery.

Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) ministered to our congregation on March 5. We appreciated all the ministering brothers who travel many miles to serve us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We enjoyed visits from several visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) were all with us recently and were willing to share God's Word on the pulpit. We thank each one of them for their efforts on our behalf.

We recently hosted a quick meal for a group heading down to Mexico on a work project. We enjoyed their fellowship and the opportunity to see some familiar faces! We thank them for stopping by to worship with us on their way.

We are looking forward to baptisms and testimonies, Lord will-

ing, this coming weekend, March 18-19, and also Communion on March 19.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp as they travel to Illinois for the funeral of Bro. Loren's older brother, Bro. Wib Knapp. May God grant them traveling mercies and also comfort in knowing that Bro. Wib is safe in the arms of Jesus.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Jim Klotzle

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ! As we daily strive towards the goal, our adversary, the devil, tries to tempt us, draw us away, and use every means to keep us from close communion with our Heavenly Father. Peter recognized this danger and was inspired to write in I Peter 5:8-9, this warning to the early church:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

In the most significant temptation ever recorded, Jesus revealed one of Satan's most devastating tactics, and showed us how to resist steadfastly. This is found in the earlier portion of Matthew, Chapter 4:

"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:3-4

Each time Satan tempted our

Lord with some physical thing, Jesus responded on a spiritual level with Scripture. We can each do the same if we know God's Word well and use it in its entirety.

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

Hebrews 4:12

Ministering Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) visited this past month and we thank him for sharing the Word with our congregation.

Johnny Klotzle and myself spent a week with the second annual Agua Prieta, Mexico, work team.

Bro. Justin Moser spent a week in Juarez, Mexico, helping believers there along with his parents.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to express my appreciation for the prayers, love and kindness shown to me since I fell and broke my hip. God bless all of you.

Dorothy Vermillion

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

Greetings! As spring weather returns, with its new life abounding everywhere, our thoughts turn to our Lord and Saviour and His resurrection from the grave, bringing us the hope of a new life in Him. May we take time to meditate upon this great miracle.

Easter

Oh who among the sons of men
By word or song or deed or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day,

It gilds the holy sacred page,
It brings to every clime and age,
To every people tribe and race
The story of redeeming grace.

The blessed Paschal feast of old,
with mystic meaning does unfold,
For there the Paschal Lamb was
slain,
The Hebrew's safety to attain.
When angels saw the blood applied,
Upon the lintel doorpost wide
Then they passed over every
home
in mercy where the blood was
shown.

Christ is the world's Paschal
Lamb.

He is the great "I was, I AM"
Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,
He conquered over death and tomb.
He rose His own to justify,
And draws all men up to the sky.
If you have found the Christ, His way,
Then you can keep this Easter
Day.

Once again this past month we have been blessed with many visitors. We appreciate each of you. We want to thank retired ministering Bro. Walt Steffen for his willingness to serve us when he and Sis. Dorothy were here, as Bro. Peter was alone that Wednesday evening. May the Lord bless him for his willingness.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Marisa Wirz

The Night Watchman
"Behold, I come as a thief.
Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk

naked, and they see his shame.”
Rev. 16:15

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”
Rev. 13:18

He who is wise, let him reflect on this number, but let him examine himself well before he undertakes this difficult calculation, for upon closer probing he will find that he must still count himself in this number. Plainly said, we still may have something of the anti-Christ in us as long as Christ is not all in us.

After the heat of the strife with the beast and the many temptations which the believing children of Abraham had to overcome, this Melchisedec will go to meet them with the bread and wine and bless them in the attributes of the true and high name of Jesus...then the dear brothers who are of the attributes of Lot also will be rescued. These brothers of Lot are souls who leave the naked faith of Abraham; sought a visible kingdom of many good things, flowery meadows and many a spiritual satisfaction but who in a certain faithfulness still clung to the Lord and entertained and lodged the servants of the Lord. But who owing to their earthly mind desired to associate the kingdom of God with the kingdom of this world, were incapacitated of the highest blessing of the firstfruit of the most holy faith and by their staying in the background exposed themselves and theirs to the danger of becoming pillars of salt.

—writings of S.H. Froehlich

“So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are

unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

Luke 17:10

Sis. Ingrid Fortenbacher traveled to Haiti for a few days to help in a work team.

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

Isaiah 52:7

Visiting ministers bringing us the Word of Christ this month were: Bros. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Floyd Graves (Sis. Linda, Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.”

Hebrews 12:22-23

In one of his writings, Bro. Froehlich says that in every assembly of saints where the Word of Christ dwells and is preached there are invisible spirits and angels present; in fact, he said, where the Lord is, there is a whole camp of His servants also.

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

Psalms 122:1

We welcome all visitors to come and worship with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515

or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for more information and directions.

COLORADO, DENVER Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

“What joy I feel, what peace is mine, As I my all to Thee resign...” Both Britt Steffen and Teresa Katanic have felt this joy and peace as they have decided to give up control of their lives to God.

Britt is a sophomore in high school, and after spending an evening with his friends, realized that he didn't want to live the way they were living. Needless to say, Britt's dad and mom, Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue, are overjoyed and thankful. The Sunday School teachers are also especially thankful for the great example Britt is for his classmates. All of us in the Denver church wish Britt plenty of God's grace and strength and wisdom to overcome the many distractions that will arise during his schooling and to be a strong witness for God.

Teresa is the wife of Tom Katanic and mother of their 6-month-old son, Jackson. No doubt she is very glad to understand and accept the salvation of Jesus Christ while their son is young so that she can raise him to also love and trust Jesus. The Denver church is thankful for another believing mother and wishes God's grace and strength and wisdom for her to raise her child and to be a wonderful example as a Christian spouse.

We recently finished our afternoon service with the hymn entitled “Self-Sacrifice”. It reads, “Let your whole life be an offering to God and to Christ the Lord.” It drove home the point of the sermon that we need to be 110% committed to God, such that He is in complete and utter control of our lives. If He says “Go”, we go; if He says “Stay”, we stay; if He says

"Spread the Word", we spread the Word. Our response should be dependent on NOTHING else except God's command. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:3). I can't imagine being Noah and spending 100 years building a huge boat far from any water when EVERYONE outside of your immediate family is criticizing you and making fun of you. And to do it simply because God said to do it. That is letting your whole life be a complete offering to God. It is a struggle to let my whole life (every part of my life for every minute of every day) be an offering just for a day or two. But how can we justify attempting to give God any less?

We thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for sharing a Sunday and God's Word with us. Feel free to visit again soon.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

Isaiah 55:6

We rejoice with our converts, Derek Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay), Doug LaPlante (Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri) and Beth Licata (granddaughter of Sis. Elsa Champ). Our prayer is that He will guide their every step as they embark upon God's path of Life.

We appreciate the love and counsel given by our dear visiting ministers. May God continue to use Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) in their service unto us.

"Just over the river, just over

the river, I'm told is the city of God..." (Hymns of Zion #197). May God comfort Sis. Helen Kloter upon the passing of her dear and beloved husband, Bro. Emmanuel. He also leaves his sons, Bro. Eric (Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Keith (Sis. Mary); his daughters, Sis. Kay Luginbuhl (Bro. Ken) and Sis. Carole Bahler (Bro. Dan); a brother, Bro. Wilbur (Sis. Florence); and extended family.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Michelle Virkler (Bro. Wayne) on the passing of her mother, Cecelia Agey. May He console and provide solace in the days ahead for Sis. Michelle and her family.

We also heard about the passing of Robert Grasso who was the father of Bro. Keven Grasso (Sis. Sara). May He comfort Bro. Keven and Sis. Sara and the extended family. Most of us have experienced the loss of a dear family member and appreciate the love and especially the prayers made on our behalf. May we never forget to lift each other up in prayer unto God for special needs.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Helen Heintz would like to make an expression of thanks for all the prayers, kind words and support after the passing of our loved one. May God richly bless each one for the Christian love extended.

Bro. Lester Heintz and family

Soon from tongue to tongue expounding,
The resurrection joy is sounding:
His followers await their Lord...

—*Hymns of Zion #45*

We anticipate with joy the com-

ing of Easter when we commemorate the arising of our dear Lord and Saviour.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"The flowers appear on the earth."

Song of Solomon 2:12

Last month I was talking about snow. As I write this in early March, the early flowers are appearing and the trees are starting to bud. As you read this, we should be into a very pretty time of the year in our nation's capital and we would love to share it with visitors.

Our ministers this month were Bro. David Zehr (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Ben Wiegand and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). While here, Bro. Duane and Bro. Ben shared the Memorandum with us. May we all remember and apply it to our lives. We are thankful for the care and concern the Elders have for the congregations. Our other visitors this month were from Croghan-Naumburg, Philadelphia and Tremont.

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**

This month, our Sunday School enjoyed two outings. The first was a trip to Peanut Island, a small island in Palm Beach County. There we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation. We also took a tour of the bomb shelter that was built in the 1960's for President John F. Kennedy. It was built for his and his staff's use in case of nuclear attack while he was staying at his home on Palm Beach.

Our Bible Class took a fishing trip to Chukoluskee, a popular fishing spot located on the southwest coast of Florida. The students and teachers enjoyed the time they spent together.

On March 10, the church enjoyed a hot dog roast at Markham Park. It felt like fall as we stood in the trees surrounding a fire. The evening was ended with a singing. It was a time of fellowship for everyone who attended.

We extend our thanks to visiting ministers, Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH). We pray that God will richly bless them for their labor of love.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Anjie Baum**

Do you have trouble controlling your tongue? If you do not, I want to get to know you!

I find myself repeatedly telling my children, "Please talk nice to each other."

It's exasperating! Why do they talk this way? Why can't they be more patient? Why can't they be more loving and tolerant toward each other? Where on earth did they learn to talk in such a man-

ner? I'd like to blame it solely on their sinful human nature which they were born with. Unfortunately, I'm all too painfully aware of my own slanderous tongue, something the Scripture warns us about over and over again. How exasperating it must be to the Father to have to repeatedly reprimand me for my own unwholesome speech.

A wicked tongue expresses the attitudes of the heart. We disguise it in a "friendly" chat with a close friend, an "innocent" observation, or we justify it because it's the "truth" as we see it. No matter how we disguise it or justify it, we will be held accountable for what we say (Matt. 12:36). Chapter 3 of James is devoted almost entirely to taming our tongues. Have you ever thought of your tongue as being deadly? Verse 8 says, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

Some of us are better off keeping our mouths closed. But if we dare open it, let us speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), bring healing to others (Prov. 12:18), and speak words of wisdom and kindness (Prov. 31:36).

If we're going to change our speech, we must change our heart. We must fix our hearts upon whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue and praise (Phil. 4:8). Let's try to see others, and ourselves, through God's eyes.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following brothers who opened the Word to us this past month. Bros. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Bob Pfladderer (Morton, IL) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

We would also like to thank Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr (Bluffton, IN) for hosting a singing

at their winter residence in LaBelle.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Rachel Sabo**

It is very encouraging to hear that our dear convert, Mandy Koehl, professes peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism in the near future.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

III John 4

A number of people from Sarasota, including six young members, went on a work team to Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Kingston, Jamaica, in March. Bro. Terry Miller was the team leader. The team really worked hard and accomplished a lot while there!

Saturday, February 26, was our annual Sunday School Auction, Bake Sale and Chili Lunch. Many, many thanks to all who made this day a success.

Our prayers for God's healing continue for hospital patients, Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Detroit, MI), Bro. Willard Bahr (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Dick Schlatter (Latty, OH).

Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Bob Pfladderer (Morton, IL) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) have shared the Word with us in March. We thank them, along with our faithful home ministers, for giving of themselves in the Lord's work.

A lovely appreciation dinner and evening was hosted by some of our winter residents at Sunnyside Village for all the year-round Sarasota residents. We sincerely thank you for this token of your love.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**Keith and Carol Kaufman**

We would like to thank Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) along with his family for visiting us and for his willingness to preach the Gospel. May God richly bless them and the others who visited us this past month.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Linn Stoller, Sis. Peggy Camp and Sis. Carol Kaufman were chosen for Sunday School teachers. May the Lord guide them as they teach our children of salvation. We would like to thank Bro. John Brewer, Sis. Brenda Stoller and Sis. Sue Waldbeser for teaching the children this past year. May God bless them for their labors of love.

We are looking forward to Open House and Dedication on July 1-2. Please let us know if you will be able to attend. We would appreciate the names and addresses of those who live in the Atlanta area. Please submit names and addresses of anyone you know to: Tom Waldbeser, 2910 Maple Vista Ln., Lawrenceville, GA 30044 or call him at (770) 035-1451. Thank you.

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
Sheila McCoy**

There was once a slave who was big and strong that was being sold on the auction block. But he cried out to the potential buyers, "I will not work. I will not work." But a man bought him anyway. The slave with the broken spirit said, "You have made a mistake. I refuse to work." The man replied, "I bought you so you could be free. I love you."

With the Easter season here, let us remember that this man Jesus did the same for you and me. He bought us with His blood on Calvary that we might be free.

Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen and Ron Schambach were in Belvidere to serve Holy Communion to our congregation on March 11. We appreciate our Elders and their wives for their diligence to God's service that we may have a closer communion with our Heavenly Father.

We enjoyed our visitors for Invite-a-Friend the weekend of March 18-19. Thanks for brightening our lives on that dreary, rainy weekend.

Bro. Art Mueller was our minister for our monthly Bible Study in the Madison, WI, area. His topic was "Church Attendance". We welcomed Benji Hodel of Peoria to our service. He recently accepted employment in Waukesha, WI, and has been attending our church in Chicago.

Several of our young people were able to go on work teams over their spring break. May God bless our ministers, team leaders and those in charge of coordinating and making the work teams possible. There is certainly blessings in making Christian friendships and helping those in need.

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

Gal. 6:10

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born..."

Eccles. 3:1&2

A precious daughter, Meagan Marie, was born to Jeff and Melissa Waibel on Feb. 21. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waibel, (Peoria, IL) and Robert and Nathalie Lyford.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL****Dana Knapp
Shawn Masters**

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

Proverbs 11:14

It was a blessing to hear warnings and exhortations through the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for our Elder brothers and their labors on our behalf. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) with us for this occasion.

"Our church heritage" was the title of our monthly topical Bible study. It was encouraging to hear how our church began and how our practices are based on the Scriptures. We thank Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) for sharing with us.

Shane Michael Robinson joined the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz on February 18. He was welcomed home by Danielle, Jessica, Joshua and Olivia. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey (Goodfield, IL) and Leonard and Pat Hursh

(Heyworth).

Stephanie and Katelyn Sauder are excited about their new sister, Elizabeth Kathryn, who was born March 2. Her excited parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy Sauder. Thankful grandparents are Mark and RuthAnn Martino (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

We have new grandparents in our congregation. Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari, Connie Grusy and John Grusy (Champaign) have a new grandson, Lucas Benjamin, who was born on March 3. His parents are Jim and Jody Hari. He was welcomed home by his brothers, Connor and Dillon.

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie Young and Gary and Terry Brady (Hudson) also have a new grandson, Benjamin Andrew. He arrived on February 10; his parents are Corey and Alicia Young (Normal). He has a sister, Hannah.

We wish God's blessings on Jamie Young (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anne Marie) and Jeanette Skibbens (Illene Skibbens Green) as they were united in marriage on March 11.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Stan Knapp (Sis. Tonei) as he passed away on March 11. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Sis. Tonei and their family: Lonndon, Kalonn, Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger (Morton), Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha Rocke (Goodfield), Sis. Michelle Knapp, and Megan Knapp (both of Goodfield). We pray they each will feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We appreciated all our many visitors for the funeral and extend our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for their part in the service.

We also extend our sympathy to Bob Hany (Sis. Marilyn) at the

passing of his brother-in-law.

We lift our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital to the Father and pray for His comfort and healing upon them. Please continue to pray for Sis. Bev Hari (Elder Bro. Everett) and Sis. Jana Knapp, each having underwent surgery this month. Also, Hisato Inoue (Sis. Kathie) is recovering from triple bypass surgery, and Sis. Ann Maurer (Bro. Roy) was involved in an accident and required hospitalization.

We welcome Sis. Alice Steidinger as she has begun to worship with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Chad and LauraLee Plattner

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
Thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.
Zion's Harp #209

On February 27, we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Abbey Ehnle and Bro. Kevin Klumpp. It is always a blessing to hear the testimonies of loved ones and to know a true conversion has been experienced. We thank Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) for helping with the testimonies and baptisms.

We appreciated Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) sharing an evening with us. He presented to us a Bible study on Christian Principles.

Other visiting ministers this month were: Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign,

IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

A farewell singing was held March 17 for Bro. John and Sis. Margaret Tanner. They moved to the apartments at the Peoria nursing home in November and are attending the Peoria church. Their presence is greatly missed in Bradford.

Bro. Elwin Rumbold (Sis. Loretta) recently underwent knee surgery. Our prayers have been with him and will continue during his recovery.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our sincere thanks for all who sent cards, gifts and the beautiful flowers on our 50th wedding anniversary. A special thanks to our dear children and family for all they did for us, and the Zapata brethren for all their kindness.

May God bless each and every one.

Humbly, Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

Jeff and Janice McDonald and their three young sons, Tyler, Spencer and Walker, are leaving our area for a new job opportunity in South Carolina. Though we are happy for their career opportunity, we would have liked to have kept them with us. The McDonald family has been with us for many years as a "permanent family" and added a lot to our church. In South Carolina, they will have new and interesting things to do and will be closer to Jeff's mother. We wish them God's blessings on this move and His continuing leading in their lives. We have also appreciated having Bro. Greg and Sis. Gwen Schupbach with us over the past

couple of years, with Gwen living here a while before she married Greg. However, their path in life has now turned them back to the Iowa direction, and they have returned to the West Bend area. We are thankful for the time they were with us and know they will be a blessing to their Iowa families and the church there. Corbin and Stephanie Kupferschmid moved to a new home some time back, and the church held a housewarming for them in late February. Corbin and Stephanie and daughters, Audrey and Lydia, live at 4744 Redbud Court, Decatur, IL 62526. We are glad to have the Kupferschmids making the drive over to be a part of our church.

Our prayers were with Ross Tucker (Mary and John Tucker) as he recently had surgery on muscles in his legs. Though his hospital stay was brief, Ross will have some weeks in casts. Generally a young man with great deal of determination and eager to overcome obstacles, Ross is on the road to recovery and will be running around again soon.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this past month. These were Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and ministering Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager

"...a time to be born, and a time to die;...a time to weep, and a time to laugh;"

Eccles. 3:2,4

February 20 was the time to be born for baby Amanda Rose Steiner. Amanda's birth brought much joy to her parents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Pam, and her sisters,

Natalie and Rebecca. Bro. Dan and Sis. Shirley Steiner (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL) are Amanda's happy grandparents.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi are also thankful parents for their daughter Bethany's desire to be born again. We share in the joys of these two families.

Just as a church rejoices with those that rejoice, we also weep with those that weep. We pray that Randy Fessenden can feel the support of his church family as he mourns the tragic death of his mother and brother, Billie Jean and Joey Donovan, in a car accident.

Many thanks go to our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assisted in reading the Memorandum to the church. Retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) also visited this month.

We pray for God's healing for Sis. Erica Furj as she recovers from a broken ankle.

When we consider the historical events of the Easter season, it is also a time of birth and death, weeping and joy. Good Friday is often a time for shedding a tear at the thought of the cruelty Christ suffered and the sins we have committed which required that suffering. But praise God for the resurrection in which we can again rejoice. Let us not forget this high price that was paid.

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket,
A simple reminder to me,
Of the fact that I am a Christian,
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic,
Nor is it a good luck charm.
It isn't meant to protect me,
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification,
For all the world to see,
It's simply an understanding,
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my
pocket,
To bring out a coin or key,
The Cross is there to remind me,
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thank-
ful,
For my blessings day by day,
And to strive to serve Him better,
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder,
Of the peace and comfort I share,
With all who know my Master,
And give themselves to His care.

So I carry a cross in my pocket,
Reminding no one but me,
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my
life,
If only I'll let Him be.
—author unknown

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Cheryl Eisenmann
Darlene Walder

We Crown Him
We crown Him King at Christ-
mas-time
The Babe of humble birth—
In song and story herald Him
As King of heaven and earth.

We crown Him at Easter-tide
And pledge to Him our faith—
We hail Him, our dear risen
Lord,
Triumphant over death.

But what about the days be-
tween?

Do we go our thoughtless ways
And leave our King upon His
throne
Until these special days?

If this be true of me or you,
In these days, we have no part,
For all who own His sovereignty,
Daily crown Him in the heart.

—*Jessie Bell Thabes*

Our hospital and surgical patients this month have been Bro. Dale Walder, Sis. Margaret Rudin, Sis. Helen Janssen, Sis. Wanda Maul, and Wally Kaufmann. We ask for the Lord's healing touches to each and every one and to those that continue to be laid up in nursing homes or their own home, we think and pray for also.

We want to thank Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) for serving us in the ministry. Also, Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) came on a Wednesday evening and gave a Topical Bible Presentation on the Working of the Spirit in our lives.

The Bible Class students, teachers, and parents enjoyed hosting Eureka, Wolcott, and Remington Bible Classes this past month. Make new friends but keep the old, some are silver and some are gold.

I've got more to go to Heaven for
than I had yesterday.

There's a golden street to walk
upon,
a bell I'm going to ring.
A brand new angel in the choir,
I want to hear her sing...

This past month, my family was sad, yet rejoiced that our Grandmother, Ollie Steidinger (Fairbury, IL), could go to her peaceful rest. She is the mother of Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb and Bro. Elmer and family of Cissna Park. Also we think of Sis. Naomi Knapp's family

and wish our condolences at her death. She was a lovely example of Christian humility and service. Her family from Cissna Park are Sis. Sylvia and Bro. Lynn Knapp, Sis. Marilyn and Sis. Lucille Knapp and Wes and Judy Knapp.

Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock are rejoicing at the birth of a precious granddaughter, Jasmine. Her Mom and Dad are Ed and Dawn Stock from our congregation, also. We ask the Lord's guidance to them in raising their precious children.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Glenna Rinckenberger
Renae Dietrich**

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

Kristen Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) and Chris W. and Michelle Miller (Bro. Chris C. and Sis. Phyllis) have turned their lives over to the Lord. May they find grace to walk with obedience, allowing the Lord to lead their paths.

Mid-winter Conference was held February 16-18 and many prayers were offered on behalf of the Elder brethren. The following weekend, Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) helped with the reading of the Memorandum. What a blessed weekend.

We had many visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI). We received many blessings as God led them to speak the Word.

As the Lord has brought joy and sorrow into our church, Wilbur Knapp was baptized one week before the Lord called him Home. His

wife, Virginia, and his children, as well as his brothers and sisters from our congregation, Bro. Fred (Sis. Marge), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Mary Steffen (Bro. Ed) and Sis. Lucille Blunier, have our prayers. May the Lord fill the void in their lives.

Also, we pray the Lord will comfort Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp in the loss of their son, Stan (Bloomington, IL).

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Glenn Knapp, Sis. Irene Schrock and Bro. Merion Miller. May the Lord touch them all with His finger of love and healing hand.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Peggy Heiniger
Norma Schambach**

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalms 46:10

With heavy and sorrowful hearts, we report that Brian Welzien has been found. Missing since New Year's Day, his body was found washed ashore on a Lake Michigan beach in Gary, IN. Our hearts ache for his mother, Sis. Stephany, who also lost her husband two years ago. We stand here confused and helpless, and wonder why. However, may we never question the ways of God, but look to Him in faith knowing that now we see through a glass darkly. Someday His glorious mysteries will be revealed. Sis. Stephanie continues to need our love and prayers as she struggles with this heartache. May she feel God's loving arms around her as she grieves for her only child.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Joan (Bro. Al) Scheitlin who said goodbye to her mother, Sis. Lillian Levy, of Bluffton, IN. A few days later, Sis. Joan had surgery.

May God bless her with comfort and healing.

Bro. Earl (Sis. Jeanette) Moser was hospitalized for tests and is home again.

Several from our congregation traveled to Ixtlan, Mexico, to work on a house/church project. They enjoyed a productive trip and the fellowship of the brethren there.

Bro. Gene (Sis. Sue) Braun was chosen as our new trustee. We thank Bro. Bob (Sis. DeAnn) Cox for his three years of faithful service. May we prayerfully support Bro. Gene.

We were reminded of the price that was paid for our salvation as our congregation gathered to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) assisted our Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen and Ron Schambach. May God bless him for his service on our behalf and may we go on with renewed strength staying within the shadow of our Saviour.

Note of Thanks:

I sincerely appreciate the prayers and love shown me during my unusual experience in the hospital and during my convalescence. May God bless you.

Sis. Marie L. Hugh

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

March 12 was a happy day as Bro. Tony Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen, Junction, OH) and Sis. Denise Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) were united in marriage. We were blessed with many visitors who came to share this special day with us. We especially thank each one for coming and especially Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and ministering Bros. Ben Manz, Don Manz (Junction, OH), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We

wish Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise God's guidance and nearness as they establish their home together.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein welcome Kendra Sue into their hearts and home. Happy to have a new baby sister to love is big brother, Joshua, and sisters, Jeni Lyn and Katie. Kendra Sue was born March 6. Her grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke and Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein.

Thankful and happy first-time parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Beth Blunier. They were blessed with a baby girl, Nicole Knapp, born on March 9. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Sam and Sis. Liz Blunier.

On March 17, Bro. Brian and Sis. Teri Vierling were blessed with a baby boy, Brandon Levi. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin.

We extend our best wishes to Becky Blunier and Caleb Hoffman who have recently announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen Blunier and Dennis and Sandy Hoffman of Goodfield. A June 24 wedding is being planned.

Our prayers and heartfelt love is expressed to those in the church who have recently lost loved ones.

Christine Fehr (Robert) died suddenly February 24. We especially think of her grandparents, Bro. Leroy and Sis. Wilma Fehr, and her great-aunt, Sis. Edna Fehr.

Bro. Willis and Bro. Melvin (Sis. Marjorie) Stoller bid farewell to their brother, Bro. Lester, of Peoria. He died March 3.

Stan Knapp passed away March 11. Our love and prayers are with his sister, Sis. Julie (Bro. Dave) Schumacher, and their family.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp on the death of his brother, Bro. Wilbur Knapp. He died March 12.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Genny Blunier who spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful she could return back home. We continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters who are growing older and are experiencing afflictions of the body.

Lean on His Arms

Just lean upon the arms of Jesus,
He'll help you along, help you
along;
If you will trust His love un-
fail-
ing,
He'll fill your heart with song.

Just lean upon the arms of Jesus,
He'll brighten the way, brighten
the way;
Just follow gladly where He
leadeth,
His gentle voice obey.

Just lean upon the arms of Jesus,
O bring ev'ry care, bring ev'ry
care!
The burden that has seemed so
heavy,
Take to the Lord in prayer.

Just lean upon the arms of Jesus,
Then leave all to Him, leave all to
Him;
His heart is full of love and
mercy,
His eyes are never dim.

Chorus: Lean on His arms,
trusting in His love;
Lean on His arms,
all His mercies prove;
Lean on His arms,
looking home above,
Just lean on the Savior's arms!
Tabernacle Hymns #216

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to each one for their expressions of love, encouragement, sympathy and prayers during the recent passing of our beloved granddaughter, Christine. Your visits, support, food donations and flowers meant so very much to us. May God richly bless and reward you all.

Bro. Leroy and Sis. Wilma Fehr

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr**

Several from our congregation have spent some time in the hospital and we ask for God's strength for them: Sis. Edna Stoller, Sis. Colleen (Bro. Richard) Walter, and Bro. Alf (Fannie) Steffen.

We extend our sympathy and ask for God to comfort the family of Ollie Steidinger, 93, who passed away on February 23. Her children are Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Elmer) Kaeb (Cissna Park), Sis. Marjorie Edelman (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Velda (Bro. Karl) Glueck (Tremont), Barbara (John) McDonald (Fairbury), Judy (Terry) Bachtold (Strawn), Bro. Maurice, Bro. Donald (Sis. Alice), Charles (Joanne), David (Deanne), Bro. Tom (Sis. Dianne), Bro. Eldon (Sis. Darlene) and Bro. Dennis (Sis. Jane) Steidinger, all of Fairbury. Two sisters, Sis. Lavina and Sis. Viola Moser, and one brother, Silas Moser, also survive. She had 84 grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren, and 184 great-grandchildren. Ollie's grandson, Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), had her funeral service and we also thank Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) who came. There was a family supper at our Fellowship Hall following her funeral and her son, Bro. Tom, re-

cited a brief poem to the grandchildren that he had read in "Streams of the Desert".

"I walked a mile with Pleasure
She chattered all the way;
But left me none the wiser
For all she had to say."
"I walked a mile with Sorrow,
And ne'er a word said she;
But, oh, the things I learned from
her
When Sorrow walked with me."

It is so true—there is much to be learned from sorrow or death because life will end for all of us and will we be ready?

We also extend our sympathy to Helen Rapp who lost her brother, Floyd Haab.

We are thankful God has called Travis Walter (Dan and Patty) to repentance. May God grant His grace to Travis and also to Patty, who is seeking Him.

We are always thankful when souls can be taken into the fold and we warmly welcome John and Eunice Stork, who gave their testimonials on November 27, and are now our brother and sister in Christ. We sincerely apologize that this was omitted in our previous news.

Our congratulations are extended to Troy Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne) and Bobbie Jo Buttry who plan to be married May 19.

Two babies are welcomed this month. Rick and Cheryl Hoffman had their first child, Morgan Scott, on February 25. His happy grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel and Clyde and Donna Hoffman.

Also, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori Hartman had Ruth Nicole on March 9. Big brothers are Philip and Caleb. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown

(Forrest, IL).

A special "thank you" is always given to our visiting ministers: Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

As the Easter season approaches, might we each remember the terrible suffering and sacrifice of our precious Saviour so that we might have a hope in Heaven if we heed His teachings.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

On the night of His betrayal in the upper room, Jesus did serve His disciples the Lord's supper and said "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me" and "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." (I Cor. 11:24-25). As we enter the Easter season and have partaken of Holy Communion, may we with gratitude remember the magnitude of His suffering and His compassion on us, that He shed His own blood for the remission of our sins. We thank Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker for serving us this holy feast.

We thank our many visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Tom Lemman (Denver, CO), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bruce Hohulin and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) in lending themselves in God's service.

The Believing Family

I and my house, we are prepared,
 As long as to us life is shared
 To serve Thee, Lord, sincerely.
 Thou shalt be Master of the
 house,
 Who with His blessing us en-
 dows.
 As we may love Thee dearly...
Zion's Harp #160

A beautiful prayer for Bro. Ben Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Marge Wenger (Sis. Nathalia) as they became husband and wife on March 12. Special prayers ascend for this dear couple and their children, Luke, Anna, Bethany and Abby, as they begin their new life together.

On the same day, March 12, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger reflected on the many memories of their 50 years of marriage. May the Lord continue to bless them as they walk the path of life together.

Thankful to have a new son are Stacey and Tonda Mueller. Logan Wayne is the brother of Amanda and Candis. His grandparents are Cindy Whitehouse (Sibley, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

May the Lord grant Bro. Phil Leman wisdom and understanding as he teaches our youth in Sunday School.

Spending time in the hospital were Bro. Leroy (Sis. Janita) Koehl and Bro. Joe (Sis. Marie) Koehl and Neva Farney. May the Lord extend healing to the body according to His will.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Deb (Bro. Ken) Roth in the passing of her grandfather.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone who blessed us with beautiful cards, gifts, flowers, your love and good wishes and for attending our open house for our 50th wedding anniversary. God bless you abundantly

for your loving kindness and thoughtfulness to make our golden anniversary so joyous and memorable.

Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

We are so blessed to welcome four new brothers and sisters to our family. Tim, Ben and Rachel Currier (Art and Mary) and Melissa Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet) were baptized on February 27. How thankful we are that God has converted more souls to meet on that Great Day. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Joe Braker (Morton, IL) were here to help in this work.

Sis. Marge Wenger (Sis. Nathalia and the late Bro. Albert) and Bro. Ben Bauman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty) were united in marriage on March 12. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new walk together.

We are thankful to Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. May God bless him for his service to us.

A new baby girl, Mikaila Renee, was born to Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha Rocke. Tyler and Kaitlyn welcome her home. Grandparents are Sis. Judy Knapp and the late Stan Knapp and Mark and Connie Rocke.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Betty Wiegand and Bro. Bill Hohulin. We hope they can feel God's healing hand.

Our love, prayers and support go out to the Stan Knapp family in this time of sorrow. We hope they can feel the love of their brothers and sisters and the ever present Spirit of God.

Our heartfelt prayers are also with Michelle Ott (Mike) who had surgery and has had a lengthy re-

covery period. We hope to see her back on her feet again soon.

Sis. Lorene Kloter continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. She has been at the nursing home and unable to worship with us. We miss her sweet smile and hope she can feel God's comfort and the love of her church family.

We were privileged to hear the Memorandum this month. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen for being with us to share God's Word.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

If we remain true and faithful in our Christian walk, we can entertain a hope of reaching Heaven. It offers many unfathomable benefits that are never-ending. Yet, we are taught to make our calling and election sure, by God's grace. We must persist in our quest to follow the Scriptures. An enemy lurks, daily and hourly, and seeks to destroy the believer and to undermine the church which is Christ's body.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann was here on Wednesday evening, March 15, to assist in reading the Conference letter. We are blessed as a people to receive such wise godly advice for our walk of faith.

Our Elder brethren are helping to define Scriptures so we can apply them in everyday life. As we do so consistently among the brethren, it helps create peace and love.

While diversity is a high ideal (in the secular culture), the Word reminds us to "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). As we become more yoked in thought and practice, the church is strengthened.

On Saturday, March 11, Gridley hosted a regional World Relief meeting. About 175-200 believers

gathered from many congregations to hear reports on various aspects of serving the needy. Bro. Jerome Witzig served as moderator of the day-long meeting.

Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) ministered here on Wednesday evening, March 8. It was our Topical Bible presentation. He spoke on "The Filling Station" that dealt with relationships between husbands/wives, parents/children and the believer's union with God.

Bro. Elmer Meiss reached his 90th birthday on March 19. We as a church wish him well! He lives alone and is self-sufficient. We surely appreciate his friendliness at church each Sunday.

Bro. Ryan Harris was hospitalized this month.

Note of Thanks:

Words cannot express our appreciation for the prayers, cards, gifts, food, and memorials we received due to the sudden death of our dear husband, father and grandfather. May God bless you all.

The family of Bro. Loren Schlipf

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich**

Bro. Samuel Ackerman was called Home on March 8 at the age of 90 years. May the Lord comfort and bless his family, relatives and friends. He is survived by his son, Thomas (Mary Jo), of Temple, TX; his daughter, Cynthia Ingold (James) of Morton; his two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

We wish the Lord's continued blessing to Bro. Lester and Sis. Irene Kaiser as they celebrate 50 years of marriage this month. We have had quite a number of couples in our congregation celebrating

their 50th wedding anniversary. We are thankful for the Godly example they all set in this day when the world would like to belittle love, commitment and family.

We wish to thank Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

"Worship God" — two important words in the Scriptures...and we appreciate the opportunity to heed them weekly, biweekly and often even more frequently.

God stops us cold in our tracks, just like He did Saul on his way to Damascus. He woke him up suddenly to a dramatic conversion, not at all like the salvation of the eunuch by Philip. God asks "What are you waiting for? Time is running out. I am going to return to the earth." Has Jesus knocked on your heart? "Who art Thou, Lord?" He said: "Arise, go into the Word, the City of God, and listen to what God says." Saul was physically blind so he could see spiritually. How many of us are spiritually blind today? Do we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and lead us so we don't kick against the pricks? (Acts 9:1-31, Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, 2/27).

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) contrasted the two ways to "The End" for our family night service on March 1. Where are we right now, and where are we going? The wide gate and broad way, where walking is smooth and easy, a nice and gently sloping path, with lots of company, leads to destruction. The people on it see no end. Do we compare things to the world, or the Word? The end is so terrible, it can't be described, and it will never

be over. But straight is the gate and narrow the way of life; not very attractive, steep and narrow, go carefully according to your faith, but what shall be the end? We are on the way of life, a good path with footsteps we can follow, wide enough for Jesus and me, with fellowship of likeminded believers. The two ways diverge and grow farther and farther apart. Stephen was on the narrow way and gave his testimony of faith, full of the Holy Ghost, and saw the Heavens open — the end. If we lose our focus, we may not see this end. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face!" Thanks, Bro. Curt, for your ministry and visit.

Think about how your life would be different if you had that lively hope of salvation, redemption and a home in Heaven. If we want to go to Heaven, we need a reservation, called conversion. If we would choose not to believe, what else would we rather believe? We must believe and have faith that the Lord will supply what we need...and ask for it. (Bro. Mike Rieker). Four more converts did just that and gave their testimonies of faith on March 4: Ryan Funk, Ben Ginzler and Tommy III and Ashley Hoerr. Sin is a common denominator and must be dealt with. We thank Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) for his assistance with the testimonies, and ministry on March 5. Best construction and materials were used to build the temple, but "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matt. 24:2). Jesus wanted them to glory in an enduring relationship with Him, not in a beautiful structure. It doesn't matter when Jesus is coming; what matters is that we have that relationship. We don't know what hour He will come, but *today is the day of grace*, as we are not sure about to-

morrow. We also thank Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) for attending the testimonies on Saturday, March 4.

We enjoyed the visits of the Chicago, Milford, IN, and Taylor, MO, Bible Classes and ministering Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) on March 12. Today, the thrust is tolerance, with no absolutes, and everybody determines what is right for them. This is NOT what the Word teaches. Capernaum, where Jesus abode, was brought down to hell. What is the way out? Can you think, work, drink, pill, spend, fight your way out? Jesus says: "I am the way out. Remember Lot's wife. Don't turn back!" The refusal to repent is the difference between a child of God and a sinner. Thomas Edison said the function of the body is to carry the brain around. We need to listen when the Lord speaks "Come to Me." There may not be a later time. You have enough information to make your choice for eternal life, or death. There will be no fence-riders in Heaven. We will be in conscious awareness, forever, with nobody to blame but ourselves. It's your life, your eternity, move while you still have time (Bro. Will Schieler, Dan. 5 and Mark 1).

While Bro. Jon Zeller addressed the combined Bible Classes in the afternoon, Bro. Will meditated on II Cor. 13:5, "Examine yourselves"...Ask these questions: Are you more aware of God than you used to be, keeping up your spiritual RPMs? Is the Bible progressively becoming the standard whereby you make life's decisions? Are you a little more like Jesus than you used to be? Can people recognize God's Spirit in you? (Bro. Will Schieler). It was a blessed Sunday and we thank all our visitors, especially Bros. Will and Jon.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Wes Hoerr to Sis. Brianne Greenwood was made known on March 5 and we wish them the Lord's blessings in this important step.

Sis. Karen Dunbar was at Methodist Hospital for a week and we are glad she is up and around again.

Donald Weyeneth (72) passed away at Roanoke on February 14; Bro. Les Stoller (96) at the Skylines on March 3; and Sis. Matilda Suttor (91) also at the Skylines on March 14. Donald is the brother of Sis. Dorothy Hoerr, Bro. Les the father of Ted and Roy Stoller, and Sis. Matilda the mother of Ed, Allan, Mary Ann Herman, Carol Roth and Sis. Evelyn Hangartner and grandmother of Bro. Steve Suttor. We wish them and their families the comforting Spirit of God at this time of sorrow.

The Passion Week is approaching and we are reminded again of the last events of the life of Jesus on earth, one of which was on *GOOD FRIDAY*. Jesus stands alone on Gabbatha, the pavement of Roman fortress Antonia in Jerusalem. The Jews are talking Pilate into condemning Him to death by crucifixion, which is the punishment for sedition (a crime against the Roman state) as they are unable to produce valid charges. Israel remained in servitude to the central temple of Jerusalem until its destruction by Titus in 70 AD, which then was replaced by local synagogues. For us, Jesus embodies the temple and is our eternal sacrifice and, instead of blood sacrifices, we have communication with God through prayer. James established the center of Christianity in Jerusalem; after its destruction, it was moved to Rome through the Apostle Paul.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and prayers during my surgery. It is really nice to have so many dear friends and also a special "Thank You" to my dear family.

*In Christian Love,
Sis. Ella Plattner*

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Crystal Streitmatter Mary Ehnle

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

Luke 15:10

Our congregation rejoices as another sinner has come to the foot of the cross. Andy Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) has found the grace to come unto repentance. May the grace of God be with him as he works out his soul's salvation.

A new baby, Karen Christine, has been born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey Braker on March 5. Paternal grandparents are Sis. Clara Braker and the late Bro. Ben Braker (Roanoke, IL) and maternal grandparents are Sis. Edna Martin and the late Bro. Ray Martin. Six brothers and one sister welcome new little Karen home. May the Lord grant them the strength to raise their children to fear Him.

We were blessed by the presence of the following visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bros. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). We are thankful that our precious faith gives us opportunities to meet brethren from far and near. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner exhorted us unto godliness in our reading of the Memorandum and Communion exhortation.

We have enjoyed our all-church World Relief nights that we have

had once a month for the past three months. It seems that there is always plenty to do for others.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

Romans 12:15

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Arlene Knapp as her mother, Sis. Naomi Knapp (Cissna Park, IL), has been laid to rest.

We are thankful that Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Bro. Howard) has recovered from a past surgery. Our prayers are also with Sis. Ruth Kieser (retired Elder Bro. Dave Kieser) as we hope the healing hand of the Lord can nurse her back to complete health. We are thankful that Bro. Kevin and Sis. Grace Herrmann's baby, Jesse, was able to come home from the hospital after a lengthy stay.

An Easter Song

A song of sunshine through the rain,
Of Spring across the snow;
A balm to heal the hurts of pain,
A peace surpassing woe.
Lift up your heads, ye sorrowing ones,
And be ye glad at heart,
For Calvary and Easter Day,
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day,
Were just three days apart!

With shudder of despair and loss
The world's deep heart was wrung,
As, lifted high upon His cross,
The Lord of Glory hung—
When rocks were rent, and ghostly forms
Stole forth in street and mart;
But Calvary and Easter Day,
Earth's blackest day and whitest day,
Were just three days apart.

—Susan Coolidge

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, and most of all the prayers and love shown to me during my back surgery at Mayo Hospital, and also a special thank you to the Phoenix congregation for the many deeds of kindness. We love and appreciate you all.

Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Bro. William Knobloch)

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. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Boni Stoller
Linda Hodel**

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:13-15

What a blessing to have visiting ministers “sent” to us! May the Lord bless each one who have labored on our behalf. They are: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Will Schieler (Milford, IN) who spoke to the young group on I Corinthians 13, and Jeff Thames (Washington,

IL) who gave several Bible studies to parents on “Bring Them Up” in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) assisted in the reading of the Memorandum on March 1. We appreciated also the timely information he provided regarding the internet. May each one of us take all the admonition and encouragement to our heart as we strive to ever walk humbly and obediently on the narrow path to our eternal goal.

We rejoice with our new brothers and sisters in Christ. We witnessed the precious baptisms of Brad Blunier and Loren Mogler on February 27, and Derek and Holly Knapp and Amy Hohulin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy) on March 19.

Loved ones who spent time in the hospital recently have been Sisters Mary Hoffman, Marion Blunier and Thelma Hodel, and Bros. Jim Hodel, Sr., John Sauder and Dick Getz, and little Clayton Hartter (Bro. Brad and Sis. April). Willie Fortune continues to need our prayers.

We extend sympathy to our retired ministering Bro. Jim Byrd in the passing of his father, Jim Byrd, Sr., on February 23. May our Heavenly Father provide the comfort to him and his sister, Joyce, and their families.

In last month's news we rejoiced to share of the baptism of Sis. Betty Fehr, who, in failing health desired to be baptized in the church rather than her home. We take comfort she is now resting in peace as God has called her Home. Our sympathy is extended to her four children: Rick, Cindy, Kim and daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Norm Reckhammer, who are our latest converts. Funeral services were held March 21.

And finally we rejoice to announce another little one born in our congregation. Bro. Kevin and

Sis. Annette Fischer have been blessed with Ashleigh Kate. Siblings, Luke, Jacob, Elizabeth, Jesse, Alexa, and grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter, are thankful as well!

Note of Thanks:

Thank you, friends and relatives, for remembering my 90th birthday with cards and good wishes. God's blessings to each of you.

Bro. Harold Blunier

I Asked the Lord to Bless You

I asked the Lord to bless you as I
prayed for you today,
To guide you and protect you as
you go along your way.
To add wisdom to your every
step, to keep you in His care,
So just in case you stumble,
you'll know that He is there.
His love is always with you, His
promises are true,
And when we give Him all our
cares, you know He will see us
through.
So when the road you're travel-
ing on seems difficult at best,
Just remember I'm here praying,
and God will do the rest.

Praying each one will have a
Christ-centered and beautiful
Easter; and as we reflect on our
Lord and Saviour's death, may we
be more willing to pick up the cross
of self-denial for Him.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Barb Dill

Barb Kaeb

Bro. Rob Dennis (Nancy Birkmeier) and Sis. Marcia Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette) were united in marriage on February 20. We trust that God will give them much grace, wisdom and love

as they begin their life as one.

On Sunday, March 5, we witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls. Bro. Joel Koch (Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy), Bro. Brett Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia), Bro. Brian Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Tricia Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) are welcomed into the fold of Jesus Christ. We are truly grateful that Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) could be with us for the occasion. We also appreciate the support given from other visiting ministers who labored with us that weekend and throughout the past month. They were Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

Katie Moser spent some time in the hospital this past month. May we keep her in our prayers.

We are all rejoicing with Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Sauder as they have recently adopted two small children: a girl, Laura Maria, born November 5, 1997, and a boy, Logan Nikolai, born January 21, 1999. May God bless their home with love and joy. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch.

We are very excited and happy for Bro. Tim and Sis. Candi Aberle as they have recently adopted their second child, Audrey Claire, who was born on January 28, 2000. She is welcomed home by her big brother, Alan, and grandparents, Bro. Paul Weiss and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle.

Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Koch have been richly blessed with a

baby boy, Micah William, born February 22. He is their first child and his grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. William and Sis. Eleanor Knobloch (Lester, IA).

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck in the passing of Velda's mother, Ollie Steidinger. May God be their Comforter.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Sue Ruppert

Denise Romersberger

"And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father, and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Genesis 22:7

One of the oldest mysteries is, "Why do the righteous suffer?". Human logic suggests that if one leads a decent and moral life, then good things will happen. And if one is of rotten character, then judgment will come! But it doesn't always seem to happen that way. Perhaps we know that from our own experience and question, "Why, God? Why?"

Life is a mystery. It was a mystery to young, trusting Isaac. He knew that he and his father were going to make a sacrifice. But then he asked, "Where is the lamb?" That innocent question surely turned into a shocking reality for Isaac when his beloved father found him and placed him on that altar.

It may be that there are no simple answers for us either. As it was with Isaac, our questions also are ultimately answered in the Lamb who is provided by our loving Father. That Lamb is Christ. By His death for us on Calvary, we know

the answer to the question of the ages: "Does God love me?" And the answer is, "Yes, yes, indeed yes!" Thanks be to God!

Dear Father, thank Thee for affirming Thy everlasting love for us in Thy Son, Jesus. In Him we find our ultimate answers.

This month we were privileged to have two guest ministers to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. They were Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We thank you, brothers, for all of your time and efforts.

The Peoria Choir came to Washington to sing for our monthly hymn sing. It was a very enjoyable evening and we thank all who participated in the choir.

Two of our members lost a loved one in the past month. They were Sis. Karen Baker who lost her father, Bro. Loren Schlipf, from the Gridley congregation; and Sis. Kathryn Funk who lost her brother, Bro. Wilbur Knapp, from the Congerville congregation. We mourn with them in their losses and pray for peace and comfort in knowing they are with the Lord.

We also rejoiced to welcome a new brother into our congregation. Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend gave his testimony and was baptized into a new life with Christ. All present were reminded in a fresh way about what Christ has done for all of us. Bro. Elliot recently relocated here from the East Coast. We pray that God's presence will always be close to him.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman
Katrina Rinckenberger**

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

Psalm 133:1

Bluffton has been blessed with five new converts. Krystal Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb), Alex Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean), Dan Dubach (Bro. Ken and Jodi), Rodney Reimschisel (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori), and Jessica Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen).

On February 27, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner visited Bluffton and helped Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz with testimonies and the baptisms of five young men. We had a beautiful weekend together. Being brought into the fold was Bro. Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda), Bro. Aaron Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene), Bro. Jarod Studabaker (Larry and Carol), Bro. Denny Gore (Roger and Phyllis) and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon).

On March 12, three young ladies were baptized. We rejoice with Sis. Elise Maller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Pat), Sis. Melissa Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Jamie Kauffman (Leon and Sis. Cindy). Welcome to the family.

Wedding bells have been ringing for three young couples. We pray for them as they start this journey together. On February 20, Bro. Eric Tonner (Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. LaNae Reinhard (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann) were married. On February 26, Leann Kaehr (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan) was married to Jason Douglas. And on March 5, Bro. Nathan Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) and Sis. Leslie Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) joined hand and heart.

A precious bundle was born to Randy and Karen Prater. Alexis Joy joined brother Dylon on February 15. Rejoicing are grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Gerber. Bro. Ron and Sis. Lenae Macklin were blessed with a son,

Logan Dean, born on March 15. Anxiously waiting at home are sisters, Olivia and McKenna. Happy grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser and Carl and Betty Macklin.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Lillian Levy (late Bro. William L.). Her children are Sis. Joan Scheitlin (Elgin), Patricia Perkins (New Haven), Carol Shoesmith (Battle Creek, MI), David J. Levy (New Jersey), and the late Sis. Marlene Erb (Francesville). Also surviving are sisters, Sis. Irene Schrock (Congerville, IL) and Sis. Leona Price (Milford); 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Passing from life into eternity on March 11 was our Sis. Minnie Isch. We grieve with Bro. Elmer, a devoted husband of 62 years. Her children, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Galen) Baumgartner, Bro. Perry (Sis. Becky) and Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Mike) Gerber, will miss her but they know she has gone to a much better place.

Spending time in the hospital these past few weeks are Larry Gerber, Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Sutter, Bro. Curt (Sis. Jeanette) Tonner, Bro. Gerald (Sis. Eunice) Fiechter, Sis. Tricia (Darren) Scheumann, Bro. Ken Aschliman and Adam Stoller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon). We hope they are feeling better and can be back with us soon.

We want to thank Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) for visiting Bluffton. The Lord has blessed us with much willing servants. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller**

Just as I am, without one plea,
 But that Thy blood was shed for
 me,
 And that Thou bid'st me come to
 Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 —Charlotte Elliot

Two precious souls have answered and said, "O Lamb of God, I come!" Shawn Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg) and Heather Richardson (Cindy) have come to the Lord in repentance, confessed their sinful state and accepted the free gift of salvation! We rejoice with them and their families and pray that they will grow strong in the Lord.

We also share the joy of our Sis. Leslie Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy) who exchanged wedding vows with Bro. Nathan Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene, Bluffton) on Sunday, March 5. As we witnessed this beautiful occasion of blessings and love, we were once again reminded of a wedding day to come. The day when the trumpet shall sound and the Bride of Christ shall rise to meet Him in the air. O Lord our God, how great Thou art!

Our thanks and prayers of love are extended to ministering Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) for coming and sharing the Word of God in truth and in purity.

Our dear Sis. Gladys Fiechter spent some time in the hospital this past month. We pray that she continues to feel the presence of God as she recovers full health. Our prayers also go out to Bro. Dick Troxel (Sis. Patti) and others who continue to live with health difficulties. We know the Lord is mighty and an ever present help in time of need.

Bro. Graig and Sis. Corinne Stettner and their daughter, Ella, welcomed a son and baby brother into their home. We know that Aidan Graig will bring much joy to

them and the happy grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen.

And may we all continue to grow in the Lord and live in the center of His will.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

Romans 13:11-12

As Easter approaches and our thoughts turn toward our Saviour's supreme sacrifice, let us not get weighted down with the little trials, but see them as an opportunity to practice the crucifying of ourselves and "...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Romans 13:14). "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." (II Cor. 4:10)

The results of our elections held this past month are as follows: Sunday School assisting superintendent - John Huber; Sunday School teaching brothers - Randy Leman, Brian Putt; Sunday School song leader - Karlene Isch; Sunday School teaching sisters - Karel Anliker, Sue Neihouser, Lily Pelsy, Donna Putt, Amber Leman; Church Trustee - Jeff Tanner; Ushers - Bert Isch, Rick Wuethrich; Missionary Committee - Jim Gudeman; Park View Haven Board - Dennis Leman; Fellowship Center Trustee - Dale Gudeman; Gateway Woods Representative - Marty Neihouser. We pray God's grace and wisdom be with you all as you fill your new

roles in the church.

Welcome to the newest member of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein's family, Caleb Nathaniel, born March 3. He is joyfully received by siblings, Ryan, Sis. Alyssa, Sis. Shawna, Brett, Sis. Brooke, Joshua, Amy, Matthew and Josiah. May the Lord continue to grant you much grace and wisdom as you raise your children for His glory.

"Angels" was the subject for a recent topical Bible study held during our regular Wednesday night service. Thanks to our ministering Bro. Chris Huber for allowing the Holy Spirit to lead him in his study of this interesting topic.

Our prayers and sympathy to Rod Erb (Sherry) at the loss of his grandmother, Sis. Lillian Levy (Bluffton, IN). "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (II Cor. 4:6). May His grace carry you and His glory shine through you in this time of sorrow.

Please remember Sis. Amelia Schini in your prayers as she is having a very difficult time getting around. Also, thanks to God for His healing hand on Sis. Minerva Wuethrich in her time of illness this past month.

Much thanks and praise to God for the time and effort of the visiting ministers and their families who have joined us this past month: Bros. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), and Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) joined us for a special meeting of the Sunday School teaching brothers and sisters.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Laurretta Schafer Nancy Witzig

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

Psalms 127:3

Bob, Heather and Michael Schini welcome Alexis Marie into their home. Grandparents are Sis. Amelia Schini (Francesville, IN) and the late Bro. Albert Schini.

Bro. Reg and Sis. Lora and Olivia Wuethrich were blessed with a baby boy, Alex Jay. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Harlan and Sis. Martha Braker (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Connie Witzig (Bro. Bill) was hospitalized for cardiac testing and has returned home. Jason Aeschliman (Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen) was spared injury from a car accident.

"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."

John 14:18

Our prayers and sympathy are with Dave Pearson with the passing of his father.

Bro. Jeff, Sis. Lynn and Brian Dotterer have relocated to the Bluffton area and will be missed by our congregation.

Bro. Phil Schlatter has been elected as trustee, replacing Bro. Jeff Dotterer; Bro. Joshua Martinez has been designated as assistant sound system operator, replacing Bro. Phil Schlatter.

A Cabin Fever dinner and evening of fellowship was enjoyed on February 19.

Visiting ministers and their wives this past month were Bro. Neal and Sis. Kristine Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Our Sunday School Bible Class attended Purdue Day (ACYF) and

appreciates the time and effort spent on their behalf.

Our next outreach weekend is planned for April 29-30 and we invite everyone interested in participating to be a part of this weekend.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Heidi Stoller

March is the time for Friendship Weekend in LaCrosse. A time for us to remember the common bond of faith, love and hope which unites brethren in the Apostolic Christian Church across the land. We were blessed to have many families and six visiting ministers for Friendship Weekend. Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH), David Graf (Akron, OH), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) were all present to share the precious Word with the brethren at LaCrosse.

We look forward to partaking in Communion with our Lord and Saviour and our brethren on April 8. Although we as brethren should always be prepared for the Lord's coming, preparation for Communion is a special time of reflection and repentance before our Lord.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread,

and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

II Cor. 11:24-26

Charlie Heinold, brother of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold, passed away this month.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Our thoughts turn to Easter as we experience mild days, sunshine and cold in March; but the bulbs are shooting forth and some even blooming.

One Touch of Beauty

One touch of beauty...
 One shimmering thing
 Like a butterfly's wing
 Can open my heart to the day;
 One edge of sky soft silver grey,
 One almost-blooming flower.
 Look at the light on a leaf...
 The delicate tracings,
 The frail interlacings
 Of sun and of shadows.
 Watch the crystal snowflake
 fall...
 Silent, small,
 Magnificent.
 Open your face to the sky
 And the stars;
 To the towering, faraway hills;
 Pause...while your soul fills
 With beautiful music;
 Walk on the diamond-flecked
 sands
 By the sea...
 Look on a field bright with gold-
 enrod...
 Touch hands with beauty...
 Touch hands with God.

—Katherine Davis

May we ever keep in touch with God who in His great love, sacrificed His Son, the Lord Jesus. At this season we remember our Lord and Saviour who resurrected that

we can have new life, and be justified before the Father. We were reminded of this by one of our visiting ministers.

On February 27, Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) blessed us with truth in the morning service on the wedding day of Bro. Nick Zaugg and Sis. Tricia Metzger. We welcome them as part of our fellowship and pray the Lord's blessing on their new life together.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Doyle Frauhiger and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). We welcomed family that came with them as well as all who attended the wedding, especially the ministers and Nick and Tricia's parents. May God bless all of you.

Sis. Pearl Grueter departed this life at age 99, to share in a better life with her Lord. She had ten children. Three children preceded her in death, as well as her husband, Bro. Elmer. She had lived with her daughter, Jan Harding, prior to going into a nursing home. Our sympathy is extended to the family which includes nieces, Sis. Wanda Haltee, Sis. Ruth Garman (Louis), and a sister-in-law, Sis. Arvilla Kipfer (Latty, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers are continually before Jesus our Lord to comfort Bro. Jerry and Sis. Rachel Fessenden, Dustin Donovan, Randy Fessenden (Chicago, IL) and their brother, Erick Donovan (Sacramento, CA), who at one time lived at Gateway Woods. Dustin was in Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan Stieglitz's home and now lives with Sis. Marlise Stieglitz. Their mother, Billy Jean Donovan, 48, and brother, Joseph "Joey" Donovan, 13, met an untimely death in

an auto-truck accident on March 2. Services were conducted by Bros. Marvin and Lynn Stieglitz at Edmonds and Evans Funeral Home in Chesterton, IN. Also surviving were her mother and stepfather, Nancy and Peter Costello, of Chesterton.

Joey memorized this verse from James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." We all need to remember this.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Steve (Sis. Marsha) Scheitlin, whose grandmother, Sis. Lillian Levy (Bluffton North, IN), passed away at age 95. We prayerfully remember Sis. Sharon (Bro. Dave) Pfister, and Sis. Jan (Bro. Bill) Baumgartner who are Sis. Lillian's nieces, all from Leo, IN.

We pray for Bro. John Stoller who is recovering from surgery to his shoulder, injured in the truck accident he experienced in October, 1999. May he feel God's healing touch, and continue to trust the Great Physician.

We welcome into our church family Bro. Matt Wertz from Kansas City, MO, who has taken a position in Fort Wayne, IN, and Sis. Becky Stoller (Roanoke, IL) who has come to serve at Gateway Woods. May you both feel fulfilled and blessed by the Lord.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer

Marguerite Hoerr

Family Night is held each year as part of the Women's Sewing for World Relief. This one was widely attended and quilting was done by men and women. Health kits and birth kits were assembled by young and old. A rich spiritual fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

In the past month, eight of our members and friends participated

in service teams to Juarez, Mexico. They were Bros. Dr. Marvin Wieland and Bob Hoerr who spent eight days on a Medical/Dental team. Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer served on a work team and with them were Bros. Shane Beer, Rob Schlipf, Jeff Beer and their good friend, Jason Price. Many warm stories were related since they have returned home. Everyone has a new awareness of the poverty that exists and the warmth they feel for having contributed their time and hard work.

Bro. Phil Stettner favored the Milford church on a Wednesday night with his report of the Elders' visit to Eastern Europe. Once again, our congregation was made aware of extreme poverty and the need for help. We were blessed to have Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen in our presence.

The annual benefit auction held by our sisters in the Silver Thimble Club was held during March and was blessed by people's generosity.

Our good friend and convert, Julie Beer, continues to have ongoing health problems. We are doing our best to support her in prayer. We want her to feel better and to be able to enjoy good health again. She is very loved by all of us.

Knowing first hand the results of prayers this past month, I know what I'm wishing for Julie. I was visiting our son Jeff's family in Canton, OH, and had a headlong fall down ten steps. I was treated in emergency in a Canton hospital and after a few days was able to fly home. When I returned home, I kept noticing double vision and subsequent visits to my doctor revealed a broken orbital bone. I had surgery and am now able to see normally again, but it was frightening and knowing prayers were interceding for me made such a difference. I am so grateful to so many friends from our Peoria church

who remembered me, too.

During the time of Bob's trip to Juarez, and my trip to Canton, OH, our daughter Becky's husband, Dick Pelath, received word that his birth mother, whom he hadn't seen in 40 years, was near death in a Sioux Falls, SD, hospital. Becky and Dick made the trip and spent part of two days with her and were able to visit with her. Dick also met relatives he hadn't known previously. His mother, Lorna Evans, has since passed away. Dick attended her funeral and got better acquainted with aunts and cousins. We want to personally thank Willy and Helen Knobloch of our Lester, IA, congregation for going to be with Dick at the visitation and for offering their help to him in whatever way they could help. We see the love of God in action through people like them and we're so grateful for it.

As we look forward to another Easter season, I would like to remind everyone of some of the words to the song my much loved Uncle Henry Beer wrote with Mary Ann Yergler Rassi writing the beautiful accompanying music. When Uncle Henry was among us I always marveled at the beautiful thoughts which he had going inside his head. To me he seemed to be so closely in touch with his Maker. Many warm and loving thoughts come to me as I think about him. I sincerely want to follow his example.

'Tis not the Babe, but Christ the
Man,
Who walked in Galilee,
'Tis not the manger, but the
cross
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this Babe to
know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's

brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
'Tis there He bore man's sin,
Then open wide the door of
heart,
And let the Saviour in.
—H.B.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward

Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) ministered to us this month along with Bro. Alfred Bahler, our Elder, who gave us a timely exhortation on preparation for Communion. What a blessing to be able to practice the Biblical principal of "being our brother's keeper" and to be reminded, yearly, of our accountability to the Lord and each other.

Our congregation's last Sunday in our old church will be March 26. We've enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors the past three months as former Remington brethren and friends have made the effort to attend their childhood church one last time.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
DeAnn Schlatter
Lavilla Langhofer

Paul writes, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" (Romans 11:33). We are so blessed to be able to go to church to worship Him and receive instruction. This past month we have been taught by visiting ministers also; Bros. Todd Feller and Tom Troxel (both from LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN). One of the questions presented to us this month was from Jeremiah 35:13, "Will ye not receive instruction to

hearken to my words? saith the Lord."

We express sympathy to Sis. Shirley Lehman on the death of her sister, Eileen Egan, of Medaryville, IN. It is always difficult to say goodbye to someone we love. May the Lord comfort the family and loved ones.

Glory...All glory belongs to Him...He is the King of glory...He is worthy...Do we have giving glory to God on our minds when we start each day? Do we have giving glory to God on our minds when we go to church to worship? Do we have giving glory to God as the purpose when we make plans? "For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Hope Bucher

This month we were so thankful to have several families from Francesville with us for a Sunday. It was such a blessing to have our Sunday School so full, and to meet and greet our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you all for attending Valparaiso church. Please come again!

We, at Valpo, are sad to say goodbye to our Sis. Eunice Feller but are thankful for all the years she has been a part of our church. Sis. Eunice will be moving to Iowa to live near her daughter. This month, we were glad to have a church potluck as well as a ladies lunch meeting in her honor. Sis. Eunice has been a special part of the Valparaiso church for many years, and we will certainly miss her.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst

Once again the Burlington congregation is thankful for the safe arrival of a new baby. Clark and Carin Rowell welcomed little Victoria Linn home this past month. First-time grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell.

As we saw an example of new life coming into the world, there was a life taken from our congregation. Sis. Ethel Stoller passed away recently. She is survived by her daughter, Ellen Miller, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We are also thankful that ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) was with us once again. May our ministering brothers always feel the prayerful support of the congregation that the Spirit might have "free course" as they strive to bring forth the Word. May each of us also endeavor to be true "ministers of the gospel" in our daily lives that we may answer those that ask us about our hope "with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

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

The mortal man may quite dis-
own
And speak in bold derision
Against my labors and my name;
Yet blest is my condition.
The love of God dispels the fear
And makes my faith in Him more
dear.

Zion's Harp #113

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

Now it is accomplished!
With heart and with mind
To Thee, my dear Saviour,
I now am resigned!
I'll ever be faithful
in life and in death
Abiding in Jesus
unto my last breath.

Zion's Harp #209

What a blessing to welcome re-
deemed souls into the fold. On Feb-
ruary 26-27, we heard the
testimony and witnessed the bap-
tism of our new brother in faith,
Mark Stork. May God ever be near
Bro. Mark and guide him through-
out this earthly pilgrimage.

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

Also on February 27, we assem-
bled together to remember our
Lord's suffering and death as we
partook of Holy Communion.
What an awful price was paid for
our salvation. May we ever be
thankful.

What a blessing and comfort it is
to know the love and concern our
Elder body feels for the welfare of
the flocks. Many helpful teachings
were brought forth as the Memo-
randum was shared unto us. May
we heed the warnings and press to
greater faithfulness.

Our thanks to Elder Bros.
Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL),
Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), Ray
Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Wayne

Grimm (West Bend, IA) for their
faithfulness to the tasks laid upon
them and for so lovingly and faith-
fully serving us. May God be their
rich rewarder.

Our apologies to Wade and
Michelle Halverson for being late
in entering their wedding. We cer-
tainly wish you God's richest bless-
ings as you continue on life's
pathway together.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

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

Psalms 133:1

We appreciate the visits of min-
istering brothers and their fami-
lies. Bro. John and Sis. Nelda
Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Bro.
Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl (Morris,
MN) shared with us this month.
Bro. John read in I Kings 6 of the
building of the temple, when all the
pieces were shaped and fitted
off-site, so that when God's temple
was erected, not a sound of a ham-
mer was heard, yet every piece fit
and the temple stood. So it should
be in the household of faith. Each
member should be shaped and fit-
ted by the grace and love of our
Lord, so that as we come together,
His church stands strong and each
of us fits perfectly in His plan. The
church is then constructed in har-
mony and unity. How do you fit?
How do I? Do we need more whit-
tling and shaping by the Master's
hand?

We are happy to have Bro. Matt
and Sis. Janelle Steidinger wor-
ship with us and join in our fellow-
ship. Bro. Matt is completing an
internship in Princeton, MO, and
they will be with us at least until
May. Their warm fellowship and
the many visitors they have hosted

are a pleasure. They are a wonderful addition to our small congregation.

We welcome a bundle of blessings to the household of Jeremy and Rebecca Smith. Tyson Davis Smith joins big sister, Payton, 2. Grandparents are Glenda and Ronnie Davis of Reed Springs, MO, and Gene and Sis. Rachel Smith.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! Among our visitors this month we have been blessed to have several visiting ministers, including Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). We appreciate their and their wives' willingness to travel and serve us.

We also appreciate Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Jane spending a Saturday evening with us to share with us the Memorandum. May we always remember the love, prayer and Biblical basis for the timely exhortations we received. We were reminded that Peter was able to walk on water until he took his eyes off of Jesus and saw the waves about him. He began to sink when he was no longer concentrating on the Lord but his own inabilities and the dangers around him. Though we are surrounded by deception and sin on every side, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will not fail.

The Heavenly Vision

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's a light for a look at the Saviour,
And life more abundant and free!
Thro' death into life everlasting
He passed,
and we follow Him there;

Over us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conqu'rors we are!

His word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well;
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
In the light of His glory and
grace.

—*Tabernacle Hymns #7*

IOWA, LESTER Cindy Leuthold Sue Warner

We were blessed to have the Memorandum shared with us and appreciate the exhortations of our Elder brethren who watch for our souls. We are grateful to Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) who came to minister to us and to assist with this work. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) was also a visiting minister and we thank him for his labors.

The engagement of Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie) of Chicago, IL, to Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally, Taylor, MO), was announced. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their wedding.

We rejoice with Hana Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane) and Matthew Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail) who have repented of their sins and have been granted the gift of peace. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of what God has done in their lives.

We welcome Brant, Samantha, and little Cháyla Besonen who have moved to Lester. We also

failed to mention that Bro. Jeff Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) has moved back to our area from Winthrop, MN. We are glad to have him back again.

While we gladly welcome each new addition to our congregation, we were sorry to say farewell to Bro. Rick Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris) who has moved to Silverton, OR. We pray that God will bless him, and hope that he will visit us often.

On March 10, Kourtney Lee was born to first-time parents, Jared and Amanda Rozeboom. Loving Grandma is Sis. Janet Wysong. We congratulate them and wish them God's help raising their precious daughter.

Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie) was a surgical patient. Ray Cordrey (Sis. Carol) has been dismissed from the hospital and Sis. Carol is caring for him at home in Bryant, S.D. We are thankful for God's healing hand and pray for those that suffer bodily afflictions and the loved ones that care for them. We are also rejoicing that Sis. Myra Wulf is home from the hospital, yet know that many difficult days lie ahead for her and her family. We beseech your prayers on their behalf and continue to pray for Bro. Arnie, Sis. Myra, Monica and Tanya for strength to go on, and that He will heal their aching hearts.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, love, and thoughts sent our way, also for the gifts and cards we received. May God bless each and every one of you.

Ray and Sis. Carol Cordrey

May God Bless You

Words cannot be found to express the thankfulness in our hearts for each of you who remem-

bered us in prayer or sent cards, flowers, food, gifts, money, or visited with consoling words, but most of all prayed for us during the last couple of months. Our lives are changed forever by the death of Landon, but we thank all who helped shape our precious son/brother and pray everyone his life touched will be able to have him live on by carrying on his gifts and memories.

We appreciate all the rescue and medical efforts that were blessed by thousands of prayers in miraculously restoring Myra to a nearly complete recovery and she continues to progress since returning home. We ask you to continue to remember us in prayer. It means so much to us!

*God bless you all,
Bro. Arnie, Sis. Myra
Monica and Tanya Wulf
and Landon's Grandparents
Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona Moser
Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf*

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Our thoughts and prayers go with our Sis. Ashley Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy) as she takes employment in the Chicago area. We will miss her, but pray she can fill her place in the Chicago congregation.

Sis. Tricia Metzger (Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo) and Bro. Nick Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly, West Bend, IA) were recently joined together in Holy Matrimony. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they now walk together as one with Him. May they faithfully fill their place in the Leo congregation.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) for assisting Bro. Ed in the reading of the Memorandum. What an en-

couragement to each one of us to continue to fully support our dear Elder brothers. May the Lord be their rich rewarder for all they do to preserve our precious faith.

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Tom Lindeen (Sis. Vera) and their children, Steve and Katherine, in the passing of their mother and grandmother, Mary Lindeen. May they feel the support and prayers of the brethren in their loss.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks to all who remembered Doss in the hospital (recovering from a car accident) and since returning home. The cards, flowers, love, gifts, food, phone calls, visits and especially the prayers, were truly humbling and appreciated. May God richly bless you all.

The Doss Massner family

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

O now, my Saviour, do Thou take
My heart and make it Thine;
I'll follow Thee, a servant true,
Within Thy fold divine.

Zion's Harp #163

On March 11-12, we welcomed another soul into the fold as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Daryl Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary).

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) for ministering God's Holy Word to our congregation. We pray God will bless him for his labors.

Those who recently spent time in the hospital were Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn), Bro. Jeff Birkner (Sis. Angie) and Sis. Irene Musselman (Bro. Howard). May each one experience God's healing touch.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Eunice Fehr
Berniece Banwart

On March 12, we were happy to have Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) here to share God's Word with us. We want to thank them for coming and willingly lending themselves in the service of the Lord.

Believing it is God's will that they should become husband and wife are Sis. Kristi Kellenberger and Bro. Trenton Banwart of Fort Scott, KS. Parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Deborah Banwart. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their May wedding.

Our sympathy is extended to Edward and Patty Origer (Ankeny, IA) on the death of their infant son. Grandparents are Eli Jr. and Margaret Grimm. May they feel the many prayers offered in their behalf and find comfort in knowing their precious bundle is safe in the arms of Jesus.

God has blessed two families with little ones. On February 19, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Amy, Luke and Alicia Mogler welcomed Autumn Rose. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler and Ronald and Sis. Sandra Feucht (Lester, IA).

On March 12, Dexter Denton was born to Bro. Denton and Sis. Rose Knobloch. His siblings are Dalton and Calla. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA) who share their love for this family. May these dear families ever look to God to help them as they rear these little ones.

As we prepare for Holy Communion and the Easter season, may we be thankful for our salvation

and the price our Saviour paid that we might live.

He Died For Me

I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood;
He fixed His languid eyes on me,
As near the cross I stood.
Sure, never, till my latest breath,
Can I forget that look:
It seemed to charge me with His
death,
Tho' not a word He spoke.
My conscience felt and owned the
guilt,
And plunged me in despair;
I saw my sins His blood had spilt,
and helped to nail Him there.
Alas! I knew not what I did,
But now my tears are vain;
Where shall my trembling soul be
hid?
For I the Lord have slain.
A second look He gave, which
said,
"I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid,
I die that thou may'st live."
Oh, can it be, upon a tree,
The Saviour died for me?
My soul is thrilled, My heart is
filled,
To think He died for me!
Gospel Hymns #837

JAPAN, SHIODA

Ayako Inoue

Greetings in our Saviour's name.

It has been getting warmer every day here and we can see little signs of the new season. The Shioda area is especially known for the beautiful pink peach blossoms which usually bloom in the beginning of April. Spring is the time when we can most enjoy the creation of our Lord, the only God, who created all things.

We are also His creation as it is

written in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." This is my favorite verse because I think it gives us courage and comfort in our daily walk with the Lord. The Shioda church sends out cards once a month to invite people who have once visited our church before. We also send them to the children who used to attend the Shioda American Kindergarten. This month we wrote the verse above, and we are praying for God's help so more people can come and hear the Word, and may answer to His inviting calls.

We had three visiting brothers, Bros. Tony Reinhard, Dan Moser and Tim Drayer, from Bluffton, IN, in the beginning of March. They could be with us on March 4 (Sunday), and it was a great blessing to be able to share the Word together and fellowship after church. In the afternoon Bible class, they each gave a scripture and shared their experiences. We learned a lot despite of the short hour and also could feel a strong bond of faith in between us!

We would be grateful to have anybody visit us in Japan, and to praise the Lord together.

In Japan, March is the last month of the school year and working year. We pray that the Lord will keep us through this busy time, and trust that He will guide us in the coming month, when we make new starts.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

We greet you all in the name of Christ Jesus. Spring has just officially arrived—such a pleasant time of year. By the end of April, the cherry trees will be in full bloom and families and friends will

be picnicking in the parks on mats under the beautiful pink masses of blossoms. Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of the earth!

Our congregation greatly enjoyed a visit from three traveling brothers from Bluffton, IN: Bros. Tony Reinhard, Dan Moser and Tim Drayer. They came for about ten days to sightsee and visit our churches here. On March 12 we had a very blessed day of worshipping, fellowshiping, singing and eating together lasting until late evening. We thank you, brothers, for thinking of us here in Japan and paying us a visit! Thank you for your afternoon Bible Study messages, also. We know it was quite an experience for you to have everything translated—thankfully, our God is not limited to any one language.

Our Sis. Marie Inoue is in the States now enjoying a visit with her mother, Catherine Neihouser (Francesville, IN), and son, Makoto, who is attending college in Indianapolis. We look forward to her return and hearing about her trip.

May the Lord be with us all.

KANSAS, BERN

Lori Baumgartner

Jill Hartter

On February 21 we were able to gather together to assemble health kits for those suffering from the damage from floods in Venezuela. On February 29, many went to Newton, KS, to work on World Relief projects. We are so blessed—whenever we are tempted to complain or want more of this or that, let us stop and count our blessings and we will probably come up far better than we imagined.

We were privileged to have Bro. Steve Gutwein and his wife, Sis. Linda, here from Francesville, IN. They were with us Wednesday,

February 23, and had Bible Study at Kansas State University on Thursday. We appreciate having them with us and are grateful to Bro. Steve for lending himself to the service of the Lord.

Congratulations to Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet Strahm as they have become first-time parents to Laif Jonathan. Laif was born on March 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. John and Sis. Eszter Orcsik (Detroit, MI). May they always feel God's nearness and guidance in raising this new soul.

Our prayers continue for strength for the soul and body to Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leonard) and Sara Popkess (Ed). Hospitalized this month was Bro. Christopher Menold (Sis. Amy). Our thoughts and prayers are with him also.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Joleen Sinn**

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.
Though I had a voice like angels,
Lacking love, I truly know
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
Or a wretched sounding brass;
For although the sound were
present,
Lifeless through this world I'd
pass.

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here every burden bear:
And, enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joys to share.
Zion's Harp #37

Bro. Trenton Banwart (Bro.

Lon and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, West Bend, IA) are looking forward to spending their lives together. May God richly bless these next few weeks as they prepare for their wedding and their future as one in the Lord.

KANSAS, KIOWA **Jenny Stewart** **Laura Wagenbach**

The Sunday School traveled to Wichita for a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual growth. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) was the visiting minister. What a blessed time we had. We want to thank Bro. Akito for the blessing we all received from his wonderful words.

The Kansas churches met at Newton to pack relief kits to send to Venezuela. It is always a joy to work with those of like mind and faith to help those in need.

We held rest home services at the Kiowa Hospital District Manor. How thankful we are to share the wonderful message of God to others.

Bro. Frank Kisling spent some time in the hospital this past month. May the Lord continue to strengthen him.

We receive many blessings every day. Let us not forget to thank Him for each and every one of them.

When upon life's billows you are
tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, think-
ing all is lost,
Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord has done.
Count your blessings, Name
them one by one;
Count your blessings, See what
God has done;

Count your blessings, Name
them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See
what God has done.
Hymns of Zion #116

KANSAS, **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Sarah Somerhalder**

Saturday evening, March 4, our congregation assembled together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) who were with us for this service. May we ever strive to preserve sound doctrine.

We appreciated all our visitors for Invite-a-Guest Weekend March 11-12, especially visiting ministers, Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

A daughter, Kenzie Leigh, was born March 18 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody (Isch) Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Sisters, Amber, Larissa and Leandra, welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Carla Bahler.

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

February 26-27 were the provings and baptisms for two lambs added to the fold, Bros. Seth and John Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen). Assisting our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler were Elders Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). Also we appreciated visiting minister, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

We rejoice with Sis. Kristin Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Tim Schaefer (Bro. Steve

and Sis. Pam, Morris, MN) whose engagement was announced. May God provide His blessings on their May 7 union.

Joel Wiegand (Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn) had surgery and has another surgery scheduled. We are thankful medical procedures are available to correct his heart problems. We look forward to Joel being an active toddler.

There are others who have been afflicted with medical problems. We especially remember Bro. Loren Strahm and Sis. Liseten Strahm who have been unable to attend with us. Our prayers go out to each one that God will keep them in His care.

Sis. Matilda Steiner passed away March 6. Our sympathy is extended to her two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Reminder: April is our annual collection for the Silver Lining. Please put your donation in the collection box and make a notation that it is for the Silver Lining. Please notify your reporters on address corrections.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Brandon Plattner

Another semester is rapidly progressing, and we have again enjoyed the blessings of our Heavenly Father as we gather weekly for mid-week church services, hymn singing or tapes. We are indeed thankful for the ministering brothers and their wives who have been with us in the past few months. They include: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), and Glen Funk (Wichita, KS). We were also blessed to have Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) with us for a topical Bible study about "Sowing and

Harvesting".

We are also happy to hear about the engagement of Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, West Bend, IA) to Bro. Trent Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb, Fort Scott, KS). We certainly wish them God's richest blessings for their life together.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Janelle Steidinger no longer assemble with us, as Bro. Matt is doing an internship near Garden Grove, IA. We want to wish them God's blessings and thank them for their support while they were in Manhattan.

We are thankful for two new converts. Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa, Sabetha, KS) and Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene, Sabetha, KS) recently yielded their lives to the Lord. May God continue to grant grace unto repentance for souls who are lost.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

During this last reporting month, we were blessed with visiting ministers. Visiting ministers provide a good time for fellowship and the church is uplifted. It is not that they preach a new message. They use the same Bible as our Brothers, Max and Glen, do, and proclaim the same Gospel. We can never appreciate enough the sacrifices of time our ministering brothers make in our behalf.

Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and Sis. Marie (Tokyo, Japan) were in our midst on February 27. That day, our assembly was blessed by the presence of a van load of students and teachers from the Kiowa church. Then Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and Sis. Joan (Oakville, IA) came to Wichita on March 11 so the congregation could partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening.

Since that was also the weekend of the second Sunday for the month, we were privileged to have Bro. Lynn Fiechter and Sis. Rhonda (Bluffton, IN) as our guest minister. It has become a custom in Wichita to have a visiting minister on the second Sunday of the month which is also reserved for an all church potluck dinner.

The theme of the Wednesday night Bible study for this semester is "Joseph". The study group has been meeting at Bro. Phillip Bowers home on alternating Wednesdays. Bro. Phillip is mending slowly but is still confined to his home. Continue to keep him and his caregivers in your prayers.

At this time, Bro. Godfrey Miller is in the Transitional Living Center at the local hospital in El Dorado. He and I both need your prayers for whatever decisions we must make to cope with his frailty.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glendas Neukomm

Our congregation appreciated the visiting ministers that came and brought us the Word over the past couple months. They were: Bros. Allen Stoller (Bluffton, IN), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO). May the Lord richly bless them.

On Saturday evening, February 26, we enjoyed a potluck and singing at church. This was the weekend Taylor, MO, was here and Bro. Roy Grimm was the visiting minister. A blessed time of fellowship was enjoyed by all that were present.

In Jeremiah 29:7 God told the people of Israel who were captive in Babylon, "to seek the peace of the city," and to "pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace". Instead of sitting around

lamenting their fate and wishing they were somewhere else, they were told by the Lord to be faithful where He sent them.

We can't always choose our circumstances in life. We may not be able to change our job or location. Our situation may be difficult! But we can maintain the right attitude, by God's grace, then watch for positive results.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Col. 3:23-24

Your work for God will always
count,
Although it may be small;
For He marks well your faithful-
ness
When you have given all.
—*DJD*

We rejoice with our convert, Andrea Neukomm, as she has been announced for peace. Lord willing, her proving and baptism will be in June.

Once again we extend a welcome to anyone to visit Lexington. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (606) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (606) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Erica Schambach**

Prayer. War. What do these two words have to do with each other? Everything! Throughout the month of February as we explored more ways to reach the community, started construction on another church in the state capitol of Michoacan, Morelia, and sponsored an outreach to an orphanage in Imuris, Mexico, I was constantly aware that we were in a great war

and that many souls were at stake. I could sense Satan seething in hatred and envy as he watched good seeds being planted, a church being built for Christ, and the Gospel being shared with orphans. How did we know the plan of attack? As soldiers of the cross, it was vitally important that we be in constant communication with our Commander, and He never failed to warn us when danger was near or provide us with the best strategy, and He never let us become discouraged even when the enemy seemed to have us surrounded. The battle is not over. Although this leg of it was more demanding, it has not yet been won. We must continue striving, fighting, preaching and praying, and always remember that the victory is the Lord's. Are we fully clothed with the Armor of God?

A group of four brothers from the Tremont, IL and Bluffton, IN congregations came for a few days the first week of February to do some investigating on well-drilling possibilities in the hills surrounding the village. Although the investigative team reports that the project is not feasible at this time, we realize that, with God, all things are possible.

The construction of the church/house in Morelia kept a group of fourteen from Elgin, IL busy for one week. After spending the weekend in Ixtlan, the group, along with several others members from here, headed to the state capitol. They spent four ten-hour days laying brick, running electric and plumbing, mixing and pouring cement, knocking down existing walls for doors and putting in windows, all Mexican-method. It was quite a learning experience, but they all enjoyed the challenge and the fellowship while building a house of worship for the Lord. The work drew many curious specta-

tors, and one of them commented about how friendly the workers were and how much fun they were having. It was a great witness to the community, and we pray that God will prepare their hearts and give them the desire for His Word when the doors of the church open.

We are very thankful for all of the brothers that were willing to be used in sharing the Truth. Special thanks to ministering Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) for their willingness to serve.

The last week of February, our congregation sponsored an outreach trip. Sis. Rosa Cabrera and Sis. Erica Schambach spent a week at Casa Elizabeth, an orphanage in Imuris, Mexico. They organized Sunday School materials which they presented and held classes for the children every afternoon. The children were very receptive and enthusiastic—especially when singing! It was a week filled with laughs, tears, lessons in patience, wet kisses, neck-breaking hugs, dirty little hands and faces and uncountable blessings!

Meet Sis. Delfina Lira

Sis. Delfina raised her six children in the hills of Ixtlan. Like her daughter, Sis. Carmen, she was very devoted to the superstitious practices of her religion and was living a life that lacked the love of God and salvation through His Son. Due to poor health, Delfina moved in with a son and his family in a town a half hour from Ixtlan. During this time, Delfina expressed a desire to go to church, but it wasn't until she went to live with her daughter, Sis. Carmen, in Ixtlan that she surrendered her life to the Lord. She was baptized at the age of 97, in a "kiddy" swimming pool, in the yard of the church/house in Ixtlan on July 14, 1996, with five others. Her daugh-

ter, Adela, was also baptized that day. All of Sis. Delfina's children were very thankful for the conversion of their mother. Two of her daughters were converted before her, one was baptized with her, and one son has since converted in the Ixtlan church. As a result of failing health due to a near-death illness a year and a half ago, Sis. Delfina is not able to assemble with us for services. She is currently living with her son in Zamora, thirty minutes away, and we visit and have Bible Study with her about once a month. Although very hard of hearing and difficult to understand when she speaks, Sis. Delfina clearly expressed the "strong" peace she feels in her heart since giving her life to Christ and the hope she has of seeing Him one day and being in His presence for all eternity. Her favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23 and she will never forget, "Jehova es mi pastor." (The Lord is my Shepherd).

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte

When was the last time you walked to the mail box to find an envelope that read "You may have already won"? The country is being plagued by "get rich quick" schemes taking little or no effort. From mailings, to game shows, to books on "how to". This time of year brings to mind another who made a lot of money for doing what he thought was "oh so" little; Judas, the man that betrayed our Lord. Thirty pieces of silver, roughly three months wages, was his prize. Bro. Howard Plattner told us this month, "You make a living by what you earn; you make a life by what you give". Judas earned his thirty pieces of silver for his betrayal and Christ's whole life rests on what he gave. How do we

want to be remembered? What will your legacy be? II Cor. 9:6, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

We share in the sadness with Sis. Helen Steffen and her family for the passing of her brother, Tom Foreman. Our prayers go out for God's comfort in their loss.

Continued prayer for the health of Christine and Margaret Wingeier as they recover from this winter's ailments. Prayers also go out for Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen as he recovers from some health problems that have kept him from church attendance.

The remodeling of the church was completed this month. Dari's Banquet Hall was set up as a temporary meeting place as the carpet and new pews were being installed to bring the completion of the work.

Last month when we sent out prayers for our college students, we missed Sis. Laura Blough at Western Michigan and Sis. Gretl Schlatter at Michigan State University. We apologize for the omission.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

Every month as I sit down to write the Silver Lining article, I get just a glimpse of God's faithfulness to our congregation over the previous weeks. This month was no exception. We were so happy and thankful that Jenay Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) felt a need in her life for change and responded to God's call in repentance. It is our sincere prayer that Jenay will feel God's nearness in the month's ahead.

We also rejoiced with Anna Marie Bishop (Bro. Glenn and Sis.

Margret Ruegsegger) as she has experienced complete peace with God and man. Whenever a convert finds peace, it is such a reminder of our Lord's loving grace and we are sure that Anna Marie has felt, and will continue to feel, those blessings from God.

We are also excited over the births of two new little ones. Taryn Elizabeth was welcomed home by her big sisters, Amy and Christina. Thankful parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson and grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and Sis. Dolores Marti (Gridley, IL). We pray that Taryn will continue to grow up healthy and strong and will bless the lives of those around her.

Russ and Tonia Ettinger and big brother, J.D., welcomed Rachel Naomi into their lives. Happy grandparents are Bro. Derrell and Sis. Sue Steffen. We are sure that little Rachel will bring joy to those who know her and pray that God will always be near her.

We had several in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Margret Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn), Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor), Sis. Janet Koher, and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam). It is our sincere prayer that each of them will feel God's healing hand upon them and that His comfort and peace will sustain them.

May God be near each of you in the month ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier

The Easter season is here and it provides an opportunity to reflect on how deeply Jesus loved us when we realize how much He suffered for us. We can then rejoice in His victory over death and the salvation that He so freely provides.

Two families in our congrega-

tion are rejoicing over the birth of new babies. Karl and Kerry Moilanen welcomed Kyle Patrick into their family on March 18. Kyle's big brother, Connor, and his grandparents, Tom and Kay Moilanen, are excited about his arrival. Bro. John and Sis. Eszter Orcsik are in Bern, KS, visiting their first grandchild, Laif Jonathan. Laif's parents are Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet Strahm.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and Bro. Mike Reinhard recently spent some time doing work projects in Haiti. We are thankful that they had the opportunity to serve in this way and that they've returned safely.

Sis. Ann Tachar and Sis. Dorothy Reineck have spent time in the hospital. We miss the company of these two dear ladies. Our prayers for a full recovery and for God's nearness are with them.

On March 19, we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Andrea Denes and Bro. John Butikofer. We wish them God's blessings as they grow in their love for each other and for Him. We will miss Sis. Andrea since they will be living in Gridley, IL, but we know that the Gridley congregation will enjoy having her there. The couple's parents are Sis. Sanche and the late Bro. Frank Denes and Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy), all from Gridley, IL, were with us for Bro. John and Sis. Andrea's wedding. Bro.

Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy) from Alto, MI, held services at Woodhaven this month. We appreciate each of these brothers being willing to serve on our behalf.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

As Easter is drawing near, we are reminded of the phrase in hymn #36 in the Hymns of Zion "tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

We enjoyed having our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) as visiting ministers this past month. We thank them for their labors.

Our prayers are with those who have had physical ailments. Sandy Bentz has had treatments for her multiple sclerosis symptoms and Bro. Kent Mogler had the misfortune of fracturing his ankle.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Dianne Kellenberger Nancy Wulf

Lamb of Calvary

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

He prayed alone in Gethsemane,
The Father's will, He said, "Let
it be."

And when they led Him to judgment hall,
He held His peace before them
all.

And on His head a crown of
thorns;
His face was marred and His
name was scorned,
Though you and I weren't there
that day,

We, too, have cried, "Crucify,
He's to pay."

He bore the cross on the Calvary
road,
His heart was pierced beneath
the load.
But in His eyes compassion
shown;
The Son of God, His blood atone.

So if you've traveled many years,
Seeking joy, but only finding
tears;
Give your life and your spirit free
To the Son of God, the Lamb of
Calvary.

—Bro. Scott Aberle

On March 5, we appreciated the efforts of Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) who shared the Word us.

Rejoicing in the Lord's direction, Bro. Tim Schaefer and Sis. Kristin Hartter (Sabetha, KS) look forward to marriage on May 7. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam Schaefer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter.

Also looking forward to marriage are Stacy Luthi and Scott Kjorness (Alexandria, MN), their date being August 19. Their parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Kathy Kjorness.

Our prayer is that God will bless both couples with His precious love.

Thankful for the blessed arrival of Clint Matthew on March 12 are his delighted parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Messner. His loving grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger.

We pray for God's healing strength for our dear sisters who have faced surgery, Sis. Vi Wulf (Bro. Leonard) and Sis. Mabel Schmidgall.

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

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

We were thankful to welcome a new brother in faith, Bro. Wesley Schmidt (Rhonda). There was much joy for Gene Schmidt (father, and late Sis. Ella Mae) and families of his brothers and sisters. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth) of West Bend, IA, were here for this wonderful work of the Lord.

Our winter snowbirds are slowly returning to their homes. We are thankful for their safe returns.

Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder announce the birth of Madelyn Florence born February 21. Sisters, McKenzie and EmmaJo, welcome her home. We wish the family God's blessings. Grandparents are Sis. Julia Messner and George and Char Elder of Arlington Heights, IL.

Hospital patients were Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia), Scott Van Deest, Corey Schmidt (Niki) and Bro. Wes Schmidt (Rhonda). We pray for God's healing touch in their lives.

January 1 was the wedding date of Josh Schmidt (Bro. Tim and Liz) and Amy Renn at Saginaw, MI. A wedding reception was held in their honor at Winthrop on February 13. We wish them God's blessings in their new marriage.

Pain is my companion—
not a friend, not an enemy,
but a fellow-traveler on earth.

I am the oppressed, beguiled and belittled.

Pain is my companion.

This is earth, not heaven.

I accept, "Not my will, but thine, be done."

Celebrate then resurrection from pain to plentitude,

from endurance to eternity,

from earth to heaven!

Alleluia! Alleluia! now and forever.

—*M. Thomas*

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**Komari Neal**

The last few weeks have been filled with many blessings in the Kansas City congregation. On February 27, the engagement of Bro. Trenton Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb, Fort Scott, KS) and Sis. Kristi Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, West Bend, IA) was announced from our pulpit. Both Trenton and Kristi assemble with us often, and we rejoice with them during this time. Our prayers are with them as they prepare to unite their lives.

In early March, our congregation and our singles group bid farewell to Bro. Matt Wirtz. May God's blessings be with Matt as he settles into his new career in Ft. Wayne, IN, and into the congregation in Leo, Indiana. We will miss Bro. Matt and we hope that he will remember us when he travels to visit other churches.

The weekend of March 11-12 was truly filled with the power and guidance of God. Visiting with us that weekend were Elder Bros. Arthur Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL), Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), and Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). These brothers labored diligently throughout the entire weekend. We were admonished, encouraged,

and given guidance for living a God-fearing life during the reading of the Conference Memorandum on Saturday evening.

"For the grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Titus 2:11-13

On Sunday afternoon, we remembered the blood and the body of our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, as we joined together to partake of Holy Communion. Our final blessing of the weekend was the result of much prayer and many hours of interviews. The visiting Elder Brothers determined that Bro. Don Braker has the support of the Kansas City congregation, and, pending the Elder Body approval, will become our next Elder. We ask that you keep our congregation and Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen in your prayers during this time of transition.

We are truly thankful for the labors of the visiting Elders and pray that God will richly bless them. As well, we are thankful for our Elder Bro. Gene Marti. With God's help and guidance, our dear Elder has been a faithful and loving shepherd to our flock. May God continue to bless him as he prepares for his upcoming retirement.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Kristen Braker****Kristi Huber**

The weekend of February 26-27, we were privileged to hear the testimony of another dear soul who was proved and baptized into

the fold. We are thankful to greet our new sister-in-faith, Mindy Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) here to assist with the duties of this special occasion.

Our congregation has been blessed with many other visitors also this past month. Among them were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We are thankful for their willingness to minister God's Word unto us.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy Marti in the passing of her grandfather. May they feel God's comfort in their loss.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

Lately we have been studying the life of Joseph. It was noted that God took this young, spoiled boy, put him through some difficult times, and transformed him into a great, faithful man of God. While going through those difficult times, we wonder how Joseph felt. Did he feel alone on this earth as he was rejected by his brethren yet not completely accepted as an Egyptian (Gen. 43:32)? How much of God's plan did he understand as his life unfolded?

The story of Joseph gives us courage to continue on here on this earth as we, too, go through difficult times when God is transforming us. We, too, may feel alone as we follow His plan for us. Our prayer is that each of us may do as Joseph did in the midst of tribulation and loneliness: he drew nigh unto God. He alone can see where

He is taking us in life.

We are thankful for those who have followed His leading into the ministry. Those who have visited us this past month include Bros. Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN) and Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL). May God bless them and all our ministering brethren and Elder brothers across the land as they bring us God's true Word.

As spring creeps across the land, may each of us remember to thank our beloved Father for all He has done for us. Thanking Him for both the "good" (ie: His creation) and the more difficult (ie: our earthly trials) times.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

We're thankful to have had Bros. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) minister to us this last month. Many of us were able to attend the "Bring Them Up" seminar given by Bro. Jeff. May God bless them for their service.

Recovering from illnesses this month are: Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul), Seth Redd (Dean and Gaye), Bro. Louis Hoerr (Sis. Ruthie) and Mindy Knapp (Kevin). We're happy to see them recuperating. We also rejoice with Dean and Gaye as they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary! May God continue to bless their marriage.

A van load from the Bible Class traveled to Tremont, IL, on February 6 for ACYF. Thanks to Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen Gehring for their tireless efforts in making the arrangements. It was a blessed evening! The Bible Class traveled to Peoria, IL, for a fantastic weekend of fellowship March 11-12. May God bless all who had a part.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Shannon Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally) to Sis. Susan Knobloch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie, Lester, IA) from Chicago. They are planning a May 7 wedding in Taylor. May God be near them as they start their lives together!

Our prayers are with Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis) whose brother, Bro. Wilbur Knapp, from Congerville, IL, passed away recently. May God comfort each one.

On March 11, the reading of the Memorandum was brought to us by our Elder Bro. Roy and Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL). May we each strive to have a closer walk with God and to keep our church more united.

March 17-18 was the weekend we welcomed four more precious souls into the fold. We welcome Sis. Sarah Haerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Sally), Sis. Jackie Heimer (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Bro. Rick Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) and Sis. Nicole Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie). We want to thank Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Sis. Doris, Athens, AL), and Bros. Art Baurer (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), and Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha, KS) for lending their services.

NEW YORK

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

"And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee."

Mark 14:27-28

Well, it is spring and it is syrup

season and soon to be Easter.

In February we had visiting brothers and sisters from Illinois. We had a potluck supper and singing afterwards.

On March 8, Zachary Louis was born to Ray and Kim Could. Grandparents are Louis and Janet Beck and great-grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines.

Sis. Esther Rauhe (Bro. John) is still at their daughter Betty Jean's recovering from surgery. We pray the Lord will stretch forth His hand of healing and heal our loved ones.

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Our congregation enjoyed a "Family Night for World Relief" wherein all were invited to attend. First a spaghetti supper was served to all. The evening was spent with everyone having something worthwhile to do. The children were supervised and carried out their duties well. The brothers, sisters and friends in attendance all had work for World Relief and an enjoyable time of fellowship in doing it.

We appreciated having some of the Latty and Junction young members spend the weekend of February 26-27 with us. The Saturday evening singing at church was beautiful, which included the local area's young members along with the Akron congregation. Sunday after church they sang at a nursing home and all were invited to return to the church for a carry-in supper.

Sis. Olga Trostle (91) passed away Sunday, February 13, at the Apostolic Christian Home. Preceding her in death was her husband, Kenneth Trostle, two brothers and one sister. Surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

Mark Collins passed away March 6. He was the son of Duane and Sis. Marjorie (Kaufman) Collins. Mark's wife, Pamela, survives, along with Mark's brother, Duane, and sisters, Chris Rufener, Cynthia Kulton, Carole Edwards and Caryn Brindle.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

Bringing us God's Word this past month were Elder Bro. Mark Masters and Bros. Mike Baumann and Fred Domka (all of Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

We are thankful that Bro. Andy Hunyady is recuperating and is feeling well enough to attend church.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

"Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace, Coming down from the Father above; Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray, In fathomless billows of love." (Gospel Hymns #746). Our convert, Peg Manz, has experienced this wonderful peace that the songwriter has penned. May God continue to be with you, Peg, as we all look forward to hearing your testimony and witnessing your baptism in the future. We trust that God will continue to trouble the waters and the call will go forth in truth and purity. Patricia Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) has recently answered God's call. What a joy it was for all of us to hear the good news as we arrived at church on Wednesday evening. It is our prayer that God will be with you as you begin your life living for Him.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Julia Hale (Bro. Maburn) in the loss of her brother, Buster Evans,

of Lawrence County, AL. May God be near and grant you and your family comfort as you go through this time of loss.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat, this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

We were thankful that Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) was able to spend the weekend with us as we partook of Holy Communion. Our human minds cannot really fathom what all Christ endured for us so that we can have a hope of spending life eternal with Him in Heaven some day. May we all strive to walk a closer walk to Him as we ponder what our real reason for living truly is.

We thank Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) for ministering unto us this past month. We trust God will bless you for laboring on our behalf.

Many of us were able to travel to Eureka, IL the weekend of March 12 to witness the marriage of our Bro. Tony Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) to Sis. Denise Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy). We wish you a warm welcome to our congregation, Sis. Denise.

This covenant shall then
Endure and stand forever;
There neither grief nor pain
Shall come to part or sever.
There God shall e'er abide
With us our truest friend,
Our hearts in Him unite
Forever, without end.

Zion's Harp #79

OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjos**

Among our visitors during the

month were ministering Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN). May the Lord continue to answer our prayers for the truth to be spoken as the brothers stand to speak.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn welcomed home another son, Gabe Isaac. He is welcomed into the family circle by siblings: Thad, Calvin, Marla, Nolan, Tanya, Gina and Clint. His grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Maurice and the late Sis. Alma Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). As these children grow and mature, our prayer is that they will answer the call as they have been taught in the days of their youth.

We ask for God's healing hand of blessing following surgery for Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Melvin) and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon). Sis. JaNahn Sinn (Bro. Stan) and Autumn Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) spent time in the hospital. We look forward to the time when they can assemble in the house of prayer.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein commemorated their 50th wedding anniversary. As they continue in this life, may the Lord's hand of blessing rest upon them.

As I sit writing the news, I realize that the Easter season will be upon us as this issue is mailed. We truly have no reason to miss it, as the stores have had seasonal decorations out for several weeks already. We can become bewildered by this and shake our heads at the commercialization of the season, or we can use this as an opportunity to reflect upon the Lord's death as often as we see the displays. Let us use this time to grow closer to and learn to appreciate the Lord's suffering on our behalf.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

We were thankful to have Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) minister to us on a Wednesday evening. We are always fed and strengthened when we hear God's Word.

Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Mark Masters in serving us Communion on March 11.

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24-25

Bro. Ray also ministered to us on Sunday. May the Lord bless him for his service.

Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank) and Sis. Anna Webel have been hospitalized this month. May God's healing hand be upon them.

We have cause for rejoicing as Doug Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) is repenting. May God grant him grace unto repentance.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Lynda Beery

Beth Beery

Job 5:8-9 says, "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number." God is so good. Aren't we all so thankful.

One "marvellous thing" is visitors. "Love of Jesus, love of brethren, Heal our souls from ev'ry smart! Grant to us Thy purest mo-

tives, And a pure, unspotted heart, And a pure, unspotted heart." (Zion's Harp #72). Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) inspired us through the love of God on March 5.

"He will swallow up death in victory: and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces: and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord God hath spoken it."

Isaiah 25:8

Hopeful words were read and meditated on by Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) on March 12. We appreciate all our visitors and hope you felt welcomed. Please come again.

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

II Corinthians 11:2

Thank you each and every Elder for your time and effort at the winter Elder Conference in Wolcott, IN, and throughout the year so God's people can be presented to Christ as a chaste virgin.

May the Lord provide peace in time of stress. Our Sis. Anna Blough and Sis. Mary Jane (Bro. Andrew) Winkler spent some time in the hospital. Doug (Sis. Diane) Raifsnider, Bro. Vernon (Sis. Elizabeth) Landis, Betty (Walter) Marquart, Sis. Margaret (Bro. Stan) Winkler, and Bro. Isaac, Jr. (Sis. Verna) Rufener had some surgery. Bro. Jack Maibach (Sis. Delores), with a smile as always, has experienced a lengthy time of recovery from a stroke. We are thankful when full or partial recovery occurs and loved ones can reassemble with us.

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Psalm 139:14

Recently, I thought how wonderfully our body is made. Our heart beats (80 beats a minute = 115,200 times a day and in 1 year 42,048,000 beats) and we breathe without conscious effort. The heart, about the size of your fist, is a muscle with four chambers. The top chambers (atria) receive the blood and the lower chambers (ventricles) pump the blood out. The blood travels from the body into the right atrium, to the right ventricle where the blood is pumped to the lungs to pick up the vital element of oxygen, returns into the left atrium of the heart and then into the left ventricle where the blood is pumped up to the brain, to the heart vessels (to supply the heart energy to function), and to the rest of the body. The lung transfers the oxygen we breathe into the blood that the right ventricle has pumped. The two organs work together in a perfect rhythm. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together..." (Ephesians 4:16). "For we are labourers together with God..." (I Corinthians 3:9). May we all strive to work together as the heart and lungs do.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today!
Haste to flee His condemnation;
Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasures,
Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #52

Luke Steiner (Bro. Matthew

wand Sis. Gail) has found grace to seek his soul's salvation. May the Lord inspire his every thought, action, and conversation.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our love and sincere gratitude for the money, prayers, cards, gifts, visits, telephone calls, and all other acts of kindness extended to Bro. Jack at the time of his stroke and recovery. What a blessing your prayers and support have been to us during the past months. It is very humbling to receive such an outpouring of love. May God richly bless you all.

*In Christian Love,
Bro. Jack and Sis. Delores
Maibach*

OHIO, SARDIS **Angie Figel**

Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle were blessed with three little grandchildren this month! James and Carol Brown were blessed with God's miracle of twins, Courtney Renee and Christian Lucas. Excited big brother is Cory. Trent and Christy Indermuhle were blessed with a precious little girl, Rachel Renee. Big brothers to welcome her are Jordan and Ryan. May God richly bless our growing families.

"...Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart..."

Psalm 95:7-8

On Saturday, March 11, the reading of the Memorandum to our congregation took place. We would like to sincerely thank Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Sis. Eleanor, Akron, OH) for assisting Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle in this task.

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

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

Zion's Harp #226

We recently had the opportunity to be reminded of this "great miracle", as we gathered together on a Saturday evening to partake of Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Andy were Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). We thank our Elders for their untiring efforts on our behalf. We appreciated having Bro. Charles, and those who accompanied him, with us the next day. May the Lord bless him for lending himself to God's service.

Also visiting us this past month were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). May their efforts be blessed.

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

Luke 15:7

We are rejoicing for not just one, but three souls who are repenting. Our prayers are with John Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky), and Mike and Robin Miller (Robin is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner, Rittman, OH). We wish for them an abundance of grace, that they may completely surrender their lives over to the will of God.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."

Col. 3:15

We rejoice with David Colvin (Shelly), as he has found this precious peace. May he continue to feel the Lord's nearness as he awaits the time when he will give his testimony.

Those who spent time in the hospital recently were Bro. Denny Nieman (Sis. Kay), and Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty). We're thankful both are home again and doing better.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We appreciate visitors to our congregation, as the fellowship that we share is a precious gift. We appreciated having Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) minister to us on a recent Thursday evening. May we all feel God's blessing and guidance in the work that we are called to do, whatever it may be.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

On Saturday, February 4, the Portland brethren assembled with the Silverton congregation and had the privilege to attend the annual reading of the Memorandum. As always, we do thank the Elder brethren for their guidance, wisdom and efforts in putting it all together for our benefit. Let us strive to heed the warnings and messages and live our daily lives accordingly. Our special gratitude to our Elder Bro. Art Metz and to visiting Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) for their efforts that evening. We thank Elder Bro. Kevin and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, for coming all the way to Oregon; we hope it was as much of a blessing to them as it was to us.

We were able to view the World Relief slide presentation regarding our brethren in Eastern Europe.

Their strong faith is quite impressive, and under circumstances we can hardly grasp! It was a real "eye-opener" for us here; surrounded as we are with material bounty and having freedom to worship without fear. Let us remember our European brethren in our prayers and share our material blessings with them when we can. We thank everyone involved in putting this presentation together. Our thanks also to Bro. Terry Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) for his commentary accompanying the slides, and his family for their efforts in setting up the equipment and bringing the presentation here to Portland.

We are happy to announce that Peter and Elizabeth Folia have been blessed with a healthy baby girl. Jordanna Lynne was born on February 22 and was welcomed home also by her sister, Elisheba, and brother, Benjamin. Grandparents are Steve and Elizabeth Auer from Colorado Springs, CO. We wish the Folia family many blessings and much happiness with their precious children.

We thank all who visited Portland this past month. Every single one makes a big difference! Special thanks to Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR, for his sermon and willingness to serve us. May the Lord bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

We were blessed to be able to listen to the reading of the Memorandum the first Saturday in March. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) was here to share with our Elder Bro. Art Metz in this very important and timely work. We are so very thankful that we still have faithful "Watchmen on the Walls" that are willing to encourage us, to warn us and where necessary, to admonish us.

We rejoiced when we heard that two more of our converts believe that they have received that wonderful peace from the Lord that they sought in repentance. They are Regina Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Chad Walter (Sis. Megan). We will keep them in our prayers as they await their opportunity to bring their testimony of faith before the brethren.

February 11 was the birthday of little Mieli Rose Hansen. She joins brothers and sisters, Joshua, Julie, Derek, Ashley, Kalie and Kenton. Parents of this little blessing from Heaven are Tim and Carol Hansen. Grandparents are Alvin and Florence Hansen of Salem and Otto Stadel and Edith Stadel of Silverton.

Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess) was a hospital-surgical patient this past month. Thankfully he is recovering well at this writing.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA). We really do appreciate their love and concern and willingness to labor in our behalf.

We recently heard the beloved and well-known 23rd Psalm, but if we want to claim the Lord Jesus as our loving Shepherd, we need to have the humble, obedient attitude of the sheep.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan Gasser

This month we were pleased to learn that Travis Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) has found peace with God and looks forward to baptism in April. We rejoice with Travis and his family as we give thanks to God for His grace and mercy as He continues to call souls to Him. May Travis come to know and love his Lord ever more as a child of God.

We were blessed to have Bro.

Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and his family visit with us and share God's Word with our congregation. May each one remember to lift up our ministers to the Lord in prayer, and seek His blessings upon them and upon their service to our dear Faith.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

On February 20, the Living Word was brought to us by Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO). What a joy it is to sit under the sound of God's Word and be encouraged and admonished in our daily walk with God. What a privilege it was on March 5 to be able to remember the Lord's suffering and sacrifice on our behalf by sharing Communion. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) was here to share the Communion service, as well as Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) who shared in the ministry for the day. Throughout the month, we were also privileged to enjoy fellowship with many visitors from Athens, AL; Morton, IL; Francesville and LaCrosse, IN; and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. It is a blessing 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: Bloomington, IL (April 16); Smithville, OH (May 7); Chicago, IL (May 21); Forrest, IL (May 28);

and Francesville, IN (June 4). 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.

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 annual Tennessee Fellowship Weekend at the Tennessee Fellowship Area in Pulaski, TN, and at the Athens, AL, church. We welcome all who would like to attend this weekend of spiritual encouragement, worship and fellowship. Also, new this year, in order to raise funds for the maintenance of the Tennessee Fellowship Area, there will be an auction on Saturday afternoon of items donated by attendees.

TEXAS, CENTRAL
Dan and Pam Sauder

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, OH), and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL).

Our May schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 7th at Austin (Gridley, IL); 14th at San Antonio (Lamont-Gridley, KS); 21st at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Junction, OH).

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. 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

The wildflowers are putting a show on as they dot the lawn and roadsides. The trees are such a rich green and the fruit trees are almost done sending out their aroma which surpasses many a bouquet. But as spring is here, many residents are returning to their homes in the northern states. The number of brethren attending church is lessening also. It has been a very blessed season.

We have been blessed with many visitors and ministers whom we appreciate very much. Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We heard that the miracle of God's grace clothes us with His righteousness and it is our responsibility to keep the faith so we can keep our hearts clean and holy. We thank these ministers for so faithfully expounding His precious Word. We enjoyed the visit of retired minister, Bro. Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL).

Bros. Leon Kuntz and Leo Messner were hospitalized. We wish God's healing mercies upon them.



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ren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort." (I Timothy 6:2). Believing masters. I am sure that in our lifetime, all of us have perhaps worked for someone else. There are times when we have people who work with us or for us. Can we say that we are believing masters? Can we say that we truly believe in God and that we follow His doctrine?

He went on to encourage the servants here and said, "Do them service, referring to their masters, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort." I am amazed in God's Word that He always is a God of order and a loving God. He always wants what is best for us for all involved.

He told Timothy here, "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud," and goes on to say, "knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy; strife, railings, evil surmisings," (I Timothy 6:3-4). All of these things then come into being. God is a God that does not like rebellion. He does not like a rebellious heart. We have many examples in the Old and New Testaments of those who exhibited a rebellious heart.

We have the example in the Old Testament of the children of Israel, who were in that category. They said, "We have walls around our city. We have vineyards to eat from. We have water to drink. We have flocks, and we have mighty armies. There will no one come and take these things from us." Jeremiah pleaded with them and he said, "You are trusting in these things, and you are not trusting in the Living God." It follows so closely with what we read here about God's concern for them that are rich in this world, and not rich in Him.

They put their trust in these other things, and what happened? Even though Jeremiah pleaded with them with tears running down his face, He

pleaded with them and they forsook him. They forsook his advice. We can read that they even cast him into a pit that had mud on the bottom with no concern about what would happen to him. They told him that if the enemy came, then they would come and take him out of this pit.

We know what happened. If we read that story and follow through, there came a time then when the armies of the North, the Chaldeans that we read about, came unto the children of Israel and they overtook their cities. It was the Chaldeans then who rescued Jeremiah from his own people.

Let's heed the Word of God no matter how it comes unto us, dear ones. We want to listen to these wholesome words of our Lord and Saviour and unto the doctrine which is according to godliness.

It says here that a person who does not listen is proud. He says these bring things into our lives then when we are of a proud nature—envy, strife, railings and evil surmisings. People that actually do not understand the truth, supposing that gain is godliness, he said, from such withdraw thyself.

He said the true lesson is this, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Timothy 6:6). How do we achieve those two things, dear ones, godliness and contentment? I think we know how we can attain unto godliness. It is something that we can't earn of our own selves. It is something that is given us from God. It comes from God and it is something that we don't learn or purchase. It is from God's own hand when He pours His Holy Spirit into our heart and He gives us righteousness, so to speak, not that we in ourselves are righteous, but it is all from Him. So we can attain godliness by serving Him with a humble and a contrite heart.

Then this thing of contentment is something that we do have to work on. I am amazed in God's Word. It tells us that we should have faith and that we should also work. We need to do both. We need to have faith and we need to have works. Could we say,

dear ones, that this godliness is the faith that we might have in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and the belief on His Word? Contentment is something then that we need to work on. If we have these two things, godliness with contentment, it says here this is great gain. Isn't it wonderful to know what is great gain to God? And what He considers great gain?

He goes on to say, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (I Timothy 6:7-8). He goes on to warn us that if we begin to look at our possessions, he said we will "fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil..." (I Timothy 6-9-10a). Not money, but the love of money.

Just last Wednesday evening, when we had services at the Home, we considered a portion of Scripture that gave these same warnings in James about where our love should be and where it shouldn't be. We so often consider the account of Lazarus and the rich man. It is an old familiar story. Lazarus was a beggar. He certainly didn't have this problem of falling into temptation because of the things he possessed, because he did not possess anything.

Then we have the man also considered in that account, called the rich man. It doesn't give him a name. It just refers to him as a rich man. Both of these men lived here on earth. They both had their lot and portion in life. One could have been considered a servant; one could have been considered a master, but they both had their lot and portion in life. When their lives were over, we know the story that Lazarus was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. He went to heaven. The rich man, we read, perished in eternal destruction.

What was the difference? It was not because of what they possessed or what they didn't possess. Lazarus did not go to Abraham's bosom because he was a beggar and because he was

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poor. The rich man trusted in his possessions. So, we have to be careful, dear ones. There are many godly people in the Scripture that possessed much;

Abraham was a man of wealth, it says, greater than any in his country. Yet, he served and loved God and he did not fall into the temptations here. Because so often when we covet after these things, it says, we can err from the faith, and we can be pierced through with many sorrows.

God's Word is so wonderful when He gives us warnings. He tells us the way we should go. In verse eleven, it says, "O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." (I Timothy 6:11). Isn't that familiar? We can read about it in Galatians as it is similar to the fruit of the Spirit. If we have God's Spirit within our heart, if we are a man of God, this will be a part of our life—righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. How many of us struggle with these things? There is probably not a one of us here that would say that we are satisfied with our life and that we have these things to the fullest.

Yet, God instructs us to follow after these things and, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called...I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus...That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:" (I Timothy 6:12-14). So we might ask ourselves what kind of life should we lead? What should we be doing with our time until Jesus comes again?

His instructions here were to keep this commandment. What was that commandment? Leave these things, follow after righteousness and all of this godliness, faith, love, patience and fight the good fight of faith. This is the commandment, dear ones, and it takes effort on our part. We must have faith, yes, but we must also work.

Then he says here concerning our

Lord Jesus Christ. He says, "...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." He will come again. God's Word tells us so plainly that Jesus IS coming again. Yes, He walked here on this earth but He is coming back. Are we ready?

He will show us, it says here, who is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see." (I Timothy 6:16). There are occasions in God's Word where there were those who wanted to see God, even Moses himself. God placed in a cleft in a rock and when he walked by, the Scriptures tell us that He put His hand over the opening so Moses might not see Him.

No man has seen or can see Him. Someday those that are able to keep this commandment will see the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Then we read here in the last part of this chapter another concern for those, "that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" (I Timothy 6:17). If we have food and raiment and we have this hope within our heart, what else could we really want or desire?

If God blesses us, it says, "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come..." (I Timothy 6:18-19). I am mindful of Abraham who possessed many things. If I err not, Abraham always saw fit to it to give at least a portion—a tenth or maybe possibly more—to God and to others who were in need.

"...ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." (I Timothy 6:18-19). When we look back over our life, whether we are a servant, whether we are a master, whether we are slaves, whatever our lot and portion in life is, whether we are beggars, whether we are the rich men, we all have a desire, I believe, to lay hold on

eternal life.

This is really our goal. God has a concern for us, I believe, or He would not have printed these words and had them preserved for us today. He has a concern for every one of us.

Then at last here, he addresses these words to Timothy. He could be talking to you and me, who are His children. He said, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust..." (I Timothy 6:20). Keep that which is committed to thy trust. He has given us this hope within our hearts. We need to hang onto it and hold to it, like we hang on or hold to nothing else in this world.

"...avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:" (I Timothy 6:20). What does he mean here? True science never disagrees with the Word of God. God says the sun will come up in the morning and it will set in the evening, and that the earth is round and that we will have times and seasons and night followeth day and day follows night. True science never disagrees with God's Word.

It says there that some have erred concerning the faith, professing that they have faith. So, dear ones, we have to be careful because we have Satan on the right hand and on the left. We have Satan who comes at us as a roaring lion or as a wolf in sheep clothing, and in so many different ways.

But let us be thankful that we have a Lord and Saviour in heaven who is interceding in our behalf who wants us to leave the things of this world and follow after righteousness. Why? Because as he says here that we may lay hold on eternal life. How are we going to do this?

The key, the answer, lies within these last few words. He says, "Grace be with thee." (I Tim. 6:21). Without grace, we can never repent. Without grace, we can never remain faithful. Without grace, we will never enter into heaven's doors.



CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 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
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	80%
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%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 29 - Aug 5, '00	Knockpatrick	(5) Chicagp - Detroit Bible Class	Deaf School	30/40	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	
(5) Tom Neu (Chi)	630-983-6267	630-579-0308
(5) Dana Knochel (Det)	248-478-8147	
Andy Bauman	309-965-2174	309-691-6739
Les Gerber	219-824-2734	219-824-8048
Art Mueller	608-676-4365	608-676-5200

Director of Operations
(formerly Assistant Administrator)
 Position available Feb/April 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

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services Opening Announcement

For several years the Elder Body of the Apostolic Christian Church has been reviewing the mental health needs of the church. Specifically, the need for professional counseling that is consistent with the doctrine of the church has received a significant amount of attention. In February of 1999, a proposal to start a counseling service was presented to the Elder Body by the church's Mental Health Committee. After reviewing the proposal, the Elder Body confirmed their recognition of the need for mental health services and gave their support for the development of a professional counseling service to be added to the existing Apostolic Christian Mental Health Hotline. A board of directors was appointed and they began the task of developing the center. The board of directors comprises Bro. Richard Kilgus (Elgin, IL, representing the Mental Health Committee), Bro. Bill Schick (Washington, representing Gateway Woods), Bro. Jerry Christensen (Gridley, representing Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped), Bro. Jim Mueller (Roanoke, member-at-large) and Bro. Dennis Virkler (Congerville, member-at-large).

The new counseling center, called Apostolic Christian Counseling Services, opened its doors on March 1, 2000. It is located at 73 East Queenwood Road in Morton, Illinois. Its mission is to assist individuals, couples and families to grow spiritually by helping them improve their emotional health and to strengthen their relationships. Consistent with the philosophy of the center, all services will be delivered in a Christ-centered manner, will be consistent with Apostolic Christian doctrine and will affirm the need for each of us to be reconciled to God through Christ's shed blood. This center is committed to preserving the role of the local Elder as each individual's spiritual counselor and is intended to support and assist the church leadership, not replace it.

The center will be staffed, part-time, by Elder Bro. Ron Messner, Washington, and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr., Morton, who are professional counselors. The Apostolic Christian Mental Health Hotline will continue to be provided by registered nurses: Sis. Martha Moser, Washington; Sis. Karen Martin, Eureka; Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein, Peoria; Sis.

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 EYEGASSES 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

Judy Witzig, Washington; and Sis. Jane Stoller, Eureka. The service can be reached via a national toll free number: 1-877-370-9988 or a local number 309-263-5536. All calls will be answered via an automated answering system that can be assessed 24 hours a day. Based on the option that a caller selects, his or her message will be referred to the appropriate source and returned as soon as possible. All calls are strictly confidential.

Individual, marital and family counseling will be provided, by appointment, at the Morton office. The center will address issues such as (but not limited to): depression, anxiety, relationship problems and referrals for medication and psychological testing. The service will make referrals, conduct screenings and give out general information on mental health issues. In addition, the service will provide telephone consultation to Elders, ministers and others in the church that have questions about emotional or psychological problems. The Mental Health Hotline, which has been in place for many years, will now be accessible through the Apostolic Christian Counseling Services phone number. A sliding fee scale will be used; however, no one will be refused services because of inability to pay.



Assistant Houseparents Needed

Sis. Teri Gramm will be leaving Gateway Woods at the end of March. As a result, we have an immediate opening for a single sister, 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.

*Jeff Schumacher or Phil Stettner
(Address and phone on next page)*

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.

- 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.

*Jeff Schumacher 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 and wives of WWII are invited. Brothers, sisters, and friends. Make your reservations. RSVP 5/1/2000.

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.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219)627-2159
(888)443-4283
jschumacher@gatewaywoods.org

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



Choosing a Church Name

We call ourselves Apostolic Christians. Because we follow Christ and the Apostles, it is an appropriate church name. Because the name is so accurately descriptive, i.e., reflecting that we follow Christ and the Apostles, most of us give little thought to the origins of our denominational name.

When our church began in Europe (in the 1830's), it was called *Gemeinschaft Evangelisch Taufgesinnte* which translates into Evangelical Baptist Church. A shorter name used in Switzerland was "Neutaufer", which translates to new believer.

When members of the church began gravitating to America (from 1847-1900 and beyond), and congregations were established, there was no official church name.

The church in Europe had suffered mild forms of persecution and brethren had become distrustful of state authorities. In America the early believers wanted to remain a quiet people who drew little attention from governmental authorities. For this reason they took no official name and did not post a name on their church buildings.

The absence of an official name sometimes resulted in community persons giving colloquial names to our people. Because members served coffee at the noon lunch, they were called "coffee Dutch". Also, because they baptized by immersion, they were referred to as "Dunkards". In one area, because an early church building was located near a creek, they were tabbed "Mud-creekers". Also, names like "Dutch" or "German Church" were

given to our people because of ethnic ties to Europe.

A common nickname (given by outsiders) was "New Amish". In America, our zealous preachers were effective in drawing converts from Mennonite/Amish communities. As they repented and became members in our church, their presence drew the name of "New Amish".

In 1906, when five of our church elders were on trial in Peoria, IL, the Peoria newspapers referred (in headlines) to the "New Amish". The term was portrayed in a negative sense.

The official use of the name "Apostolic Christian" did not occur until the time of World War I when it became necessary for the brethren to list an official denominational name with governmental authorities.

Young men of the church were drafted into the Army. They went in as conscientious objectors. To do so they had to list their church's name. At that time, none existed (on an official basis).

To address this matter, the elders (perhaps 12 or so at that time) convened a meeting to choose an official name to list with the government. They chose "Apostolic Christian" because they felt they followed Christ and the Apostles.

They purposely decided against the name used in Europe, Evangelical Baptist. The elders did not want to identify with those of a Baptist faith because of doctrinal difference. Primary among them was the doctrine of unconditional eternal security, which our church has always opposed based on considering all the counsel of God.

Lesser differences, too, perhaps centered on "faith alone" (a prominent doc-

trine) and the matter of authority (which in Baptist circles was left with the individual). Our brethren taught that godly living must exist to prove faith; and it taught that each brother and sister is under a God-ordained authority, and are not individually autonomous.

When the name was chosen, only one area kept the old name, Evangelical Baptist. That was in Lewis County, NY. The elder from that area was unable to attend the elders' meeting so they kept the European name until 1992 when their by-laws officially adopted the name Apostolic Christian.

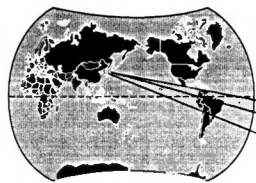
In America today there are a host of denominations, each with a varying name. In offering anecdotal information, it's interesting that some churches are named for men: Lutheran (Martin Luther), Mennonite (Menno Simons), Amish (Jakob Amman), and Wesleyan (John Wesley); and for other reasons too: Methodists (method of worship), Presbyterian (re church government) and Catholic (which means worldwide). These are not cited in criticism, but to show the reasons behind the names.

Our forefathers did not choose to name the church after Samuel Froehlich. Rather, they chose a biblical and accurate name that reflects our sincere intent to follow Christ and the Apostles, and that we strive, by God's grace and mercy, to adhere to what God's Word teaches.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

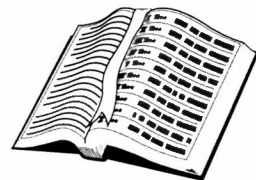
Changing from German to English-
The Second Split



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“DEAD TO SELF”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Before Christ could be resurrected, He had to be dead to self in order to be willing to go to the cross where He died spiritually (was separated from God the Father) and where He died physically (His spirit was separated from His physical body). He died both deaths as an atonement for our lost condition or sin, which includes among other things that we didn't love the Lord, our God, with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. (Matthew 22:36-37)

According to my understanding, the most important teaching in the New Testament for believers is that we should be dead to self. Before we are baptized we are taught, “We are buried with Him by baptism into death.” (Romans 6:4). I understand that death to mean “Dead to Self”, not spiritually dead, as the latter term usually indicates separation from God.

In Luke 9:23 we read, “And he said to them all, If any man will

come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” I understand the words, “Deny himself” to mean much more than simply refraining from some things your physical being would like to do. The Japanese translation renders it, “Throw yourself away”, which is another way of saying being dead to self.

In Luke 10:39 we read, “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” I believe that, in this quotation, Christ is speaking of being dead to self.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live.” He was speaking of being dead to self.

In Romans 12:1 we read, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice.” To do that you need to be dead to self.

Christ had to first die for our sins and for our lost condition before He could be resurrected. A

prerequisite for living the resurrected life, the really spiritual life, is that we be dead to self. Colossians 3:1 begins, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,” which implies a resurrected life.

I was recently told that the most important commandment for believers is that we love the Lord, our God, with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. True enough, but how are you going to do that without being dead to self? We need to live the resurrected life but first we must be dead to self.

Christ has arisen and are we ever happy about it. Without His resurrection, our faith is in vain. “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.” (I Cor. 15:14). In all of our rejoicing over the resurrection, let's remember that Christ calls us to be dead to self and to henceforth live the resurrected life.

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