



# *The Silver Lining*

*The Lord doth shape the mountains with the tip of his  
finger and cutteth the gorge with the waters of the river.*

May 2000

## “JESUS IS RISEN”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Mark Masters, Mansfield, OH  
Judges 6 and I Corinthians 15

The Apostle so often shared his love and concern with the churches, especially with the church in Corinth in which there were many struggles. Yet, he did not waver from the message of the truth—the gospel of Jesus Christ and he reminded them, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.” (I Cor. 15:1-2)

“Remember,” he is telling them, “remember the words that he has spoken,” and we can remember, too. From the first verses in the first chapter of this letter, how in power, yet in simplicity and humility, the Apostle said, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” So in Paul’s work, it was not any words that he would bring. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (I Cor. 1:17-18).

Dear ones, can’t we feel with the hope and faith that we hold so dear in our hearts of Heaven, that it is that power of God that encourages us on day by day? For would we not be as men most miserable if this life and the rewards of this life were all we had to look forward to. As the Apostle so aptly put it, he died daily for Jesus Christ because he had a reward to look forward to. He had something in mind—eternity and he had Heaven as his goal. He never was distracted from what was good, righteous and holy

after his conversion.

We think of those men of old and how they were able to measure their time and how they counted the time in which they would suffer on the earth as such a small part compared to what eternity would represent. Isn’t that an encouragement to us when we think of everlasting life, and when we think of living in Heaven for ever and ever? When we measure it against whatever small sacrifice we might have to make on earth, there is just no comparison. It is worth every bit of the effort we make. Really, it is not our effort, is it?

We heard last night the examples of how God granted the unmerited gift of grace so that souls could overcome temptation and sin. God will help us along this path. May we not be confused or distracted about the things that are important and about the things that are necessary. It seems that in Corinth there was a lot of confusion. It seems that they had many issues just pulling them one way and pulling them another. Yet, it was that simple gospel message, the preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, that the Apostle beckons there to put in their memory.

I wonder how Satan is working today. Isn’t there all kinds of messages coming forth in the world? All kinds of things that man has designed? All kinds of things that are preached to fit my life style or your life style? Yet, the Apostle preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified, unchanging. This Word does not necessarily change and mold to my life into yours, but the blessing is if we as the clay in the hands of the Potter are molded

into the form of this Word, God richly blesses us.

Yet, isn’t it interesting how the simple preaching just out of the Holy Scriptures can sometimes be so much criticized? But that should not be surprising for didn’t we just read in the first chapter that to those who are perishing, it is just foolishness. To the unbeliever, Satan has brought this deception to them that the Word of God, the truth, is nothing but foolishness. How sad when Satan has

*Sermon continued on page 45*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

May 2000

### Commitment I

"No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

No doubt each brother and sister, when giving his or her testimony and upon erecting a covenant with our Father in heaven promised to be faithful to God and to renounce Satan as long as he or she lives. No doubt, also, when we began our repentance we were instructed by our elder of the seriousness of the step we were taking and of the importance of remaining faithful to God. It is a very serious promise; one that should not be made lightly. It is a commitment that will have eternal consequences if broken.

Making a commitment means to pledge, to promise or to bind one's self to complete a certain task. Many promises are made, vows are established, contracts are signed, pledges are offered and covenants are erected, but sadly, in far too many cases, the commitment is not carried through to completion. For many people it is simply too easy to quit and walk away from a task that is only partially completed.

While the breaking of an earthly, material promise is disappointing, those broken commitments pale to insignificance when compared to the eternal devastation of breaking promises we have made to God.

How can a child of God be sure that a commitment to serve God can be fulfilled? The scripture provides us with numerous guidelines that will be of significant help.

Before putting our hand to the plough, the scripture instructs us to count the cost of serving our God. Jesus said if a man was going to build a tower or if a king was going to make war without sitting down first and counting the cost of the tower or considering whether he is able to meet his adversary with a larger army, he will surely come to shame (Lk. 14:28-32). Jesus also said "...whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" and "...whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Lk. 14:27 & 33).

Too often people believe that once they have turned to the Lord in repentance and have been converted, there will be no more trials. We have never been promised an easy road to Heaven. Jesus didn't promise His disciples an easy path. He told them

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves" (Lk. 10:3). He didn't even promise them that they would have as much safety as a sheep would have - but rather that the danger should be as great as a lamb facing a wolf.

Many examples are given in the scriptures in which God's servants were called upon to make great sacrifices, even to give their lives, for the kingdom of God. Noah, Abraham, Joseph and many prophets are examples from the Old Testament who were required to make significant sacrifices for their faith. In "The Acts of the Apostles" we have numerous examples of early pillars of the faith who faced life threatening situations for their faith. Examples from the New Testament include Peter, Paul, Stephen and others. Throughout the history of Christianity there are many examples of the Christians who were severely persecuted for their faith.

Although in America today most of us do not face physical danger nor severe persecution, we cannot expect to serve God without sacrifice. If we do not count the cost of being a child of God, and prepare to make the necessary sacrifices, Satan may be successful in leading us astray and convincing us that the cost is too great.

After we have considered the cost of being a Christian, we must build our faith on a firm foundation. Again we have solid scriptural instruction on laying a foundation upon which to build a household of faith. Jesus said:

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great (Lk. 6:46-49).

As we would not allow a contractor to mix ground, clay or other impurities in concrete when a footer is being laid for a building, neither would we allow the walls of the

foundation to be daubed "...with untempered mortar, that it shall fall" (Ez. 13:11). Likewise, we should not build our faith on an unsteady foundation. How does one go about laying a firm foundation of faith, making so "...the foundation of God standeth sure" (II Tim. 2:19)?

We start by being willing to obey "...every word of God" (Lk. 4:4). We cannot pick and choose those passages we want to follow and reject some that may require a greater sacrifice or more effort on our part. To establish a firm foundation upon which to build our ship of faith and to obey every word of God, we must be committed to reading His Word and to praying fervently. God can and will speak to us if we are willing to listen and He will listen to us if our prayers are sincere. How do we listen to God? How do we acquire faith?

God speaks to us through His Word as recorded in the Holy Bible and through instruction from faithful brethren who speak His Word in truth and in sincerity. The Bible tells us that "...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Ro. 10:17). Commitment to serving God requires that we diligently search His Word to help us understand what is expected of a Child of God.

Sometimes Satan will interfere with our faith to the point that it makes our reading of the scripture somewhat ineffective and we may be tempted to stop reading. It is at times such as these that the believer can take great comfort in the promise that "blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors" (Ps. 8:34). There are times when watching for and waiting upon the Lord may be difficult but the promise holds true that if we continue to read His Word, we will be blessed.

Commitment requires us to be willing to serve God faithfully for the rest of our lives. We must count the cost before making the commitment, build upon a firm foundation, obey every word of God and faithfully read His Word.

The next article will focus on listening to God and allowing Him to change our lives so we can be faithful.





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

## Opportunities in Mexico

The winter work team season brought many opportunities for brethren and friends to help the needy in Mexico. On these pages the Mexico Board would like to share with our readers some of the programs which are now in progress. We also would like to report some recent opportunities for additional service to those whose needs are much greater than ours. Throughout all of these efforts, the emphasis is to support each other spiritually by serving one another.

### LABORING IN JUAREZ

The city of Jaurez lies on the Mexico-U.S. border just south of El Paso, Texas, yet seems to be a totally different world from the one in which we live. Many of the people are very poor and jobs are scarce and low paid. Sanitation and health conditions are quite primitive in much of the city, but there is a sense of hope, that someday things will be better and life will be easier.

### Work teams build simple houses

Five work teams went to the area around Jaurez to build homes. These basic structures are normally built on a concrete floor with wood frame construction. Plywood is nailed to the wall studs, and the outside is covered with chicken wire. Stucco is applied to the exterior, held in place by the wire. Window openings have no glass, and often are barred.

Some supplies are purchased locally, and teams normally spend one week on each trip. Depending upon circumstances, two to four small homes can be built by each

team. Usually there are three small rooms in each home and if plumbing exists, it is only the basics. For a family that had lived in a card-board shack the structure is virtually a mansion.

### Medical/Dental work teams

In late February brothers, sisters, and friends made up the 22<sup>nd</sup> semi-annual team going to the Juarez area for the purpose of providing medical and dental care to those who otherwise would not receive this care.

Volunteers numbering 42 people from 19 congregations gathered to give of their talents to those in great need. Dental workers cleaned teeth for the local residents as well as provided basic dentistry. Often this means extractions because decay had been neglected so long that repair is not a feasible option. Dental hygiene is taught to help prevent future disease.

Volunteers also instructed patients about diet, caring for the body, and physical therapies. Much of this concept is new to the people served.

On this trip they also offered healing treatments for sore feet. As the Mexicans walked away with clean socks, lotion, and less foot pain, they gave thanks to God.

Assistance was given to 3,490 individuals on this trip. This included medical as well as dental services to adults and children.

### God's provision in border crossings, traffic & storms

Border crossings into Mexico can be a challenge and take time. All groups do not make the same experience, but learn that unless our great God is with us, our own efforts come to naught. Volunteers often stand in awe at the way barriers that

seemed insurmountable can disappear. However, at times their patience can be severely tried.

Driving a vehicle and coping with traffic is also an experience. We are grateful to God that He has protected our volunteers so well up to this time, because these hazards are real. For this reason we try to provide seasoned drivers, often someone from the area.

Sometimes storms come up. The February team had the experience of a sand and dust storm with 50 mph winds. Fortunately this brought only inconvenience, not actual harm.

With the number of work teams increasing, it is our responsibility and opportunity to pray that God will provide protection and guidance. As a work team volunteer and ambassador for Christ we can demonstrate our love for God and the church by our actions, our words and our appearance. In this way we will communicate the gospel message, our faith and our love for others.

### AGUA VIVA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

A year or so ago our brethren became aware of a need existing for a Christian school in a Mexican village southeast of Tucson, AZ. In March a team of 35 volunteers traveled to this location to assist in the ongoing work at this school called Agua Viva.

The construction at this site is much different from that in Juarez inasmuch as the building is being erected using adobe blocks. The making of these blocks provides work for many local residents. It can be done by hand in their back yards, with the blocks finally being fired in a primitive kiln for durability.



## This project is ongoing

This building cannot be completed by just one work team visit, so each group does as much as it can, and is followed up by another group that carries on the work.

Team leaders are encouraged by the opportunities that seem to have opened up in this poor area to help many people. It appears that our efforts could result in teaching others to help themselves, which is a goal of all World Relief efforts, regardless of where they are located.

Future work teams to Agua Viva will be announced as soon as plans are finalized.



Making adobe blocks by hand

## WORK TEAM TO DEAF VILLAGE AT RIO BRAVO

Our brethren became aware of a village being constructed at Rio Bravo, Mexico to assist deaf children. This project is much like the Deaf Village in Jamaica that we have been supporting for some years.

A group of 29 brothers, sisters, and friends representing 10 of our Apostolic Christian Churches pooled their efforts to accomplish this labor of love. The trip took place from February 19 to 26, 2000. They assembled at McAllen, Texas on Saturday, February 19 after traveling from their various locations in small groups or as individuals.

Personnel from the project, called ICCD, met our team at the airport and furnished transportation to their facility. The trip from McAllen took

about 45 minutes. The ICCD staff had done their homework, and there was little problem in crossing the Mexican border. Accommodations were provided near the building site for everyone. As they settled in to their places, each one was thankful for God's traveling mercies.

## Sunday services

The minister accompanying this group held Sunday services in their facilities, as is customary for World Relief Work Teams. For this reason we always try to send one of our own ministers with each group that travels to a work site, no matter where it is located.

After services the group visited the work site to make sure that all was in order so they could start work on Monday morning.

## Work begins

Around 8:00 AM on Monday, February 21, the team arrived at their work site. At that time they were divided into several groups and given specific assignments by the construction superintendent. The work here is also ongoing and will be picked up by some other group as each work team finishes their part. Much the same situation exists in Jamaica.

## The existing building

One crew was directed to start putting stucco on the existing building. The second crew began to divide the existing building into two rooms, kitchen and dining area. By Thursday the work of applying stucco to the exterior was completed and the crew could move to the interior walls. This type of construction is quite common in many countries. It seems a mess while it is going on, but when finished it serves the purpose extremely well.

## New construction

The new building is to be a dormitory. The third crew started to set

the PVC poles and string the wire from the well house to the new dorm building. During the course of the week, our volunteers did a lot of work in forming and pouring concrete for this new facility. As is often the case, more of the plans were in the minds of the planners than on paper. This always presents a challenge.

The Mexicans seemed to follow a different schedule than we do here in the USA. Supplies were ordered for a certain time, but often were hours late. This is also a part of work team experience, and one learns to "go with the flow", because getting upset about delays never changes very much.

## Comments from the team leader

"This being my first time as a team leader, I didn't know what to expect. We didn't have any real idea what we were going to do before we arrived. All that I really knew was that 28 other people, most of whom I'd never met, had taken the same step of faith that I had taken. I know that the Lord handpicked each one who went on this trip. In retrospect there was probably more work done in each of our lives than what was physically done. The Lord works in mysterious ways, and may His name be praised."

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## WORK TEAM OPPORTUNITY

June 17-24, 2000

ICCD Rio Bravo, Mexico

Another work team trip is planned on the above dates. As of publication of this article, a coordinator, minister, and about 40 volunteers are needed.

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### **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. 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 accessed 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.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN**

### **HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Spring is a time we celebrate life. We enjoy watching plants come back to life and animals with their newborn. It is a time of joy. We were reminded recently, however, that life is not just about joy. We serve people with disabilities, and they often come to live with us when they are young. Because of this, we do not have resident deaths very often. We have had three in the past few months. These are hard times for staff as they look at their own beliefs and values and as they help family and each other accept death. It makes us thankful again for the eternal promise we have. It helps our staff and families that we can believe that our residents have this promise also. Truly life is not just about living. It is also about looking forward to eternity with God. We rejoice that Christ has purchased this eternity for all who repent and believe.

In addition to the deaths listed earlier this year, Velma Hoffman passed away on April 3. Velma was 80 years old and had lived at the Home for 21 years. We are thankful that she can be with her Lord.

Everyone here is glad for nice weather and the opportunity to get outside. Our activities change to include bike riding, walks, and just sitting outside and enjoying the nice weather. Oakwood Estate and Linden Estate plan Easter Egg hunts for the family of staff members and everyone has a good time. With summer coming, it is also time to begin planning for mini vacations. We try to have a variety and to match resident interests.

JUNE birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE are: Dale Platter (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23). At OAKWOOD ESTATE: Doris Hutchison (18), Rodney Blaum (15). At LINDEN ESTATE: Chip Johann (22). AT 241

MINNESOTA: Sharilyn Rowell (19).

**GATEWAY WOODS  
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Ed Graf**

“...But I thy servant fear the Lord  
from my youth.”  
*I Kings 18:12*

Those words were uttered by Obadiah who was governor of King Ahab's house. He spoke them in the middle of a response to a request made of him by the prophet Elijah. Elijah had just put Obadiah in a difficult situation. Obadiah was concerned that the request Elijah had made of him would cost him his life. None of us can really know exactly what Obadiah was thinking when he said those words, but a few truths do seem to be apparent.

Obadiah was a man of great faith in God who feared his Lord. He demonstrated faith and fear by his actions. Obadiah put himself at great risk to further God's work when he hid and fed 100 of the Lord's prophets in order to protect them from slaughter by Queen Jezebel. That was no small feat, and Obadiah could have easily been caught and executed for his treason to the royal family. Why would a man take such a great risk? Because he feared the Lord greatly.

Now, in a time of crisis, Obadiah must make a decision. Should he obey Elijah's request and possibly lose his life? Or should he ignore Elijah and take the "safe" route? The Word records that even though he had great concerns, Obadiah obeyed the Lord by following Elijah's request. His fear of the Lord overtook his survival instinct. As a result, the Lord's work was furthered, and Obadiah played a part in it. It was the first step in setting up a most memorable comparison of God's

power to Baal's power (or lack thereof). All because Obadiah feared the Lord from his youth.

Where did Obadiah learn to fear the Lord? We don't know for sure, but we do know that he feared the Lord from his youth. We know that because Obadiah spoke those words, and they are recorded in God's Word. When one fears the Lord from their youth, it gives great testimony to the caregivers of that youth. We don't know who they were, what they said, or what they did. But we definitely see the impact of their Godly instruction on the life of Obadiah.

How vital it is for people to fear the Lord from their youth! We have no idea when we teach children to fear the Lord, who or what we may affect for the glory of the Kingdom. We may never see the results of teaching children to fear the Lord, but the impact is just as real, and just as vital. We need to trust that God's purposes will be fulfilled when we teach children to fear the Lord from their youth. That is true whether we're a parent teaching our own children; or a foster parent, Houseparent, or homebased worker, teaching someone else's children. Please pray for us at Gateway Woods as we strive to answer the Lord's call to teach children to fear the Lord from their youth.

We are thankful to welcome Sis. Laura Siegle from Oakville, IA as the Assistant Houseparent in the Kipfer home. We anticipate Sis. Laura's arrival in mid May. We pray for the Lord's blessing as she begins a new phase in her life.

We are also blessed to announce the hiring of Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister from Peoria, IL as Alternate Houseparents. They plan to join our staff this summer, and we pray for them and their daughter, Sophia, as they prepare to make the move to Indiana. They will be taking the place of Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa Waibel when they leave Gateway Woods at the end of this month.

Our Summer Volunteer Coordinator this year will be Bro. Matt Kauffman from Bloomington, IL. We are glad that he has felt led to spend this summer with us, and pray the Lord's blessing on his work. If you would like to volunteer this summer, please request a volunteer application today. You may request an application by phone (888-443-4283), email (egraf@gatewaywoods.org), or mail (PO Box 151, Leo, IN 46765).

We praise God for His faithfulness as He answers our prayers for staffing needs. Please continue to pray that we are able to fill our last opening for Alternate Houseparents, and for Education Coordinator. Should you have interest in either of these positions, please call our Residential Program Director, Bro. Jeff Schumacher, at 888-443-4283.

Our residential program welcomes Eric R. to the Wiegand home and Tiffany N. to the Bauman home. Mike M. recently left the Wiegand home and returned to his parents. May the Lord bless each of you as you move to different phases of your life.

Our specialized foster care program is pleased to welcome Rick and Pat Nuffer as new foster parents. Kodie F. will be moving into their home as a foster child. God bless you as you serve Him.

We were blessed to have the volunteer services of Sis. Kendra Knapp of Bloomington, IL, and Sis. Jami Ringger of Gridley, IL, this month. We also thank Sis. Vera Manz of Junction, OH, for her faithful volunteering on a weekly basis. May God bless you sisters for giving to the Lord.

Finally, we just want to thank each of you who pray for us. We don't know who many of you are, but that doesn't diminish the importance of your prayers. Please continue to pray for us, as we can do nothing good, except by the grace of God.



**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama  
Tom Schrenk**

This is a very exciting week for us here at the Preschool because we are just a few days away from Easter Sunday. The children have spent the last two weeks learning about the cross that Jesus died on and what it means to all Christian people. In our Bible stories each morning, I just enjoy listening as the teachers read and then ask questions, and how eagerly the children respond. May it be that each of us could be like the little children that Jesus called unto Himself and reminded the people that unless they become like them, they could not enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

May 19 is the date set for our Preschool graduation. This is the highlight of our Preschool year, because the children will present themselves to their parents and grandparents in graduation gowns. The children that will go to "Big School" in the fall will also have caps. They will recite what they have learned, including many Bible verses. If you are in our area at this time, we invite you to share this experience with us; it is a time you will long remember.

As summer approaches, we have a great need for anyone that could come and give of themselves for a day, or week, or whatever time you can, to help in our daily Preschool activities. This is a great experience if you have not been here before, and for those of you who have, we welcome you to come again. We will provide your food and lodging. Please call and let us know the dates you can come.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all that have supported our Preschool, with your prayers and financial support through our Child Sponsorship Program. We have an ongoing need for both of these to

continue. For information concerning any thing about our Preschool, call us at (256) 233-0591 or e-mail at apostolicPreschool@juno.com.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Joan Reinhard**

The weekend of April 8-9 was the Preschool Board Meeting which means lots of company for us. We had a singing on Saturday night and then shared Communion after church on Sunday. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assisted Bro. Lavoyd as we shared this special time. We also were thankful to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) here for the weekend.

We had other visitors with us this month from Goodfield, Morton, Peoria, Princeville and Tremont, IL; Bluffton and Bluffton North, IN; and Junction and Rittman, OH. We appreciate all our visitors and we especially were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL).

On Palm Sunday our Sunday School classes presented their Easter program and then had a small gathering after church that day. We appreciate the effort put forth by the students and the teachers to remind us of what Easter is all about.

Two of our brothers had surgery this month. Bro. Ed Haggemaker had to be operated on again for his ankle, but he seems to be doing much better now. Bro. J.R. Hall also had surgery and is recovering now. We are thankful for the Great Physician who has us all in His hands. These brothers would appreciate your prayers for their complete recovery.

Memorial Day will soon be here, 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 haven't made it known that you plan to attend, please let us know right away, 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.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX  
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

*Romans 15:1*

We have a goodly number of members and friends who need prayers and an extra measure of love. Your prayers are appreciated, whether it's for poor health or poor in spirit.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich attended the World Relief meeting in Wolcott, IN, where the brothers were able to focus on the most needy issues.

In Phoenix, we are thankful our folks are very involved in World Relief projects bi-monthly.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

Also on April 2, Shanon and Kolleen Maurer brought baby Sophia Rose to church the first time. She will have several in her Sunday School class.

Three of our young Sunday School children found out just how much "Jesus Loves Me". Whitney Baum (Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica) has

a broken arm; Nolan Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy) had stitches by his eye; and Fredric Hoerr (Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda) had stitches on his head.

Our Sunday School Easter program was presented Palm Sunday afternoon. We enjoyed the singing and Scriptures. Our appreciation to their teachers, too.

Easter Sunrise services were held at Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's residence. God's love sure flows wherever His Word is spoken and our hearts are tuned.

A recent newspaper article stated a certain card company would be using a "lighter version" of verses from the Old and New Testaments. A friend of the Jewish faith wanted to hear that the King James Bible would still be available as he appreciates the reverence in the written Word. The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12) in a contemporary version, reads "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight" vs. "Blessed are the peacemakers." (KJV)

Please God, don't let Satan make progress on this issue!

*Notes of Thanks:*

Sis. Josie Esterling (Bro. Don) wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, gifts, and each kind deed done for them during her surgery and the weeks of recovery. May God bless you.

I greatly appreciate all of the beautiful birthday cards I received for my 70th birthday. I wish all of you God's blessings for your kind deeds of love shown to me. Thank you.

*In Christian love,  
John Pulfer*

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Jane Hodges**

"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

*Psalm 16:11*

Bro. Tim Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) graduates from high school this year, and plans on continuing to work in their family's business. We wish him God's grace, wisdom and direction.

We have been enjoying our new church and its beautiful environment. We wish to thank all the ministers and other visitors we have had for their love and support. The ministering brothers this last month includes Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (both of Phoenix).

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**

**Lisa Knapp**

The Tucson church was privileged to enjoy a weekend filled with special blessings as we listened to the testimonies of our three dear converts on March 18 and witnessed their baptisms on March 19. We are now happy to greet Bro. Ben Gudeman, Sis. Carrie Kaufman and Sis. Mindy Bauer with the holy kiss. We enjoyed many visitors from many different churches as our little church was full and overflowing. It was certainly one of those weekends when many precious memories were made. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) traveled to Tucson to preside over the testimonies and baptisms.

We enjoyed beautiful weather for the baptism weekend, sunny and cool. We are now entering our warmer weather with temperatures in the upper 80's and lower 90's. Hopefully, we will be able to hold off

on the 100 degree temperatures for awhile!

Our prayers have been with Sis. Clara (Bro. Floyd) Banwart as she was hospitalized briefly and is now home resting. We hope she can feel our prayers as she recuperates and cannot assemble with us for church.

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**

**Jim Klotzle**

Greetings in our Saviour's name!

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright."

*Psalm 32:11-33:1*

It is a beautiful Spring here in Southern California, with rain to keep our mountains green, sunshine to keep us warm and unbounded grace so unfailingly provided by our Heavenly Father to keep us close to Him.

On March 26, many of our congregation traveled to San Diego for the ordination of Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic. It was a blessed weekend and we are thankful for God's provision.

Bro. Steve Czer gave his testimony before the church on April 2. He has been fellowshiping with us for four years, and we appreciate him in our small congregation.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic was with us in Altadena for the reading of the Memorandum.

Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) visited us to assist in serving Holy Communion.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) visited our congregation and ministered to us this month also.

We are thankful for the efforts of these ministering brothers on our behalf.

We had a blessed Easter Sunday here, starting with a mountain top

song service in the local foothills. Our friend, Dorothy Vermillion, was able to attend following her time of recovery. Our friend (and my brother), John Klotzle, one of our converts in Altadena, has found peace with God and man. His desire to share his testimony before the church and be baptized was announced.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Peggy Jevremov

This past month has been full of blessings for our congregation. On March 25, we were blessed to have the Memorandum read to us and also exhorted to prepare for Holy Communion. The following day, Sunday, March 26, Bro. Peter Petrovic was ordained as our new Elder. We appreciated his willingness to serve us in this capacity and pray the Lord will grant him a double portion of His Holy Spirit with which to shepherd us. Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO), Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) were present to assist our Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) in these undertakings. We want to express our thanks to Elder Bro. John Klotzle for his many years of service to us as our Elder. We are thankful he will still be able to assist Elder Bro. Peter in the future. Also present this month were visiting ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL). May the Lord bless all those who have lent themselves in our service.

This month also we were privileged to remember our Lord's suffering and shed blood upon Calvary as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Klotzle was here to assist Elder Bro. Peter. As we approach the Easter season, may we reflect upon the great price that

Christ paid that we might have the precious hope of salvation.

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### KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

#### Laura Baxter

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."

*Psalm 37:7-8*

Have you ever found yourself fretting about a situation or conversation? To fret means to become irritated or worried. God does not want us as believers to get so worried or irritated about something that we would end up doing evil or becoming wrathful. We are to cease from anger and not resort to wrath to settle the situation. The solution to the problem is in verse 7. We are to take it to the Lord in prayer, let it rest there, and wait patiently for Him to work. May we pray for grace to rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, fret not, cease from anger and to forsake wrath.

With thankful hearts we enjoyed our many visitors this past month. We especially thank our visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and also Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI). We appreciate the extra effort that is made to serve us from those in the ministry.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us. Please contact Bro. Mike Ursu (519) 669-8515 or Bro. Jim Baxter (519) 699-5081 for more information and directions.

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### COLORADO, DENVER

### Mark and Kelly Ramseyer

Once again we celebrate the joy and peace with another soul coming to the Lord in repentance. Last month we told you about Teresa Katanic choosing to follow the Lord. This month we can write about her husband, Tom, having that same faith also. What an ideal example of one spouse loving and helping the other, and setting a good example. I Corinthians 7:14 states, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy." We are so happy to have another faithful complete family with whom to share our fellowship. The Denver church wishes God's grace and strength and wisdom for Tom and Teresa and their son, Jackson.

We recently had a singing shower for Bro. Mike Katanic and Sis. Heather Pelfrey (Rittman, OH). Heather was joined by her parents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey. What a blessing it was to become acquainted and praise God and encourage the new couple. Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather, for those of us from Denver who cannot attend your wedding, we wish you the Lord's best for your marriage and your friendship with each other. One of the best traits to have in a marriage is humility—towards each other and towards God. Of course, I Corinthians 13:13 states, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." Many people misquote this and state "the greatest of these is love" which can miss so much of the meaning. My dictionary describes "love" using words of "feeling" and "affection" and "fondness", but describes "charity" using words of "help" and "giving" and "forbearance". Feelings and emotions can change several times a day for some people and can just stop altogether if



we're not careful. They also tend to expect some feelings in return. But helping and giving are actions which usually start from the right attitude and, if practiced regularly, can yield an even deeper love and charity. Eccles. 4:12 is also often quoted "a threefold cord is not quickly broken." We pray that God is the third cord in your marriage.

We thank Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) for sharing a Sunday and God's Word with us. Feel free to visit again soon.

Please continue praying that God will direct our efforts to seek property, funds and commitment to build a new church. Please also pray that God and all of us will use this effort to grow and strengthen our relationships with each other and with God, rather than weakening them. Pray that we keep building on our foundation of Jesus Christ before, during and after we attempt to build a house.

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**CONNECTICUT,  
ROCKVILLE  
Cherie Galat**

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

*Ephesians 5:25*

We rejoice with Bro. Kevin Zahner and Sis. Katie Ryan as they were united as one in the Lord. Their parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan.

"I place myself in Jesus' hands, And there abide forever..." (Zion's Harp #177). Our dear Sis. Jenn Hufnagel (Michael and Debra) was baptized April 2. May our Father in Heaven give her the grace and guidance to be an example of faith to those that she meets on her pilgrim pathway. Assisting Elder Bro. Kevin

in the work was Elder Bros. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI). We thank these dear brothers for their service.

God continues to tenderly draw precious souls to His side. Joy Hany (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy) has heeded His call unto repentance. It warms our heart to hear of converts willing to give up the old life. We are also thankful for Ernie Limberger who in his last days was able to surrender his will unto our Lord and was baptized. We both rejoice in his coming to the faith and express sympathy to the family of Bro. Ernie upon his death. May God console those who have been left behind: his daughter, Cynthia; sisters, Sis. Anna Thompson and Sis. Emma Herzig; brothers, Henry and Walter; and other family members.

As we stood in the sanctuary to take the bread and cup at Holy Communion, it was so evident that the Holy Spirit was with us. How reverent and holy was that hour! What a blessed privilege it is to turn our thoughts to our loving Saviour and thank Him who has done so much for us!

Sis. Betty Luginbuhl was recently hospitalized and is recovering well. We are thankful that God's healing hand was over her and we pray for her continued recovery.

Looking forward to May which brings with it Mother's Day, it stirs our memories of times past of dear mothers who have gone on before and mothers of whom we can still ask advice.

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

*II Timothy 1:5*

We are thankful for our mothers who have kept the faith.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON**

**Henrietta Meyer**

Our ministers this month were Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Jerry Isch and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Our other visitors this month were from Bloomington, IL. Last month I told of anticipating our first spring flowers. Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Ann were able to enjoy the cherry blossoms, although the day was a bit gloomy. We are now enjoying many flowering trees and bushes. It is enjoyable just to drive around to see trees with white, pink, lavender and red flowers. Soon the azaleas will be in full bloom. Spring is a great time to visit this area.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who are under the care of physicians, Ken Belsley and Skyler Fetter (Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy).

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.

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**FLORIDA  
FT. LAUDERDALE  
Gretchen Webb**

This past month our church enjoyed an outing to Shark Valley in Everglades National Park. There we took a 15-mile bike ride through the Everglades. It was a beautiful day to

enjoy God's creation.

Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) served Communion to our congregation on April 15. We thank them for their efforts in ministering and serving us and pray that God will bless them for the time they spent in Ft. Lauderdale.

We would also like to thank Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN) for sharing the Word with us. We appreciate his willingness to serve our congregation.

After a brief period of hospitalization, Sis. Joyce Troxel is once again worshipping with us. We thank God that she is recovering and feeling better.

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### FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS

#### Anjie Baum

We pray you each had a blessed Easter remembering the sacrifice and victory of our Lord Jesus.

Farewell to our winter residents having journeyed back to their northern homes. It is always sad for us to say good-bye, but we are so thankful for the tie of Christian friendship we have, no matter the miles between us.

Thank you to Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN), our visiting ministers this past month. We also want to express our gratitude to our two home ministering brothers, Bro. Victor Beer and Bro. Marvin Steffen. They are both so faithful and dedicated, and we truly appreciate their sincere hearts for the Lord.

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### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

On April 9, we joyfully welcomed Sis. Mandy Koehl into our church family. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here to assist with the testimony and baptism.

Bro. Dale was also here the following Saturday evening to help serve Holy Communion. This sacred evening was extra special, as seven souls were taking Communion for the first time. We always appreciate Sis. Judy and Bro. Dale's visits and labors of love. We hope they can come even more often, since he has recently retired from his job at the university.

Other visiting ministers this past month who we wish to thank are Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

It was hard to see Sis. Emily Wiegand move back to Roanoke after being with us for seven months. She has our love and prayers, and instructions to return again soon! Our prayers also go with all our winter residents, as most of them have returned home for the summer.

We want to continue to remember our recent hospital patients: Sis. Dorothy Reineck (Detroit, MI), Ralph Walters (Ruth), Sis. Julianna Kittl (Bernie), Alan Maibach (Terese), and Noah Fischer (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria).

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Helen Kloter (Rockville, CT) in the loss of her helpmate, Bro. Emmanuel. They made Sarasota their winter home for many years.

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Keith and Carol Kaufman

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy Grandmother Lois

and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded that in thee also."

*II Timothy 1:5*

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

It is truly a privilege to hear God's Word be spoken in truth and purity. We appreciate each ministering brother who has shared God's Word with us. I am sorry to have neglected to mention last month that Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) shared the Word with us. This past month visiting ministers were Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). May God richly bless them for allowing the Spirit to speak to us.

While Elder Bro. Wendell was here, he shared Holy Communion with us. We appreciate the time we could spend together remembering what our Lord and Saviour has done for us. May we never betray Him.

We 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) 935-1451. Thank you.

We want to thank all who have visited us. We are looking forward to summer when more families travel. If at all possible, please include us in your travel plans. 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 64 (formerly exit 13). 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

As busy as our lives become, how thankful we can be for the hour that we can spend together reading and studying the most important Book there is. Once again, we were blessed in coming together as Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) was in Madison to read and exhort upon the life of Peter. Peter was privileged to walk and talk with Jesus and still denied Him. Do we deny we know Jesus here on earth?

My Grandfather, as he got older, never liked to sing unfamiliar songs and thought that the songs were sung too fast in church. The more time we spend singing with the older people at the local rest home, it is evident that the old familiar hymns are their favorites as they, too, can sing along and are taken back to days gone by. As our faith grows and we experience the joys and disappointments of life, the words to the songs seem to mean so much more and it is easy to linger on them and slow the tempo a little.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Fifty years ago, marriage vows were spoken by our loved ones, Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson. An open house was held to celebrate their

50th wedding anniversary. All of their children were able to be home to share the joy of this occasion. Many memories of days gone by were shared and we pray the Lord will bless them with many more memorable years.

#### IF

If I had lived when Jesus lived  
And walked along with Him  
When comes the day that He  
must give  
His life for all man's sins...  
Could I have looked on Him?

Could I have watched them drive  
the nails,  
Into His hands and feet:  
Or would I have to run and hide  
Until it was complete?

Could I have looked upon the  
Cross  
Where Christ, my Lord, was  
hung?  
Could I have bathed his wounded  
side  
Or would again I run?

But even now the nails are  
driven  
Into his hands anew;  
Each time we see His work to do  
And fail to see it through.

Each time we hear a cry for help  
and turn our ears away;  
I wonder if we're not the ones  
That's driving nails today?

So let us start anew the day  
And strive to help each one,  
So when our life on earth is done,  
Our precious Lord can truly say,  
"Come Home My Child, Well  
Done!"

As our Sunday School children read their pieces, the little ones with such "joy" and the older children

with their songs of praise, our future congregation had much to share.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). Thanks, Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie, we appreciate the fellowship and your efforts.

#### Seeing God

A young man was desperately seeking God. He sought out a wise old man who lived in a nearby beach house and posed the question: "Old man, how can I see God?" The old man, who obviously knew God at a depth few of us experience, pondered the question for a very long time. At last he responded quietly: "Young man, I am not sure that I can help you—for you see, I have a very different problem. I cannot see Him."

—author unknown

How can we not help but to see, feel, and hear God as spring is upon us here in the Midwest. May we enjoy this season of rebirth and remember Who created it all!

### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Shawn Masters Dana Knapp

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

April 1-2 we had the testimony and baptism of Sis. Danae Dallas (Doug and Kathy of Mahomet). May you feel God's grace in the future.

Sam Koehl (Dee) has begun a new life in Christ. We pray for God's continuing strength and wisdom during his future walk.

Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) was with us this month. We want



to thank him and his family for spending the day with us. We are very privileged to hear the Word from willing servants.

Kurt and Sis. Kelly Eastman welcomed Olivia Lynn on March 23. Anna, 5, and Caroline, 3, are her two big sisters. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Nelma Eastman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece. Babies are a blessing from above.

We are happy to have Darin Lemans join our church family. He has moved back to the area from Indianapolis. We are always thankful to see our church grow.

Sis. Karen Kieser's (Bro. Paul) grandma passed away this month. Bro. Scott Meiss (Dawn) also experienced the loss of a grandma. May God strengthen and encourage you and your families during this difficult time.

Our church family had many activities this month. The Bible Class sponsored a night of baby-sitting. This was to say "thank you" for the support they have received with previous mission trips. They also hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent servant auction to raise donations for their 2001 mission trip. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm in serving the Lord.

Bro. Kevin Knapp had a Bible study on Spiritual Warfare. We were given many scripture verses to increase our understanding. We are appreciative of his time and effort.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Chad and LauraLee Plattner

"To every thing there is a season..."

*Eccles. 3:1*

We rejoiced with Bro. Chuck Schafer and Sis. Suanne Elsasser as they were united in Holy Matrimony April 16. We pray for God's blessings

on their union.

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was with us to assist in serving the Lord's Supper. May we never take lightly this holy privilege. We thank Bro. Earl and his wife for giving of themselves in the work of the Lord.

Our prayers were with Sis. Sheryl Stoller (Bro. Nathan) as she recently underwent surgery.

Visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Craig Martin and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

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### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Samuel and Pamela Furrer

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

*Proverbs 19:17*

For many years, college students have made spring break migrations to warmer climates where they enjoyed the sun and forgot about their hours of studying. In recent years, the idea of college students going to do mission work has become popular. It was over the U of I spring break in mid-March that several of our students became members of World Relief work teams and traveled to Mexico. When they returned, we heard stories of what was accomplished, how fulfilling the work was, how their bodies reminded them of the change in muscle usage, and the inward rewards they felt. It was a few weeks later that I heard that they also had an auto accident on the way, but had no serious injuries to derail the trip. We are thankful that they had such an enjoyable and re-

warding experience as young people doing the Lord's work reaching out and helping others and that His protecting hand was with them on their journey.

Our students hosted their annual appreciation dinner for their parents and the Champaign-Urbana church. They prepare a Saturday evening meal for their families and the local folks, and everyone enjoys the time of fellowship. Many families stay over for Sunday, and we appreciate these families and their student-children very much, too. All families of our students are encouraged to come visit their children here frequently. Also, any families who are thinking about sending a student to school here are most welcome to drop in any time.

"...when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

*Acts 11:23-24*

The month of March is a very special month for our Bro. David Wiegand. It was in that month that he was baptized, put into the ministry, ordained as our deacon, and became our Elder. It was, then, not surprising that on March 19, exactly 50 years from the day of his baptism, Bro. Dave retired from the ministry. We will miss his positive attitude, his memory, his patience, his daily (life) sermons, and his true charity. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel will enjoy the increased time they will have for traveling and visiting their children. There is no way that our congregation could ever appropriately thank the Wiegands for the service they have given us as a ministering family over the past 32 years. We thank them, and the Lord will bestow their

true reward.

"The Lamb of God" was the theme of this year's Easter program presented by our Sunday School children. Each child had a part that worked together for a very enjoyable and thoughtful presentation of the Easter story. The Sunday School teachers obviously put a great deal of time, thought, and effort into developing the program and working with the children. We thank them for their work in helping to make the message of the Gospel real to our children.

Our Bro. Melvin Walder recently spent a short time in the hospital undergoing tests. We are thankful that he is now doing well.

Bro. Virgil Metzger of Chicago ministered to us as he spent the day as co-laborer with Bro. Dave for one last time on March 19. Prior to moving to Chicago, Bro. Virg was a minister in Urbana. Others ministering to us over the month were Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL). We also thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) for being with us to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart with the reading of the Memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference. Our thanks to all of these brothers for their willingness to do the Lord's work and to spend time with us.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

*Isaiah 54:13*

Over the past few weeks, I've had occasion to deal with a number of mothers whose children attend our high school, and each one showed a mother's love and concern for the wellbeing of the child. One situation involved an immigrant boy who ran into some trouble. As a result of his distracting activities outside of school, his grades suffered and situa-

tions developed which had to be addressed with parents. As his counselor of four years, I had dealt only with his father, never his mother. However, the father's current job did not allow for him to come into school during the day and the duties of addressing the situation at school fell to the mother. His mother came in apologizing for her broken English and asking for our help. As we explained the situation, she took every point and examined how it might impact her child's education and his life. Her focus was on protecting her son and getting what she felt was best for him. Although she had never met most of us in the meeting before, she quickly became an outspoken advocate for her child. She tried everything she could think of to help her son's difficult situation. Some who saw this were critical of her actions, but her motives were those of a mother whose love had forgiven her son for whatever wrongs he may have committed and wanted to help him as much as she could. A more positive and happy meeting was with a mother who came in for a meeting regarding her son's schedule for next year. Before the son arrived, a teacher and I each expressed how much we enjoy having the son as our student. As most mothers of adolescents would be, this mom was obviously glad to hear comments of that nature. The young man arrived, we had our meeting, and he picked up his things to leave the room. Before turning to walk out the door, he leaned down and kissed his mother on the cheek and told her good-bye. His teacher commented on the fact that it was certainly an uncommon situation to see a big football player kid show such affection and respect to his mother in a setting like we were in. Mother was obviously touched by the statement and replied that yes, she knew that she and her husband have a very special son. These two women, though they have

very different lives and situations, share a commonality in that they are loving mothers and through that role they are influencing the lives of their children.

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Jill Rager**

Our news this month is not lengthy, but it is of such that all Heaven has been rejoicing! Renee Schallmo and Al Montgomery turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We will keep Al and Renee in our prayers as well as join in with the angels' rejoicing.

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:10*

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Darlene Walder  
Cheryl Eisenmann**

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were touched and reminded in a special way of what Christ did for each of us as our Sunday School children brought us the message of Easter.

We thank God for faithful brothers who are willing to plant the Word of God in the hearts of men. We appreciate the comments of our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) as they shared with us the Memorandum.

We are grateful for our Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) for serving us Holy Communion. We were reminded so vividly of the great price that was paid for each of us at Calvary.

Bro. Tom Stock did a topical Bible study on Strengthening our Weaker Brother.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and

Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). May God bless all our ministers for their labors of love.

The first two weekends in April our Bible Class hosted ACYF. What a blessing it was to hear all those young voices praising the Lord each evening.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Sis. Kate Young is enjoying a new grandson. Chase Ryland was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Janet Young of Congerville, IL.

Those among us who have spent time in the hospital and need our prayers are Sis. Carol Waldbeser, Sis. Wanda Maul and Sis. Marilyn Knapp.

*Notes of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Naomi Knapp wants to thank everyone for the cards and prayers during the death of our dear mother.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that remembered me with cards, phone calls, visits, gifts and especially prayers at the time of my surgery and in these past four months. May God bless each and every one of you.

In Christ's Love,  
Bro. Stan Gudeman

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Rena Dietrich**

**Glenna Rinkenberger**

"If we keep the mirror of our faith polished, the light it reflects will help others to see."

We'd like to extend a special prayer to several older brothers and sisters who are no longer able to attend church regularly. Let's remember these dear ones and visit them where they now spend their days. For surely, it has been their light that has helped us to see in our spiritual walk here.

April 2 was the wedding day of Sis. Denise Banwart and Bro. Brian

Rokey. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart and Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey (Bern, KS). Ministering brothers on our pulpit that day included Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). It was a blessed day as our church was filled with those wishing the new bride and groom God's blessings on their union. We will miss Sis. Denise and look forward to their return visits.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Ken Knapp (Taylor, MO). We always appreciate the Word as it is brought forth in humility from broken vessels that only God can fill.

Two little boys have been sent from Heaven to join our church family. Born on April 5, Chase Rylend Young is the first child of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jan. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria and Sis. Kate Young (Cissna Park, IL). Jacob Benjamin Roth entered the world April 16 to join Kristin, Shari, Michael, Julie and parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp (Taylor, MO). May these little boys be reared in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

April 15 was the 20th Annual Parent Supper put on by our combined Young Group at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. The parents were served supper by the Young Group. Then we all enjoyed a singing afterwards. Whatever the age of our converted children, we still have a responsibility as their parents to help them on the narrow way that leads to salvation.

Adam and Aaron Ott have found peace with God and man and now await baptism. We look forward to this special occasion on May 20-21. Their parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell.

*Note of Thanks:*

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all who remembered me with prayers and deeds of kindness during my surgery and recovery.

May God richly bless you,  
Bro. Glenn Knapp

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Peggy Heiniger**

**Norma Schambach**

What a blessing to watch our Sunday School children tell the Easter story and sing songs praising God.

Emily Schambach (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle) and Jonathan Buehler from Elgin have set their wedding date for September 22, 2001. May God bless them as they make their plans.

Palm Sunday while Bro. Harvey (Sis. Ruth) Schurter was getting ready for church, God took him Home to worship with the angels. We will miss him, but know he's in a better land. He leaves a daughter, Carol, and four sons, Neil, Wayne, Roger and Kenneth, and their children. May we remember Sis. Ruth during her many lonely hours.

It also saddens us to say goodbye to Bro. Art and Sis. Alma Schmidt who moved to West Bend, IA. May they be a blessing there as they were here in Elgin.

We appreciate the messages from our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI).

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**

**Janet Zimmerman**

*Communion Hymn*

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*

We were renewed in spirit as we remembered our Lord's suffering by partaking of Communion April 15. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and his wife, Sis. Kathy, for being with us that weekend.

We rejoice with Phil Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) as he has answered the Lord's call unto repentance. May God grant him the needed grace to dig deep and establish a firm foundation. We pray that many more would come and taste and see while the door of grace stands open.

We want to extend our congratulations to Tarla K. Martin of Dunlap (Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta) and Stephen J. Gibbs of Edwards (the late William and Barbara). They are planning an August 12 wedding.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Clara Huber (Bro. Leroy) on the death of her sister-in-law, Marjorie Rassi, of Morton. She died April 13.

In the old rugged cross,  
stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross  
Jesus suffered and died,  
to pardon and sanctify me.

Chorus:  
So I'll cherish the old rugged  
cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay  
down;  
I will cling to the old rugged  
cross,  
And exchange it some day for a  
crown.

### *Hymns of Zion #168, vs. 3*

Our dear Sis. Genny Blunier passed away April 15. We are thankful that God saw fit to relieve her of her earthly cross in exchange for a heavenly crown. We extend our sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Grace Strahm (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Pearl Leman (Roanoke, IL) and her brothers, Bro. Harold (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Ben (Champaign, IL), Bro. Homer (Forrest, IL), Henry, Bro. Sam and Bro. Lewis, all of Eureka. Five brothers and one sister preceded her in death.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL). May God bless the words that were spoken and may they bring forth that pleasing fruit.

We are thankful to report Jerome Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Josh Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) and Brent Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) are at peace with God and man. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms the weekend of May 20, Lord willing.

April 3 was our annual church housecleaning. It is always a joy to work and fellowship together. As is the custom, we all enjoyed a delicious meal afterwards.

April 10 was our annual Sunday School Teachers' Meeting. May God grant grace and wisdom to each teacher as they assume this important task of teaching our children the way of "truth and right". May God bless each one.

We assembled together April 19 for our Easter Program. It touches our heart to see and hear the story of Jesus' cruel death on Calvary and His glorious resurrection brought to us by our youth. We trust that the little seed that has been sown in each tender heart will sprout and bring forth fruit of repentance.

We extend our heartfelt love and

sympathy to Sis. Verna Wettstein on the death of her father, Bro. Adolph Tanner, of Goodfield. He died April 19. We also think of his brother, Bro. Paul Tanner, who resides at our Eureka Apostolic Nursing Home. May God comfort you.

With grateful hearts, our thoughts turn to our mothers in appreciation for all they have done for us. May God grant each mother a special blessing this Mother's Day.

*A Song for Mother*  
God made all things good.  
Made the skies, birds and flowers,  
Made the trees in the woods.

So I know that it was He.  
It could be no other.  
It was God who up above,  
Made my loving Mother.

—written by a sister-in-faith,  
as a young child

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to express my appreciation for the many cards I received on my 90th birthday. May God bless each and every one for their love.

*Bro. Willis Stoller*

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### **ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY** **Sally Fehr** **Joann Zehr**

If I could only hear my mother  
pray again,  
If I could hear her tender voice as  
then!  
So happy I should be, 'twould  
mean so much to me,  
If I could hear my mother pray  
again.

She used to pray that I on Jesus  
would rely,  
And always walk the shining gos-  
pel way;

So trusting still His love I seek  
that home above,  
Where I shall meet my mother  
some glad day.

—James Rowe

The richest legacy that a mother can give her children is that of a prayerful heart full of love and submission to the Lord and charity to those around her. The memory of such a witness and prayers will linger long and affect lives long after the earthly example is gone. This Mother's Day, let us reflect on this and strive to fulfill it. Let us also thank God where such examples have touched our lives.

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

*III John 4*

The mother-heart of Sis. Barb Meiss (Bro. Marion) is rejoicing at the news that their son, Alan Montgomery, is seeking the truth in repentance. Alan is currently attending our church at Chicago. May the grace of God be with him as he seeks to lay a true foundation.

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

*Genesis 2:18*

We rejoiced with Sis. Melanie Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Ed Teubel of Forrest (Walter and the late Mabel) as they were joined together in Holy Matrimony on April 16. As they testified that the Lord has led them together, so may His love bind them all through their life together. Sharing the day with us were Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (both of Forrest).

Other ministering brethren visiting us recently were: Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Tom

Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit, MI) and Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO). We thank the Lord for His faithfulness in providing His Word and we thank you for your willingness to be of service.

The miracle of a new baby was sent to the home of Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger. Jamie Lynn was born March 22. Welcoming her home are her siblings: Alex, Wesley, Kent, Leann, Karla, Kirk, Ross and Toby, as well as grandparents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Maurice Steidinger (late Sis. Alma).

"...I know not the day of my death."

*Genesis 27:2*

Sis. Lucille Meiss passed very suddenly into eternity on March 21. She was 79 years old. Our sympathy is extended to her family: sons, Roger (Judith) of Sibley; Richard (Janet) of Gibson City and Curtis (Janice) of Fairbury; her sister, Elizabeth Freed, of Gibson City; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one step-great-granddaughter. We will miss her faithful example.

Prayers and sympathy are also extended to Sis. Dixie (Bro. Doug) Steidinger and family in the passing of her grandfather, Ivan Fosdick.

Those suffering illness recently were Bro. David Kaeb (Sis. Mary), Sis. Lavina Moser, Sis. Mary Beth Maurer and Bro. Willis Bachtold (Sis. Elsie). Our prayers are with you.

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

The blood of Jesus makes us free,  
And justified by faith are we.

*Zion's Harp #8*

Freed from the clutches of Satan, Sis. Lisa Dotterer (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Kelli Leman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Joel and Sis. Lana Brown gave testimony of their faith in Christ and were baptized the weekend of April 1-2. We welcome these new lambs into the fold and pray they will daily resist the onslaught of Satan and press onward to the mark of perfection.

We are thankful for ministers of the gospel, Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for serving us from God's Word.

Joining hands in Holy Matrimony were Bro. Ed Teubel (Walter, Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Melanie Schneider (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy) of Fairbury, IL. May the Lord always abide in their home.

May God grant Sis. Shirley (Bro. Larry) Ifft much grace and wisdom as she teaches our children in Sunday School. She is replacing Sis. Sharon Adams whose term will be ending soon. We thank Sis. Sharon for her willing service and know that God will bless her.

Bro. Gene (Sis. Carol) Metz, Bro. Larry (Sis. Donna) Bachman, Bro. Earl (Sis. Esther) Gerber, Bro. Clarence (Sis. Doris) Kachelmuss, Bro. Ed (Edith) Honegger and Gene (Sis. Velma) Schladen-hauffen spent time in the hospital. May God grant these loved ones healing and strength according to His will.

We extend sympathy to our Bro. Homer (Sis. Virginia) Blunier on the death of his sister, Sis. Genevieve Blunier (Eureka, IL).

Less than a week after Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He was persecuted and put to death and

the veil of the temple was rent in twain. On the third day He did arise from the grave and provided a ray of hope for eternal life in Heaven with Him for those who serve Him. We look forward to our Sunday School children presenting the Easter story after Good Friday services.

*Note of Thanks:*

A special thank you to everyone for the beautiful cards, gifts and best wishes given to us on our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless each one.

*Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**  
**Heather Hohulin**

"No one is useless in the world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else."

*Charles Dickens*

I came across this saying and thought what a wonderful Easter season message it was. Christ, who gave us the ultimate example, died on the cross, carried the burden of our sins, and rose again to give us the hope of eternal life in Heaven with Him. What lessons He taught us, so that we can do the same and lighten the burdens for others!

Harold Debolt passed away. Our thoughts are with the family, especially his dear wife, Sis. Shirley. May we remember them in our prayers.

We are so thankful that Josh Wyss (Bro. Dale and Sis. Susie), Leisa Maloney (Randy and Sis. Dawn) and Janelle Hohulin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy) have found peace in their hearts and will soon be giving their testimonies and awaiting baptism. What a joy it is when souls can turn their hearts to the Lord and find peace with God.

We are happy to hear that Bro. Matt and Sis. Laurie Hohulin and

their family will be back with us soon. They were transferred overseas for several years, but are now relocating back in the area. Welcome back home!

Our prayers are with Marianne (Frank) Strawn, who had surgery this month and is back home. We hope she is recovering without problems.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We thank them for giving of themselves on our behalf and sharing God's Word.

On Palm Sunday our Sunday School children told us the Easter story in verse and songs. We hope that in their hearts a seed is planted and that when they reach the age of accountability, they can take advantage of God's wonderful plan of salvation.

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**  
**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We are warned in Scriptures that perilous times will come. Various traits will reflect such a time. Two are that people will be "unholy" and "unthankful". As believers, we must strive for the opposite; that is, to be holy and to be thankful.

It convicts me to be more thankful and I've become focused on the prospect of giving thanks a lot more than I have in the past.

Too often, perhaps, we are prone to not being as appreciative as we ought to be. God surely bestows generous blessings on us each day. Satan would have us take them for granted; or worse yet, he tries to blind our perception of God's blessings.

God teaches us: "In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18). The giving of thanks in prayer is a strengthening process. If we are wise, we will do it often!

On April 5, Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) was here to help serve Holy Communion.

On March 31, William Lucas Yergler was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Yergler. He is their third son. The newborn, to be called "Will", has two brothers, Ben (8) and Andy (7). We rejoice with this dear family.

Sis. Mabel Mill was hospitalized. She is a resident at Meadows Mennonite Home, at least for now. We pray that she can recover fully.

Retired Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger was recently hospitalized for hip surgery. He is recovering nicely, thanks be to the many prayers on his behalf.

Sis. Rae Jean Kuntz was in the hospital also.

Those with a serious disease are Bro. Ed Witzig and Sis. Rosella Knapp. May God be with them in the days ahead, and if it's His will, may they be healed.

As life goes on, it becomes more and more evident that good health is one of our earthly treasures. There is so much unexpected illness. Let us thank God each day we are healthy and feeling good.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**  
**Cheryl Wuthrich**  
**Phyllis Farney**

Bro. Levi Ricketts died on April 1 at his home. May the Lord comfort and bless his family. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Margaret; his two sons, Norman (Sis. Barbara) and Stephen (Patricia); two daughters, Barbara Williams (Robert) and Sally Clark (David); one brother, Roy; one sister, Sis. Marian Hinshaw; and ten grandchildren.

Marjorie Rassi died April 14 at Apostolic Christian Restmor. May the Lord comfort and sustain her husband, Bro. Carl Jr.; her two sisters, Fern Schumm and Delores Steinborn (Bransfore); her many

brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws; and her many nieces and nephews.

April 9 found our congregation rejoicing as we witnessed the joining of two loved ones in Holy Matrimony. They were Sis. Janelle Strunk (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Scott Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) of Tremont. We wish them God's richest blessings and His continued guidance as they begin their lives together serving Him.

The annual Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. Many groups from our congregation brought the Easter message through song. From the youngest Sunday School student, to the Timber Ridge Choir, to grandmas and grandpas in the Mixed Choir, all sang with their heart full of praise. It was good to be reminded of what Christ Jesus has done for us all. Easter Sunday the Sunrise Service at the Fellowship Hall was held to further commemorate Christ's sacrificial death and His triumphal resurrection.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the ministering brothers that visited us this month. They were Bros. Jaye Rinckenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Stephen Baner (Gridley, IL). Also for Bro. Scott and Sis. Janelle's wedding, the bride's uncle, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), assisted in the ceremony. Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Daren Plattner (Champaign, IL) brought us the morning service. Also attending that wedding were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

Many thanks to all who shared in our loss and expressed their sympathy and kindness through prayers, cards and memorials. May you be richly blessed for your kindness.

*The Family of Bro. Levi Ricketts*

I would like to thank everyone

who remembered me with visits, cards, and gifts on my 98th birthday. May God bless every one of you.

*Sis. Marie Hauter*

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

Sixty of the Fortune 500 companies have branches in Juarez, Mexico, to utilize lower costs. This has attracted many Mexican workers and their families to the area and created crowded and squalid living conditions for some. Under the auspices of World Relief and the Mexican Board, a volunteer group was busy in Juarez from 2/23 to 3/1, setting up tent-clinics to treat minor medical problems and handing out medications, vitamins, healthcare kits, clothes, varieties of everyday necessities along with Bibles. Bro. Rich Shock (MD) and several local sisters showed Christian care and concern to this underprivileged area, far removed from our way of life, yet close enough to stretch out loving hands to ease their needs and demonstrate in action the love and teachings of Jesus.

We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for his visit and assistance to bring the conclusions of the last General Brotherhood Conference (Rittman, OH) and Elder meeting (Silverton, OR) to us on March 22. As in the Apostles' time, such letters are an encouragement to the churches and fortify us in our spiritual life and exhort us to a closer walk with Jesus. Doctrines and tradition are part of our belief and should be the same in all Apostolic Christian congregations. We are laborers together under the authority of God to preserve sound doctrine.

Sin's wages must be paid and we are thankful four more converts have accepted Jesus' payment to experience salvation: Abby Hoerr, Chris Ober, Emily Obergfel and

Gabe Stickling. They gave their testimonies of repentance and faith on March 25, received baptism (one of the symbols of salvation) and were added to the brotherhood. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) assisted with the testimonies and baptisms. In his meditation he pointed out that Satan tries to turn us away from spiritual values. Jesus had just asked Peter to be a teacher of His sheep (John 21) when Peter pointed to John and asked "What about him?" When we regress from spiritual values, we receive the dregs (Psalm 25). Also, Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) visited us for this occasion. Many have trials and tribulations ahead of them, like Job, but in the end Job was blessed again by God. If the Sabeans (Job 1:15) came this week, would we be ready? We are one heart-beat away from hell. Good morality will keep us out of jail, but only the blood of the Lord will keep us out of hell. Bro. Clark: We can receive the most blessings by being obedient to Jesus, Who reaches out His hand and says: "I will save you!" We thank our visitors and especially our ministering brothers and their wives for spending a blessed Sunday with us.

Oops! In the March issue we reported that Jesse Getz was baptized; however, the reference should have been to Jason Getz, his brother. Bro. Jesse was added to the brotherhood on August 23, 1999.

The annual Choir Benefit Dinner was on April 1 at the Fellowship Hall. After the culinary part, the choir presented "His Way is Perfect" in a hymn program. The proceeds will be used for the Berean Prison and Russian Prison Ministries, US Bible program, jail ministry, the Fellowship Hall and hospital flower fund.

"The Seed" was the topic for our family night service on April 5 by Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL).



We try to select the seed which will produce the best crop and sow it in a proper way, with moderation, not too deep, not too shallow, with the cross as our tool to prepare the soil. We need to love the cross for what it will do for and to us. When we die, time will be no more and we must pray now for conviction, enjoy our salvation, embrace the faith Jesus has imparted to us and then receive His favor through prayer, making known to God that we want to go to Heaven and be spared the judgment and use the cross to our benefit. Thanks, Bro. Fred, for your visit and ministry.

Reciting and singing of the Easter program by the Sunday School on April 9 was directed primarily at an audience of One...JESUS: Behold Your Church! May many more burdens be lifted at Calvary, where the stone was rolled away to reveal the Risen Saviour.

God provides Holy Communion so we can cleanse our hearts to function together as parts of the Lord's body, with ingredients losing their identity to become a finished product. We are to remember the price Jesus paid for our sins and think of the innocent blood which flowed at Calvary. Palm Sunday was one of those moments we wish could go on forever, and be taken outside the doors.

"The spirit also healeth our infirmities" (Romans 8:26). Sis. Nancy Herman and Bro. Harlan Thomas were hospital patients and we are thankful they are among us again.

After Rebecca's diagnosis of leukemia five years ago, many visits to doctors' offices, hospitals, St. Jude's in Memphis, TN, and other remedial actions became necessary. Today, she is in remission with an almost clean bill of health. Her parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee Moser, wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the many prayers and deeds of love and kindness, which helped them

endure the trials and hardships of her illness. May God bless and reward you for sharing their burden.

Historical data indicates the temple veil was one foot thick. "It was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (Matt. 27:51). Only God could have caused such action to take place when Jesus died on the cross. Maybe the veil was repaired later to last as long as animal blood sacrifices continued (70 AD), but free access to God through Jesus had been established at that moment for the new dispensation of grace.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Mary Ehle**  
**Crystal Streitmatter**

"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 oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come."

*I Cor. 11:24-26*

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller share Holy Communion with us on March 25. We were vividly reminded of the price paid for our redemption, and exhorted to greater obedience.

April 16 was the wedding day in Bradford, IL, of our Bro. Chuck Schaefer and Sis. Suanne Elsasser (Bradford, IL). Bro. Chuck is the son of the late Fred and Sis. Esther Schaefer. Sis. Suanne is the daughter of Sis. Violet and the late Bro. Bill Elsasser (Bradford, IL). We wish them God's blessings and guidance as their lives have been joined to-

gether, and welcome Sis. Suanne to our congregation.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

After a long illness, Al Baer was relieved of his suffering on April 13. We are thankful that he sought the Lord in repentance several weeks before his death. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Helen, and children, Sis. Diane (Bro. Bill) Streitmatter, and Don and Carl Baer. Additionally, Rudy Baer of Peoria, IL, passed away April 14. Our prayers are with the entire Baer family.

We pray for God's healing hand upon Bro. Aaron Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy) as he endures a time of recovery from a badly broken leg.

*Note of Thanks:*

God gives us a special gift when He gives us a child, and we are thankful. We are also thankful for all the support we have been given when our precious Cherelle came small and early. May God reward you, each one, as only He can.

*Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Linda Hodel**  
**Boni Stoller**

"Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the

springing thereof.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing."

*Psalm 65:9-13*

Spring is such a wonderful time of year with all the new life bursting forth around us, when the seed is planted in the ground with faith that God will allow it to grow and yield.

New life has also been abundant in our baby room! Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker's family grew by two with the birth of two new grandchildren. Their daughter, Laura, and son-in-law, Reggie Wuethrich, from Indianapolis welcomed Alex Jay on March 9. Just a few days later, on March 12, Brooke Ashley blessed the lives of Rachel (Braker) and Greg Bramen of Roanoke.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Mandy Yordy are the happy first-time parents of Brianna Lee, born March 21. She is also the first granddaughter for both Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl and Larry and Edie Yordy.

Heidi, Jason and Mindy Bradle are thrilled to have a new sister. Laura Ann is the newest child of Bro. John and Sis. Jill Bradle. She is also a joy for her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Bradle and Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger of Goodfield.

God picked a precious little rosebud for His garden when He reached down and took tiny little Elise Suzanne Thompson. She was born March 24 to Jeff and Suzy (Luginbuhl) Thompson. This precious baby touched many hearts in her short five weeks of life. Many of us prayed for her as she endured two open heart surgeries as well as sev-

eral other surgeries. We will continue to hold up her parents as well as her dear grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl, and their family in prayer.

Others who have spent time in the hospital and who would appreciate your prayers are Willis Hodel, Sis. Charlene Monk and Bro. Lloyd Aeschleman. Little Willie Fortune is finally able to assemble with us again. What a blessing it is to see his smiling face. Praise God.

We were sad to say farewell to Sis. Becky Stoller as she has moved to Leo, IN, to work at Gateway Woods. We know that God is directing her on this new pathway, but we sure will miss her. God bless you, Becky!

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm and their daughter, Michelle, and her husband, Mark Simpson, in the loss of their precious little stillborn son. We do not always understand God's ways but pray He will somehow work all things together for good.

Many hands joined together to make light work at our comforter marathon March 27-30. Much was accomplished as we completed over 100 comforters and hundreds of school, health and sewing kits. Many thanks and God's blessings to all who came and helped.

We came together the evening of April 2 to share in Holy Communion. It is a time of renewal and always seems to bind us closer together. Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) were here to help Bro. Tom in serving Communion.

Other ministers we were blessed with this month were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenburger. Bro. Jaye was here for college weekend. What a blessing to have these brothers with us.

We rejoice with Bro. John Koehler and Sis. Lisa Sauder who

have felt the Lord's leading to be joined hand and heart. They were announced March 2. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Alan and Cyd Koehler. May they continue to look to God for guidance in their lives.

Craig Janssen has made the choice to turn his back on the world and stand up for Jesus. How we rejoice with him and his parents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen, as well as with all the angels in Heaven.

April 8, once again, many brothers from Roanoke and Eureka joined together for the annual cemetery clean up. When there are many to do the work, it is soon done and is even enjoyable.

We thank our trustees for a wonderful evening of fellowship on Sunday, May 9. They organized an all church potluck and singing. What a blessing when all ages can come together and share food and fellowship.

The Sunday School children shared the Easter story in song with us on Wednesday evening, April 12. They are so precious to us, from the 3-year-olds all the way to our seniors. Thank you, students, for your participation.

The next morning, April 13, our junior and senior Bible classes, along with teachers and many parents, left for a work trip to the deaf school in Jamaica. They had some delay in getting there but have arrived safely. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bettie Fehr would like to thank everyone for all the cards, food, visits, memorials and prayers during Bettie's illness and at the time of her death. Your acts of love will never be forgotten.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief;

Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me;  
God wanted me now,  
He set me free.

*Bill Fehr  
Rick and Peg Fehr  
Norm and Jan Rechkemmer  
Cindy Fehr and Bob Olt  
Kim Miller*

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Barb Dill  
Barb Kaeb**

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

*Philippians 1:2*

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) visit us March 18-19 for the testimonies and baptisms of Nathan and Jennifer Fuller, Shawn and Sarah Lennington and Michael Meister (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy). What a blessed evening to sit and listen to what God has done in the lives of these loved ones. We welcome them as our new brothers and sisters in the Lord. We thank Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) for being with us that weekend also.

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

*Genesis 2:18*

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) were with us April 2 when our Sis. Kim Sauder (Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Brad Grant (Bro. Philip and Sis. Gloria) of Latty, OH, were united in

Holy Matrimony. We will miss Sis. Kim in Tremont, but pray she and Bro. Brad will visit us often.

April 9 many of us were able to witness the marriage of our Bro. Scott Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Janelle Strunk (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Joyce) of Morton, IL. We welcome Sis. Janelle to our Tremont congregation.

We pray God's richest blessings on these couples as they walk as one in the 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."

*I Cor. 11:24-25*

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) visited our congregation to assist our Elder Bro. Charles as we partook of Holy Communion. What a blessing it is to be reminded of the suffering of our Lord and Saviour as we partook of that bread and drank of that cup.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI).

We want to thank all of these dear brothers for their labors of love and pray God will bless them and their dear families.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Larry, Sis. Barbara Reinbeck and their family as Bro. Larry's mother, Margaret Niedziela, has gone to her eternal home.

Spending time in the hospital were loved ones, Jerry (Sis. Melba) Hangartner, Sis. Vera (Bro. Walter) Aberle and Kathryn Beutel. May God's nearness be felt as we con-

tinue to pray for those in need.

Kaitlyn Danielle was born April 3 to Sis. Ruth and Bro. Tim Kaiser. Her siblings, Levi, Jesse, Tori and Jacob, are excited to have a new baby sister. Grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner and Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser, are thankful for a new granddaughter. May God grant His guidance and wisdom to Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth as they rear their children in the fear of the Lord.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert  
Denise Romersberger**

"And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

*Matthew 9:2*

If only we could have been there to see the expression on that man's face when Jesus told him, "Your sins are forgiven." He must have been the most surprised person in the world. This man wanted to hear "Your paralysis is healed; you can walk again." The good friends who carried this man to Jesus surely wanted to hear the same. What a dramatic moment! Jesus noticed the man and began with "Take heart, son..." How good that sounded. Their work seemed to have paid off, and they all expected physical healing.

The words of Jesus did pronounce healing, healing of a more necessary and important kind. We all need it because of our failure to love God and each other perfectly. At times, we may think that physical healing is our most urgent need, but our Lord knows that forgiveness through faith in His sacrifice on the cross is an even more urgent need.

Many are the times that we need to focus again on what's important. Our Lord clearly shows His concern for our pain, discomfort, unhappiness and loneliness. He has power to provide healing for our physical ills, and He showed it by miraculously healing this man. The good news and the big surprise is, however, that He has the power to grant us spiritual healing.

Dear Lord, keep me cheerful knowing that Thou has won forgiveness for me.

We were privileged to have several visiting brothers and their wives in our congregation this month. The brothers proclaimed the Word of God in its truth and purity. Thank you, brothers, for all of your efforts. Those brothers present were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico). For Bible Study we had Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We also celebrated Holy Communion this month and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) helped us partake of the bread and wine.

The Easter program by the children was a success. The children did a very good job with their singing and parts. Thank you, children, for all your efforts. A big thank you goes out to the teachers for all the time and effort you put into preparing for the program.

It was time for the annual spring cleaning. Many hands make the load seem not so heavy. Thanks to all who took time out of their busy days and put forth effort in helping with the cleaning.

Washington hosted the Red Cross Blood Drive and it was a success. Thanks to all who were in on the planning and worked at the drive. It is such a valuable way to help in keeping our blood supply available when we may need it or someone we love.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman  
Tonia Isch**

"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."

*1 Cor. 11:24*

We had a wonderful evening April 15 as we partook of Holy Communion. We would like to thank Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) for willingly serving us. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Sis. Mary) also stayed for Sunday. We had a very blessed weekend.

We rejoice with Tyson Frauhofer (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann) who has given his life to the Lord. We wish him the best.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi, along with their daughter, Desiah, welcomed Deena Kay into their home. She was born March 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhofer. Also joining this world is Samuel Burl born to Bro. BJ and Sis. Lana Frauhofer. He was born on March 31. Big brothers to Samuel are Colton and Cody. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger are the happy grandparents.

Two couples have been announced to be wed. They are Bro. Kent Merritt (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon) to Sis. Heather Cress (Sis. Shari). Bro. Bryce Isch (Bro. Les and Sis. Ann) was announced to Sis. April Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda). May God richly bless both couples as they make plans to share their lives together.

Sis. Clara Tonner (Bro. Harry), Bro. Curt Tonner (Sis. Jeanette), Sis. Trisha Scheumann (Darren),

and Bro. Bruce Bedwell (Sis. Nancy) have all spent some time in the hospital this month. We pray that God will continue to be with them as they heal.

We will greatly miss three families who have moved from the Bluffton congregation. Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard and their boys, Cole, Gage and Grahm, have moved to Milford, IN. Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Szabo, with their children, Pierre, Moonlight and Helen, moved to the Bay City, MI congregation. Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger, with their children, Chase, Caitleigh, Drew, Hannah and Colt, have moved to Francesville, IN. We will miss them all but know they are following God's will for their lives.

We welcome Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynn Dotterer with their son, Bryan, to our Bluffton congregation, who have moved from Indianapolis, IN. We are very happy to have them join us.

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Rhonda Maller  
Ann Meyer**

Greetings of love from Bluffton North! The Silver Lining gives everyone a chance to sit back with a cup of coffee and enjoy tidbits of news from our loved ones we know from away and even our brothers and sisters that we might not have met yet, but still love in Christ.

Our church shared a blessed evening of Communion on March 18. We appreciated having Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) come to assist our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in serving us. As Jesus was the perfect example of a servant, we are thankful for those that still serve us. Also ministering this past month were Bros. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).



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

*Psalms 127:3*

Grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger, are smiling over little Deena Kay Frauhiger who was born March 25. She is the daughter of Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard (Bluffton) and joins a sister, Desiah.

Another blessing entered the family of Joe and Rachel Streveler on April 9, a girl named Gabrielle Elise. Her siblings include Jordan, Joshua and Elizabeth. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger and Donald and Dorothea Streveler.

Making an exciting entrance on April 13 into the family of Bro. Grant and Sis. Maura Frauhiger was little Estee Caroline, who was born in the car on the way to the hospital. Her big sister, Monica, welcomes her along with her grandparents, Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger and Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner.

Having surgery this month was Sis. Ruth (Bro. Frank) Ifer. We're thankful that she has recuperated.

Bro. Leonard and Sis. Wave Bertsch have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We congratulate them and wish them many more years together.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?..."

*Matthew 5:13*

Are we tipping our salt shakers liberally each day?

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye

may know how ye ought to answer every man."

*Colossians 4:6*

In a recent sermon we were challenged to pray for one another that our speech would be pleasing to the Lord. Rejoicing with two men, Levi Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) and Anthony Gutwein (Sis. Melody), who are allowing the Holy Spirit to direct their speech. They have been announced for having peace.

Four loved ones have had brief hospitalizations. They were Bro. Glen Boehning (Sis. Eileen), Bro. Fred Gutwein (Sis. Madeline), Bro. Carroll Messer (Sis. Annabelle), and Con. Sandra Salyers (Thom). May God be mightily with each one.

We wish God's blessings upon Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein and their family as they felt God's direction to move to Forrest, IL. May Jesus continue to be glorified in their lives.

Sincere thanks to Bros. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN) and Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN) for sharing the Word of Life to us.

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### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Loretta Schafer Nancy Witzig

Our Indianapolis Church welcomes Sis. Mandy Metzger (Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy) from West Bend, IA. Sis. Mandy is completing a pharmacy externship.

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."

*I Samuel 1:27*

We rejoice with Bro. Greg, Sis. Lisa and Graham on the birth of Luke Benjamin. Grandparents include Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emma Jean (Latty, OH) and Lee and Marianna Hege (Leo area).

A Mother/Daughter Tea was held at church, and was a blessing to all attending. Many spoke of memories and of the importance of having and being a godly mother and daughter.

Sis. Edie Mayer (Bro. John) recently had eye surgery and is now assembling with us again. Many prayers continue to be offered for little Leah, Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy and Zachary, as Leah has been hospitalized twice for a serious bone infection. We praise God for the healing that has taken place, and pray Leah will soon be able to run and play.

"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

*I Cor. 11:26*

With joy we shared Communion together as the body of Christ. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) were here for the occasion.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Ed Lanz also shared the conclusions of the Elder Conferences through the Memorandum. We appreciate the efforts on our behalf.

We were thankful to have Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) speak the Word to us.

It was a blessing to have many students and their teachers from Bluffton assemble for services with us. Please come again!

Ryan and Hollie Meister have felt the forgiveness and peace that only faith in Jesus can bring, and are looking forward to sharing their testimony and being baptized.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

*Colossians 3:15*

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## INDIANA, LACROSSE Heidi Stoller

How shall it be when we at last  
returning  
From weary wanderings and  
from toil and strife,  
Shall reach the home for which  
our heart is yearning  
And enter into everlasting life?  
*Zion's Harp #146*

Sis. Lucille Heiniger passed away March 14 after a lengthy illness. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. John, and her son, Paul. She will be missed by her children, David (Pam) and Joan (James) Cambern, and the entire LaCrosse congregation.

It has been announced to the church that Kristi Massner (Bro. Randy and Mary Lynn) has repented and found peace with God and man. Our prayers are with her as we anticipate her baptism.

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted in delivering the Memorandum to us. We were encouraged to live spiritual lives, separated from the world and to be spiritually discerning of our activities and the objects we bring into our homes.

The LaCrosse congregation was privileged to partake of Holy Communion, April 8. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) assisted Elder Bro. Curt Frank in serving the bread and wine and bringing into remembrance the high price that was paid for our sins.

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## INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Sis. Wanda Halte, 71, was taken into God's Garden on April 5. He closed her weary eyelids, and whispered "Peace be thine". She had many trials in life, but was blessed the last seven years as she served her

Lord and Master. She is survived by two sisters, Sis. Ruth (Louis) Garman, Alice Thompson, a brother, John Grueter, many nieces and nephews, and two stepsons.

Sis. Velma (Jack) Bollier was hospitalized for tests in early April. She is now at home, but needs much rest. We rejoiced that she was able to share with us in Holy Communion on April 15. We had a full house as Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder helped Bro. John Stoller serve the bread and wine in memory of our Lord's suffering and death.

On Sunday, April 16, the children from Sunday School presented the Easter program. Students from 6th grade and under quoted Isaiah 53:1-6 in unison. Then in word and song they took us from the Triumphant Entry to the Last Supper, Gethsemane, The Trial, Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Walk to Emmaus.

Bro. Brace Wieland had our monthly topical Bible study. His topic was "Who is Number One?". The flesh naturally wants to be #1. "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest" (Luke 22:24). Our desire shows the heart's attitude. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "He must increase but I must decrease." The first church had all things in common as recorded in Acts. In Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12, Paul records how God has given different gifts unto men "but the same Spirit" (I Cor. 12:4). Jesus will be #1 when we die to self and serve others. "He (Jesus) said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Visiting ministers, besides retired Elder Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH), were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). We thank the

Lord for their willing service.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Lorelei Gutwein rejoiced on April 11 at the birth of Grace Victoria. She has a sister, Megan. Her grandparents are Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta Broquard (Fairbury, IL).

### *Mothers in the Bible*

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and she said, I have gotten a man from the Lord." (Gen. 4:1)

"And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me." (Gen. 21:6)

"...I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel." (Judges 5:7b)

"And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee...So Naomi returned, and Ruth, her daughter-in-law, with her...Boaz took Ruth and she bare a son...and Naomi took the child...There is a son born to Naomi." (Ruth 1:16a,22a, 4:13-17)

"And Hannah prayed and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord...For this child I prayed." (I Samuel 2:1 & 1:27)

"And Bathsheba went in unto the king (David)...and said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the Lord thy God unto thine handmaid, saying; Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne." (I Kings 1:15,17)

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." (Luke 1:38)

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## INDIANA, MILFORD Marguerite Hoerr Pam Beer

Many from our Milford congregation traveled to Rittman, OH, for the wedding of Bro. Marc Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) to Sis. Jodi Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn). We pray God's blessings on them and give Jodi a warm welcome to our congre-

gation.

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

*1 Cor. 10:16-17*

Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer in serving Holy Communion to us on April 8.

Congratulations are extended to Sis. Sonya Beer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) as she has completed her college and graduated with an associates degree in accounting. We are happy to have her back in the Milford area and pray God will go with her as she enters the work force.

Also our Milford congregation is very happy to have Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci Reinhard and their three sons, Cole, Gage and Grahm, assembling with us. We pray they can feel our love and soon feel at home among us. Bluffton's loss is definitely our gain.

Blessing us with God's Word this past month was Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). We pray God will bless him for his willingness to come and minister to us.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

*1 Peter 1:22-23*

On March 29, we were blessed to have Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) speak to us on purity at our Bible Study. The Bible gives us a lot of instruction on living a pure and holy life. God expects us to obey His Word.

Sis. Norm Wasner and Bro. Ralph Waibel spent time in the hospital recently. May they feel the nearness of the Lord as they continue their recovery at home.

Our prayers are with Tammy Waibel (Dean) as she has surrendered and is seeking God's direction in her life.

We welcome Dale, Roberta, Michael and Marshall Greenbank as they have moved to the Remington area from Phoenix, AZ.

Babies are precious gifts from God. On April 9, Owen Matthew was born to Matt and Heidi Getz. Grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Charlene Getz and Joe and Betty Vaughn, welcome him with open arms.

April 2 was our first service in our new church. We thank Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler for sharing with us on that special day.

On Saturday, April 8, we had our Communion service. Serving with Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler were Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and John Lehman (Bern, KS). We thank these willing brothers for their service for the Lord.

The following day we were blessed to have Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) minister to us.

Palm Sunday was our annual Easter Program. We never get tired of hearing the story of how Christ gave His life for us. A special thanks to the students and teachers for all their hard work and effort.

Following the program, we had Open House for those in the community and visiting churches. The

turnout was wonderful and we thank all those who took an interest to come.

Our new church has been the topic of many conversations for some time now. And though we are thankful for our new place of worship, we must remember that we the people are the church. The whole building process has made us grow closer to each other and to God. For without Him, none of this would be possible.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Lavilla Langhofer  
DeAnn Schlatter**

This month we celebrated the gift God has given us. As we reflect on the death and resurrection of His Son, may we come to realize what an incredible gift He has offered to us. This month has been one of much reflection and prayer for our congregation in many ways.

We fulfilled Jesus' commandment "This do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19) by partaking of Communion. What a sweet privilege to take part in the gift of salvation in this way!

Sis. Shirley (Bro. Wayne) Lehman and family would like to thank everyone for the love shown to them during the hospitalization and passing of her sister and Aunt Eileen.

Our love and sympathy to the family of Sis. Gigi (Bro. Scott) Schafer in the passing of her grandmother, Catherine Powley.

Our love and sympathy also extends to Anna (Matt) Beebe in the passing of her grandmother, Maybelle Slater.

Thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Marty Langhofer, who suffered a broken leg while working on a horse in his veterinary practice.

Thank you to the Sunday School for the excellent Easter program. God loves the voices of His children,

praising Him with a good message and beautiful singing.

Our hearts have been in prayer lately for the nomination of another minister to assist Bro. Bob Beebe and Bro. Wayne Lehman. We as a church wish to give our whole support and encouragement to Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and their family as he humbly accepts the nomination to help lead our small flock. May he feel the presence of the Holy Spirit at this time.

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### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Hope Bucher

What a beautiful time of the year to think about the wonderful gift God gave when He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die for us! We were reminded of the Gift of Jesus and His death and resurrection during our annual Spring Program this month. We were thankful to have Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) with us to minister. We appreciated all of the effort that was put into making the program special. A few from our Valpo congregation shared a poem or reading and we enjoyed beautiful songs from our children's choir. We were blessed by the singing from a local (Valpo-LaCrosse) trio of high school girls and a Valpo ladies quartet. Thank you to all who participated and attended the program.

We were also blessed with a few more visiting ministers this month. Thank you to Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing the Word of the Lord with us and for bringing their families to visit us at Valparaiso. We always enjoy and appreciate our guests.

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### INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

### PURDUE UNIVERSITY Jeremy Scheitlin

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

*Matthew 5:48*

Most of the students studying here at Purdue are young in the faith. As we read this verse in St. Matthew we see a scriptural directive to become more perfect. It is impossible to be perfect as Jesus was, but we as Christians are to strive for perfection. The word "perfect" is used here to mean spiritual maturity. As we continue to grow in the Lord each day, may our light shine forth to those around us. May we strive ever more to stretch forth our hands for others and have that hope of eternal life.

Besides schoolwork, we have had many activities going on. Between sheet folding for World Relief, singing at two nursing homes, cleaning the fellowship hall, spending the night at the homeless shelter, and having singings, we all have plenty to do. We are just thankful God has given us the strength to help others.

The students at Purdue are thankful as we reflect on yet another semester that is about to come to an end. We are all delighted because of the support we have received from the Elders, ministers, and our families. Without these supporters, we would not have the precious faith we enjoy each day.

Those that graduated last semester are Bro. Kevin Kipfer, Bro. Rustin Meister, Bro. Joe Honegger, Sis. Carmen Cook, and Sis. Teresa Houston. Graduating and moving on in May include Bro. Stuart Gutwein, Bro. Nathan Huber, Sis. Alivia Metzger, Sis. Mandy Metzger, and Sis. Joy Bahler. As these brothers and sisters move on in life, we pray a blessing on each one and may they each look to God to guide their

lives.

We are also grateful for the many ministering brothers who took the time to come and share the Word with us each Thursday evening. This was the first time for a different church to be assigned to each Thursday night and this has greatly increased our demand for ministering brothers. Those who have ministered the Word include: Bros. Brian Huber, Steve Gutwein, Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Bros. Dan Stoller, Dan Kilgus, Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bros. Mark Gerber, Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bros. Neil Widmer, Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Bros. Bob Meyer, Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Don Gudeman and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Each church has taken the time to send a brother to minister the Word to us and we appreciate their efforts. Through these brothers we heard the pure Word of God and we are thankful for the many blessings.

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### INDIANA, WOLCOTT Beckie Lehman Mary Beth Lehman

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

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

With joy we welcome Kenzie Leigh Bahler into our church family. Kenzie was born on March 18 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody, and is joining Amber, Leandra and Larissa at



home. God bless this family each day!

"...and a time to die:"  
*Eccles. 3:2*

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Lehman as her daughter, Donna (Frank) Snider, has escaped the pain of cancer and is now at rest. Also surviving are siblings, Bro. Gene (Sis. Verna), Sis. Diane Hopkins, Wanda (Butch) Johnson and Chuck (Pat). We pray for comfort by a loving God who holds us in His hands.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray...and the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

*James 5:13,15*

We realize not all the sick who pray for healing are always totally healed, at least not in body. But our prayers are still heard and God will give strength to the heart. Sis. Marilyn Schieler continues to be in our prayers for God's strength to be felt. God has answered prayers for Sis. Shirley Furrer as she underwent outpatient surgery and has favorable reports from her doctor.

On April 9, we shared Communion as we remembered all our dear Jesus did for us. Can we ever comprehend the fullness of His love? I think not, until we are in Heaven with Him. Helping Elder Bro. Alfred were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). We appreciated their willingness and exhortations.

Also serving on our pulpit that day was Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). He and Sis. Judy, along with the rest of the National World Relief Committee, were in Wolcott for their April meeting. We enjoyed a short presentation the Friday evening previous on a few of the many areas that World Relief is involved in. Thanks, dear brothers and

sisters, who serve on the committee for sharing your time, energy and talents for the Lord's glory.

We have two couples who have announced their engagements. Don Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Jill Nagel (Mike and Rose) plan to wed in '01. Kelli Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia) and Nathan Pritts (Mike and Pat) have wedding plans for this October.

On Good Friday, our Sunday School will have their program. It's always so refreshing to hear our children share the hope we have because of Jesus. We pray each one of them will guard and treasure these truths in their hearts and one day fully believe and accept the plan of salvation they will share with us.

Thanking God for our moms, and praying for the children who don't have a mom's love or positive influence in their lives.

Her gentle hands  
Her loving heart  
Her giving of time  
From each days start.  
Her sleepless nights  
With little babes,  
Reading Bible stories  
And teaching to pray.  
Listening patiently,  
Wiping away tears,  
Encouraging and nurturing  
All through the years.  
A living example  
Of serving the Lord  
Consistent and committed  
Not just empty words.  
She learns to let go  
Her children grow on,  
The house now empty  
Of child's laughter and song.  
Still in her mind  
She hears days gone by  
And remembers the joy  
With a contented sigh.  
Her silvery white hair  
And wrinkled brow

Are signs of her giving  
And are cherished now...  
By the children who learned  
From her constant love  
And for their dear Mom  
Thank the good Lord above.  
—S.S.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst  
Brenda Schulz**

Another month has passed and with it came many blessings. Elder Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) came to assist our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) in reading the Memorandum. We truly appreciated their efforts, and thank them sincerely.

We also had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) came to help Elder Bro. Ed Lanz remind us of the Lord's suffering. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors.

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## IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden  
Heidi Butikofer**

"The winter is past...The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come..."

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

What a blessing it is to witness another springtime and see new life appear all around us. We are reminded that God is able to create a clean heart and renew a right spirit in the hearts of those who will humbly seek Him.

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new."

*II Cor. 5:17*

We welcome two new "little addi-

tions" to our small flock here at Elgin: Callie Ann, daughter of Wade and Michelle Halverson; and Oren Samuel, son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty Getz. Callie's grandparents are Roger and Sharlene Halverson and Steve and Brenda Finholt. Oren is also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne Butikofer and Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL), and of course, his big sister, Tierra. May God's blessings be upon both these homes and families.

We have three seniors looking forward to graduation this year. Sis. Darla Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Beth Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan). We wish them God's direction and blessings as they make plans for their future.

#### Food for Thought

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give your best. It may not be enough, but give your best anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

"What I do today is important be-

cause I am paying a day of my life for it. What I accomplish must be worthwhile because the price is high."

### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

We thank each visitor, whether you were ministering brother, song leader, led in prayer, or sat in the pews and worshipped with us. We know "wherever two or three are gathered" Christ will be, but we do appreciate visitors. Visiting ministers have been Bros. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). Also, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) was with us for Sunday services and reading the Memorandum. We are thankful for the wisdom, care and counsel of our Elder brothers.

We are rejoicing that the temporary internship Bro. Matt Steidinger had with Premium Standard Farms has become a permanent position. He and Sis. Janelle are a wonderful addition to our flock.

The home of Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami Banwart is blessed with a little bundle of love. Ashlyn May was born March 28. She is welcomed by big sister, Tayla. Grandparents are Don and Jane Banwart and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner.

May graduates are Aaron Parmer (Sis. April and Buck) from high school, and Sis. Willa Clark, Simpson College. They look forward to new challenges in life.

Three engagements in the same family will mean a busy year of weddings in Sis. Willa Clark's household. Sara will marry Duane Lester of Tarkio, MO, in June; David is engaged to Julie Reno of Humeston, IA; and Katie is engaged to Jason Newton of Derby, IA. We pray for God's guidance as they plan their lives together.

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

### Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We were blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL). We appreciate their willingness to serve us and all of the other visitors who traveled to worship with us. May our times of fellowship increase our longing for Heaven.

As we look forward to Easter and prepare our hearts for Holy Communion, may we gain deeper insight into the great price paid for our sin, and may this increase our love for our Saviour and our desire to serve Him.

Reading instructions on how to care for a newly planted tree, I was surprised it was recommended the tree be watered every day for a period of time. How much more critical is it that we feed our spirit daily. In the busyness of our lives, let us not neglect the most important aspect—the only part of us that will outlive our earthly lifespan.

Have a blessed month!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

*II Corinthians 13:14*

### IOWA, LESTER Sue Warner Cindy Leuthold

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 #220*

What a blessed weekend we enjoyed by partaking of Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters in faith on April 15! Our appreciation is extended to Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for assisting with the duties of this special occasion.

March 27 was the wedding day for Bro. Walter Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva) and Sis. Nola Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice). Many visiting ministers were with us to share in the joy of this marriage day. They were: Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), as well as Bros. Jerry Wagenbach and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). We will miss Sis. Nola very much as she leaves to make her new home with her husband in the Oakville area. May God bless their union.

Three new lambs were added to the fold with the provings and baptisms on April 2-3 for Sis. Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla), Sis. Hannah Larson (Tedd and Sis. Diane), and Bro. Matt Hartter (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail). Elder Bro. Ed Lanz assisted Bro. Dennis Warner with this most precious work. We thank Bro. Ed for being with us as well as Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and for sharing God's Word.

We wish to correct the information on the birth of little Kourtney Lee to his parents, Jerod and Amanda Rozeboom, on March 10. First-time grandparents are Leroy and Shelley Van Wyhe and his great-grandma is Sis. Janet Wysong. We regret the error.

Two sweet little baby boys made their appearance on the same day, March 29. The first was Malachi Martin born to Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe. He is joined by his siblings, Sis. Melissa, Bro. Mychal,

Sis. Michelle Gramstad, Bro. Monte and Marcy. Later in the day, Bro. Kjert and Sis. Michelle Gramstad became first-time parents to their son, Korbyn Norman. He is happily welcomed by his first-time grandparents, Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe. Sis. Zelma Knoblock is both grandmother and great-grandmother to both newborns.

Congratulations also to Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth Metzger on the birth of their first grandchild to Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura Metz of Silverton, OR. Josiah James is also welcomed by his other grandparents, Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and his great-grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger and Sis. Donna Metzger.

Our sympathy is felt for Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and their families with the death of Janet's father, Bro. Walter Banwart, of West Bend, IA. May God be close to these dear ones as they mourn his passing.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Ernst (Sis. Ella) Metzger, Bro. Ronald Kellenberger and Karen (Ray) Glammeier. Karen and Bro. Ernst have returned home from the hospital and Bro. Ron has taken up residence at the Tuff Home while he recovers from a fall. May God provide His healing power to those who suffer bodily afflictions.

Sis. Myra Wulf has been able to join us for brief periods to worship with us again. Her presence is so uplifting for us and we again pray for God to continue to give His wonderful strength and courage for Sis. Myra and her family.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Melody Steiner**  
**Debra Wagenbach**

We welcome Sis. Nola Gerst (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf, Lester, IA) into our congregation. Sis. Nola became the God-given wife to our Bro.

Walt (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva) on March 26. May God richly bless them and provide for their daily needs.

Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed with Holy Communion service on Saturday, April 8. May God richly bless him for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service. As we think of the terrible price that had to be paid to redeem us from sin, may we strive to be more obedient to His Holy Word.

Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) recently spent a Sunday in our midst. We thank him and his family for being with us. May they always feel the Lord's nearness.

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**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Katrina Knobloch**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

*Psalms 51:10*

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL) was here to assist with Communion. May we always remember what the Lord has done for us so we may have eternal life if we are faithful.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) and Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen and family), both from the Kansas City congregation. We appreciate their willingness to come and share God's Word with us.

We were privileged to hear from the Sunday School the true meaning of what sets us free through the Easter story. We thank our teachers and children for the effort they put into reminding us of the price that was paid at Calvary.

Our prayers have been answered with the healing touch for Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) and Brook Esslinger (Bro.

Lee and Sis. Patsy), our hospital patients this month.

"Who can find a virtuous woman?  
For her price is far above rubies."

*Proverbs 31:10*

Mother's Day is a wonderful time to remember our mothers and all they have done for us. We want to thank them for their patience, wisdom and unconditional love they have shown. Also, remembering the mothers who have gone onto their reward and are awaiting our coming.

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

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

*Matthew 26:26-28*

We appreciated having Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) here the weekend of April 9 to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm in serving Holy Communion to us.

Don and Deb Schulz mourn the sudden death of his brother, Howard Schulz. On April 2, Bro. Walter Banwart (Sis. Esther Keller-Banwart, dec.) passed away. Survivors are: son, Dean (Irene) Banwart, West Bend, and daughter, Sis. Janet (Bro. Roger) Knoblock of Rock Rapids, IA. There are 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and sisters, Sis. Ida Schmidt, Sis. Katie Ludwig, and brothers, Fred and Ervin Banwart. We extend our sympathy, and pray God will comfort all who mourn the loss of their loved

ones.

Tyle Olson, son of Troy and Julie, spent several days in the hospital for medical care. Wendy (Clay) Schmidt received surgical care. We are thankful both are released and home again.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to three couples who have announced their engagement.

Amy Schneider (Dave) and Lee Smith, both of Des Moines, IA, are planning to be married in June.

Believing through faith that the Lord has directed their lives together, are Bro. Shane Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Dusty Edle (Richard and Connie). Both Bro. Shane and Sis. Dusty attend church in Oakville, IA.

Bro. Jon Nohl (Morris, MN) and Sis. Sally Fehr have also felt the direction of the Lord to be joined as husband and wife. Their parents are Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr. May these couples feel God's love and guidance as they make plans for their wedding day and life together.

We wish God's blessings upon a newly married couple, Clinton and Kelly Schneider. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider and Scott and Deb Hughes.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami Banwart welcomed Ashlyn May on March 28. Her sister, Tayla, along with grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner and Don and Jane Banwart, are happy for her safe arrival.

As Mother's Day approaches, our thoughts wend their way to our Mothers. Many have gone on, but the things they taught us will never be forgotten. May we all show to our Mothers how we have appreciated all the things they have done for us and especially where they have shown us the path that will lead us to our Heavenly Home.

*Our Home*

Our home was one of simple style  
With a dear and cozy look;  
It had the warmth of Mother's  
love  
In every little nook.

Lace doilies and lace tablecloth  
Crocheted by Mother's hand  
Were placed with loving care  
upon  
Each table and each stand.

But more than things our eyes  
could see  
Within that home held dear  
Was comfort that it brought to us  
To have our mother near.

When heartaches came and tear-  
drops fell,  
We knew we could endure;  
For Mother held us up in prayer,  
Her faith was strong and sure.

Though years have passed, I of-  
ten go  
Back through kind mem'ry's  
door  
To visit that old home again;  
And Mother's there once more.

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**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Akihiro Ito**

I was over in the U.S. last month for two weeks with my sister, Kayuko. We had nice fellowship at many places. During our visiting, Bro. Jay Braker and Bro. Tim Stoller and three other brothers went to England to help people, and Sis. Keri Kaeb went to Haiti to support a hospital. I thank God for giving us the technology of flying far away. We can fly to help wherever we want. We always have to use such wonderful tools and knowledge which are given by God, not for ourselves, but for God's will. Whenever I am over in the U.S., many brothers and sisters



always encourage me, and I bring back their loving Christian greetings to Japan. They also encourage Japanese brothers and sisters. So I think that to go there is God's will for me. I also thank many brothers and sisters which I met this time, for their hospitality. I believe that to have fellowship with many brothers and sisters is to have many experiences of making my faith stronger, and is the source for missions in Japan. I pray that brothers and sisters, as much as possible, visit Japan, and we can encourage each other.

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### JAPAN, TOKYO

#### Andrew and Jana Klaus

Christ the Lord is risen! Hallelujah! It is such a beautiful, joyous season when we who have "risen to a new life" with the Lord remember and celebrate his resurrection. I felt so honored this past week to share with one of my English classes, a group of three older ladies, why and how we celebrate Easter. One of the ladies told me that her son was getting married April 23, and I said "Oh, that is Easter Sunday." And then they "opened the door wide" and asked me just what this holiday is all about as they pretty much knew the meaning of Christmas, but Easter is not talked about too much here, not even commercially like Christmas is. A couple of the ladies commented about a video they had watched together on the life and death of Jesus, but one lady said that all of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross was too much to bear and she just wanted to turn the video off. She wondered what we Christians thought about that. Again, I was thankful to share about the reason for His suffering, and the benefit of us meditating on this, even if it almost seems more than our minds can bear. Is it not our prayer that people of all lands will continue to "kneel at the cross" and receive His

pardon? We look forward to this coming Sunday to celebrate Christ's resurrection in worship and in a program presented by Sunday School children and others.

Our congregation has been thinking of and praying for one who is suffering physically to a great degree after falling victim to a bad auto accident on March 27. Bro. Andrew Klaus' brother-in-law, Takehide Itoh (married to Andrew's sister, Hope), was very badly injured, especially in the legs, and had to succumb to a left leg amputation. Most of us cannot imagine what he and Hope are going through, but we take courage in knowing that they both have a strong faith in the living Lord and trust Him to lead them gently through each day. They are very thankful to those who are praying for them and have sent them words of encouragement.

Our congregation has experienced many blessings recently which we would like to report. Sis. Onoda became a grandmother for the second time as her son, Akira, and wife, Yukiko, had a baby girl. Her older brother will be two in July. Bro. Thad Heinold (Belvidere, IL) was here on business and was able to worship and have lunch with us on Sunday, April 2, and then he joined Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue for an afternoon out in the country church as Bro. Akito was going out to help Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle with Communion Service. We are always thankful for those who are here on business that can stop in and worship with us. We trust they can feel the same love of Jesus and Holy Spirit clear across the ocean! (It really is a small world.) Then, on April 9, we enjoyed a visit from Sis. Carol Schrock and daughter, Diana (Leo, IN), as they were spending time with Carol's sister, Sis. Jana Klaus and family. It is always a great blessing and encouragement to have family members as guests! Little Di-

ana (5 yrs.) told her mommy that she is "going to be a nurse, no, a teacher and live in Japan" when she grows up. It sounds like she enjoyed her first trip to Japan!

On April 9 we had our annual business meeting and in addition to the financial report, a wide range of topics were discussed. A few of the highlights are: we are still prayerfully discussing our Church Building Project; we thought of how we can improve Sunday School teaching arrangements (we don't have such an abundance of teachers as most churches in the States); and we thought about profitable ways to share our monetary abundance. It is so important to approach all of these subjects with a prayerful heart.

Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa recently was able to have a safe trip to China and back as he carried Bibles in for needy souls there. If the airport officials would open or X-ray his bags, they would take away the Bibles, but Bro. Miyagawa made it through without being checked, for which we thank the Lord. He said a person ahead of him was being thoroughly checked, so Miyagawa and others behind him were just waved on through—a blessing from the Lord. How thankful we should be for our numerous precious Bibles. We do not know what the future holds, but thankfully, we do know Who holds the future.

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### KANSAS, BERN

#### Jill Hartter

#### Lori Baumgartner

The month of May brings warm thoughts of our loving mothers as we honor them on Mother's Day. The farther I walk down the path of motherhood myself, the more love, appreciation and thankfulness I have for our godly mothers and grandmothers. Being a mother provides a blessed opportunity to influence and shape little souls, but this

awesome responsibility often causes a mother to tremble in great weakness.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

*James 1:5*

I am reminded of the beautiful account I read of an elderly widow who had passed away. Following the funeral, a neighbor asked the eldest of six sons, "How did your mother do it?" The son took the neighbor to his mother's room. In the room, two dents could be seen in the rug where the mother had knelt to pray each day throughout the years. "Prayer was the secret," the son replied. There truly is nothing more powerful than prayer. Dear mothers, be encouraged; through prayer the Lord will provide the wisdom needed for each day!

Whatever our position is in life, we all need to hear the encouragement and admonition of God's Word. We are thankful for our local and our visiting ministers who willingly bring forth God's Word from Sunday to Sunday. Visiting us this past month were Bros. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We welcome them and their families back anytime.

Many from our congregation were able to travel to Congerville, IL, the weekend of April 1-2 to witness the marriage of Bro. Brian Rokey and Sis. Denise Banwart. Bro. Brian's parents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey, and Sis. Denise's parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL). On April 16, a wedding reception was held here, honoring Bro. Brian and Sis. Denise. We wish them God's richest blessings in their life together and may Sis. Denise feel a warm welcome here.

As we pray for those experiencing

joy, let us pray for those in sorrow. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed Lehman (Sis. Leola) whose sister, Golda Kiper, passed away on March 23 in Omaha, NE.

We wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Lillian Esslinger. Her sister, Dorothy Meyer, passed from this life on March 28 at a local nursing home.

We received word of the funeral service of Sis. Genevieve Blunier of Eureka, IL, on April 17. We offer our prayers of sympathy to her sister, Sis. Grace Strahm (Bro. Emil).

Life is full of uncertainty...we never know what a day may bring forth. Bro. Don Menold (Sis. Pat) spent time in the hospital while on a business trip in China. We are thankful he is home and is well. Grant Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen) underwent some skin grafting on his hand as a result of a burn he received some time ago.

We know that there are those in our congregation who are facing great health concerns and uncertainty. We pray that God will answer the prayers on their behalf as He sees best.

#### *God Answers Prayers*

I know not by what methods

rare;

But this I know, God answers prayer;

I know that He has given His Word,

Which tells me prayer is always heard,

And will be answered soon or late;

And so I pray and calmly wait.

I know not if the blessing sought  
Will come in just the way I  
thought;

But leave my prayers with Him  
alone,

Whose will is wiser than my own.  
Assured that He will grant my

quest,

Or send some answer far more  
blest.

—*author unknown*

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

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

*III John 1:4*

I think that every Christian mother can attest to this verse. How thankful this writer is that I had such a mother that sent countless prayers on my behalf and had such love for me that she could one day experience that joy. My prayer as a mother is that I, too, may experience the same joy one day.

As Mother's Day approaches, we thank Christian mothers everywhere for their endless love and prayers.

On the weekend of March 25-26, we were fortunate to have Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Galen Rokey here in Kiowa to serve us Communion. The following day they shared the Memorandum with us.

#### **KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder**

We assembled together to partake of Holy Communion Saturday evening, April 8, and to remember our dear Lord's death and suffering. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) who assisted our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi. Also, we were blessed on Sunday with Elder Bro. Wendell proclaiming the Word of Life to us.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have recently been hospitalized. Bro. Rudy Bahr (Sis. Eileen) was a surgical patient and Glenn Kraft (Faye) was in a convalescence center taking radiation

treatments for brain cancer, spent time in the Coffey County Hospital, and is at home at this time. Also, little Layke Edelman (Bro. Victor and Sis. Hope) was going up three steps on a slippery slide and fell backwards onto the concrete causing a two-inch gash to the back of his head. He was airlifted to Wesley Hospital in Wichita with an apparent skull fracture. We thank the Lord there was no skull fracture and that it wasn't as serious as first thought.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch are rejoicing in the arrival of their first grandchild. Bryce William Emch was born April 19 to Brent and Life Emch (Emmetsburg, IA). Maternal grandparents are Wayne and Judy Callen (Madison, KS). Also, Graham David was born March 10 to David and Barbara (Wernli) Huddleston. Graham David has two older sisters, Katie and Darby. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Betty Wernli.

Our sympathy is extended to the Clarence Fankhauser family. Clarence died at the Madison Manor April 19. He was the son of the late ministering Bro. Pete Fankhauser.

As Mother's Day is celebrated, let us remember our mothers. Many of us were blessed with a dear mother who taught us, from a small child, the ways of the Lord. May the Lord bless each one.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates this year. Graduating from 8th grade are Kendon Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie) and Angela Zimmerman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara); and graduating from high school are Tonya Edelman (Bro. Albert and Sis. Mara Jean) and Jacob Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri).

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Brenda Grimm**

**Mary Kay Wenger**

On March 18-19 we hosted In-

vite-A-Friend weekend and experienced a blessed weekend with those who came to share it with us. We were especially thankful to have among us ministering Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) and thank him for his labor in God's service.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). We are thankful for the blessings brought forth as they shared the Word with us. They were present to help celebrate Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer's 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless them in the coming years as He certainly has in the past.

We extend our congratulations and God's blessings to Lance Meyer and Amy Bozeman, both from Georgia, as they have announced their engagement. Lance is the son of Sis. Susan Meyer.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Andy Lehmann whose sister, Golda Kipfer, died March 23; and to Sis. Peggy Strahm who lost her father, Herman Beckham, April 8 in Texas. May they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit during this time of grief.

Sis. Minnie Nohl, who is living in Sabetha with her daughter, Sis. Jeanette Huber, was hospitalized this month after having a fall.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on April 15 with Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) assisting our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz. During this Easter season, may we remember our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection that gave us hope of life eternal. Let us ever be thankful for this wonderful plan of salvation.

The evening of Palm Sunday we heard the familiar story of Christ's death and resurrection expressed by our Sunday School in song and verse during the Easter program. What a delight to hear the story of salvation expressed from the lips of our youth.

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### **KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

Bro. David Marquart was our visiting minister on April 9. He and his wife, Sis. Lori (Taylor, MO), were accompanied by relatives and met by other family members in Wichita. Their family reunion helped to fill our assembly. We also had other visitors spend the day to worship with us. We at Wichita would encourage any of you to include Wichita as a stopover for worship as you travel in our area.

Bro. Philip Bowers is still undergoing treatment for his affliction. Hopefully, he can begin to mend. Those who visit Bro. Phil are impressed by his faith and cheerfulness. Continue to keep this precious soul in your prayers. Also, I need your prayers for my husband, Bro. Godfrey, as we continue to seek guidance for his care.

Mother's Day will be here before the next issue of the Silver Lining will be in our mailbox. Undoubtedly, all of us can be thankful for our Christian mothers. Where would our hope be if we had had a mother like Herodias who advised her daughter to ask for John the Baptist's head on a platter?! (Mark 6:14-29)

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### **KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**

**Glenda Neukomm**

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

*Isaiah 53:4-5*

We were able to share Communion, Sunday, April 27. This was a

blessed weekend for us as Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) led us in this holy sacrament. A group of young people from Akron, Smithville and Rittman churches also came to share this weekend with us. We enjoyed a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) joined us also, as he was carrying out some responsibilities on a work project at the Galilean Home in Liberty, KY.

We appreciate other ministering brothers which came to Lexington and ministered to our congregation this month. They were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT).

We rejoice with the Germann family (Sis. Rebecca) as a bundle from Heaven, a little girl, Katherine Ruth, was born April 13. We wish them God's richest blessings. Our love and prayers are with them.

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.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Erica Schambach

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

*I Corinthians 3:11*

This verse, expounded on in a recent Sunday morning Bible Study, was a good reminder for our congregation as we have witnessed the building process throughout the month. March brought many visitors, eager to help, and although some were on a break from school, we are thankful that they were willing to be used in various projects. We were richly blessed, not only in the sweet fellowship, but also with new benches for our Sunday School ta-

bles, a counter/cupboard space in the house, technological reinforcements and the beginnings of the foundation for the guest house.

The laying of a foundation on ground with large, scattered rocks is no simple task. However, with the help of all those who came and several of our men from here, the brunt of it is complete, and the supports are in place to start building the walls. How thankful we can be that the Foundation for our faith has already been laid! All we are required to do is lay our bricks conformed to the mortar of the Word. Have you checked lately..How level is your wall? Is it starting to go crooked, or is the mortar too watery? Or maybe the bricks have started to dry out and crumble. Build your faith on Christ, the Solid Rock! "All other ground is sinking sand".

*Meet Sis. Luz Brenes.*

Sis. Luz was born and raised in San Cristobal, a neighboring village, and married at the age of 16. She and her husband have ten children, fourteen grandchildren and, soon-to-be, three great-grandchildren. Luz first heard the Truth preached when Jose Cervantes, the son of Sis. Carmen, came from the Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church in Tecate to share the Gospel. Luz's whole family enjoyed listening to the Word of Life and its beautiful teachings and always looked forward to Jose's next visit. It wasn't until 1995, however, after the Lord sent Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan to Ixtlan, that Luz answered the call to repentance. Although Sis. Luz was raised in an idolatrous environment, her family was not opposed to her decision to surrender her life to the Lord, and her own children were very supportive. Sis. Luz was baptized on July 14, 1996, with two of her daughters, Sis. Leticia and Aurora, and three others. Sis. Luz is thankful for God's loving care for her and her children

and His uncountable blessings. She's also very grateful for the support of the American brethren and all those who have given of their time and talents to help with the Lord's work in Ixtlan.

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### MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Sandy Schutte

Resurrection morn—the day that Jesus rose in glorious triumph over the grave to seal our salvation through His supreme sacrifice at Calvary. To secure a resurrection for all; John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Let Easter not only be a time of a renewing of our own spirit, but let it also be a time of renewing of our prayers for those still outside the family of God.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

*I Timothy 2:1,3-4*

Let us be diligent in prayer that none be left behind. Let us then pray for our friends and our enemies that all may find the inner peace through Jesus Christ, so that one day in this life as well as the next all may live in harmony.

The mid-winter Conference was hosted by Alto in April and we were fortunate to have Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) stay over and share the Memorandum with us.



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

*Psalm 127:3*

Palm Sunday again brought our Easter program, and after the afternoon service the Sunday School classes shared praises in song of our Lord and His sacrifice for us.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed that Bro. Tom Shambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) came and shared the Word of Truth with us.

We are sad to say goodbye to Bro. Scott Schambach as he prepares to return to his home town of Elgin, IL; but are happy to welcome Sis. Sarah Jacobs from Bay City who has moved here and will be attending the Alto Church.

Thank the Lord that Danielle Oesch (Kenneth and Sis. Denise) is doing so well with the treatment of her illness. We continue to pray for her health.

Last week Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen told us that convert Aaron Plattner (Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen) has found peace with God. Seeing that Aaron is away at Kansas State, a summer baptism will be planned. We continue to pray for him and his new life with Christ.

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### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Rhonda Knochel**

**Peggy Jackson**

What a thrill it is to finally see the promise of spring; the flowers beginning to bloom and the birds building nests. New life is always such an excitement and is even more wonderful to contemplate over Easter time as we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord. And although Easter will have come and gone before this article is printed, we can still rejoice in the new life that Jesus has provided for those who will, by faith, turn to Him. In His death and resurrection we have life.

It is also a special blessing when

new life is a new human life. We were very pleased to hear of the birth of Merrit Elizabeth Schrock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer, Detroit, MI). Merrit was welcomed home by a big sister, Navy, and her loving and happy grandparents, Sis. Sharon Schlatter and Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Washington, IL). It is our prayer that Merrit will be a blessing and inspiration to all who know her.

We are very excited to welcome a new family to our congregation. Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Szabo and their children moved to the Bay City area from Bluffton, IN. We are thankful that God has seen fit to bless us with their presence in our church and pray that they will feel welcome and at home.

We were very privileged to have heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Sis. Anna Marie Bishop (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger). What a testimony of God's faithfulness and love and how encouraging it was for all who were there. We sincerely pray that Anna Marie will feel God's nearness in the days ahead and that she will continue to feel the love of the church as well.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who experienced the frailty of the body in this month. They are: Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Winsor), Bro. Eugene Meylan (Sis. Carol), Sharell Foco (Dave) and Rebekah Ruegsegger (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Maria). May they continue to feel God's healing hand and His nearness in the coming days.

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

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### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Delores Sauder

We had the privilege to be renewed in heart and mind when we partook of Holy Communion on

April 8. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN). We thank God for these willing servants.

Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) ministered to us from God's Holy Word. We appreciated each one who visits our little congregation.

The Sunday School children eagerly brought forth the Easter story on April 9. We thank the Sunday School teachers for their efforts in teaching the youth.

We are thankful God spared Sis. Jan Schmidt (Darrin) from serious injuries when she was involved in a car accident.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Diane Kellenberger**

**Cheryl Messner**

Four dear souls shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized on March 18-19. We welcome Bro. David Messner, Sis. Fonda Koehl and Sisters Michelle and Barbara Feuchtenberger into our precious fold. Parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner, Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) were here to assist Bro. Art in this important work. Holy Communion was served Sunday evening.

Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fair-bury, IL) and our Elder Bro. Art read and expounded on the Memorandum. We always benefit from these exhortations to live a more obedient life in Christ.

Other visiting ministers included Bros. Dale Wulf and Wes Moser (both from Lester, IA), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill Steiner were blessed with their third child, Tess Marie. Other children are Andrew

and Leah. Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont, IL) are the happy grandparents.

We rejoice with a dear couple as their engagement has been announced. Bro. Jon Nohl and Sis. Sally Fehr (West Bend, IA) plan to be married on June 4. May God help their love for Him and for one another to increase. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl.

After a lengthy illness, Laverna Heil, age 91, was called from this life on April 5. We are so thankful our merciful Lord granted her grace unto repentance shortly before her death. "...with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26). We offer our sympathy to her children: Howard (Sherry) Heil, Margaret (Tom) Wolhowe, Dorothy (Dennis) Thompson, Lloyd (Evie) Heil, Chuck Heil and Vicki (Randy) Hodapp; and one stepson, Robert (Lucille) Heil, of Georgetown, TX. We also remember Laverna's sister, Neil Joos, and her brother, Bro. Noah Nohl.

We offer prayers for Sis. Marion (Bro. Chris) Moser as her father, Walfred Sanders, passed away.

Why seek with tears the Master here?

He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!  
*Hymns of Zion #45*

Our Sunday School children plan to relate the blessed Easter story in verse and song on April 19.

As Mother's Day approaches, let us appreciate and pray for our beloved mothers.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

*Proverbs 31:27-28*

Hospital patients have been Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf. That God would grant comfort and healing to these dear souls is our sincerest prayer.

Our Heavenly Father continues to provide for our congregation as Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn) has been called upon to minister the Word. We support Bro. Paul and his family with our loving prayers.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks to each of you who remembered us when Dad, Walfred Sanders, was in the hospital, nursing home and after his passing. Your prayers, deeds of kindness, love, support, and the many cards and memorials were all very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Chris and Sis. Marion Moser and family*

We extend our sincere and humble thanks to everyone for the cards, gifts and words of encouragement during our illnesses. Many thanks, too, for your many prayers in our behalf. We appreciate your love and concern and we pray that God will bless you.

*Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf*

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

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

*Hebrews 13:7*

Elder Bro. Duane Farney and Sis. Karen (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) were here to help Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner in the reading of the Memorandum. The Elders also shared

Communion exhortation with our congregation. We thank them for their efforts.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. David Messner from Morris who is living with his grandparents, Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia. He has found employment near here at Mankato. Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) was a hospital patient. We are praying for God's healing in his life.

"Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

*Proverbs 31:30*

*A Mother's Love*

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...  
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...

It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,

And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...

It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation, and it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...

A many-splendored miracle man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

—Helen Steiner Rice

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Komari Neal**

There's a tie of noble kinship,  
 In a soul who loves the Lord  
 There's a friendship warm and  
 lasting,  
 If he heeds the Master's Word  
 There is mutual understanding,  
 And a sympathy so kind  
 In the tie of Christian friendship,  
 As on earth we oft times find.

*Hymns of Zion #91*

What a joy it is to see visiting brothers and sisters! What a blessing to be able to travel so freely in our land! Our Kansas City congregation is often blessed with visiting brothers, sisters and friends; this past month was no exception.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors when visiting our congregation. We also had a special Sunday when Brad and Sis. LuAnn Gramm brought their young family back to Kansas City to visit. Those who knew the Gramms when they lived in our area were able to renew their ties of friendship and remember fond memories. There are many others, too numerous to mention, who also visited with our congregation and each one is cherished and always welcome.

On April 15, we had a good turnout for our spring workday at the church. The sisters gave the inside of the church a healthy "deep-cleaning" and the brothers gave the outside of the church an attractive "grooming". We also had a perfect cool day and we thank the Lord for providing it.

As much as our church building experienced revitalization, the spring season brings a beautiful rebirth of the trees, flowers, and plants. This is an exciting time as the days become warmer and God's cre-

ation blooms and regenerates. How fitting it is that we remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, during this time of year. As we enjoy the beautiful gifts of the spring season, let us be thankful to God for the most precious gift we could ever receive. Let us thank God for the gift of His Son and His sacrificed body and blood upon the cross of Calvary!

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristi Huber  
 Kristen Braker**

Our congregation has recently experienced a blessing in partaking of Holy Communion. We are thankful Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) traveled to the Lamar area to assist in this service. Also laboring on our behalf this past month were ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), William Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). May the Lord bless them each one.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker welcomed home a precious little son, Doug Allen, born March 21. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman (Eureka, IL).

Sis. Alice Marti underwent surgery this past month. Bro. William Stefan, Sr. was also hospitalized. We are thankful they are recovering and pray the Lord will continue to provide for them.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Rachel Schrock**

In a recent sermon we heard, "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days..." (Acts 13:41). This admonishes those of us who are wondering about God's will in our lives to make sure that our hearts are open to His leading. For if we are wondering,

God is answering, and if we are despising His answer, we will perish as long as we do not accept what He is saying to us. Thankfully, God is patient and often will repeat His answer to us.

We would like to thank our visiting ministering brethren for being messengers of God's Word and will to us this past month. We have been blessed to have Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL). May God bless them for laboring on our behalf.

We would also like to extend blessings upon our Sis. Mary Kellenberger (Bro. Orlan) who underwent surgery this past month. May God grant her a speedy recovery.

Finally, as spring creeps across the land, may we each one find time to stop and enjoy God's handiwork.

Who dots the vale with flowers  
 which bloom so bright and fair?  
 Who gives the rose its fragrance,  
 the lilies odors rare?

This is a weighty question  
 wherever man may trod.

Some people say it's nature,  
 but I will call it God.

—Bro. Henry Beer

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Peg Haerr**

The weekend of March 25-26 was a blessing to many as several attended the 25 and older fellowship weekend. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) for being used in His service.

Traveling all the way to Cissna

Park for ACYF on April 2 was a nice time of fellowship for several from the Bible Class. Oh, that these friendships may continue!

We came together on April 5 to remember the death of our Lord with our Communion service. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) for being with us and assisting Bro. Roy.

Our teens put on a lovely pancake breakfast on April 15. It was worth the effort, both for those that helped, and those of us that just got to enjoy!

Recounting the story of our Lord and Saviour's betrayal in the garden, death on the cross, and glorious victory over the grave was the theme of the Easter Program put on by our Sunday School children on April 16. It was a beautiful afternoon!

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital recently: Bro. Lyle Pflum (Sis. Marian), Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris) and Matthew, the little foster baby of Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

"Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."

*John 19:11*

In a few weeks it will be Easter when Jesus arose from the grave. We should remember what Easter is all about.

The children will soon have their Easter program and they will tell us all about what the teachers have taught them about Jesus' death on the cross.

We had sisters and brothers from Rockville, CT, and Ohio on March 18-19 and had a potluck supper and singing after.

On April 9, we had visiting sisters and brothers from Rockville, CT.

Sis. Norene E. Virkler is entering the hospital in Syracuse for surgery.

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### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that two more precious souls were added to be children of God. Mara Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) and Andy Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) gave testimonies of their faith in our Lord Jesus on Saturday, April 8, and were baptized on Sunday, April 9. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) assisted our Elder Bro. Gene Pamer for the occasion and we were inspired with Bro. Art's messages in ministering on that weekend.

We enjoyed all our visitors that came from various of our churches for our Guest Invitation Weekend March 25-26. Included in our guests, and ministering inspiring messages to us, were Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

Congratulations go to our graduates: Bro. and Sis. Greg Henico's daughter, Sis. Mara; and Bro. and Sis. Don Steidl's son, Mark, graduates from high school, and their son, Bro. Andy, graduates from Akron University with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Sis. Carol Gasser was hospitalized. We are thankful she has been released and we wish for her a good recovery.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Anita Steiner

How quickly time seems to fly by. The world around us changes so quickly. How blessed we are to have God's unchanging Word as a Solid Rock to stand on and a place to worship Him with others of like mind and faith.

On March 8, we enjoyed a potluck, singing, and fellowship with brothers and sisters from Forrest, IL. We would especially like to thank Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) for ministering God's Word unto us, and would like to thank each one who made the effort to come and visit us.

Also visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH). May God bless these brothers who humbly stand before us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Will Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) as he will be leaving to go to the Army Reserves in Texas. May the Lord protect and watch over him.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Several from our congregation spent time in the hospital this past month including: Sis. Julia Hale (Bro. Maburn), Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben) and Travis Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie). We are thankful God's healing hand has touched each one; may you all gain strength day by day.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz. Their granddaughter, Alicia Rose (Joe and Chris), was suddenly taken from this life and into all eternity.

I am not skill'd to understand  
What God hath will'd, what God  
hath plann'd;  
I only know at His right hand  
Is One who is my Saviour!  
*Gospel Hymns #510*

What a blessed privilege it was to have many visiting ministers bring us His good and holy Word: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and



Bros. Dwight Stoller, Todd Stoller (both from Latty, OH), and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). May God continue to be with you each one and bless you as you continue to bring forth His Word.

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**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Heidi Hackenjös**  
**Kathy Sinn**

Spring has returned to the Midwest and with it our loved ones have returned home from the South. It is good to see their dear faces once more and church does not seem so empty.

Visiting on our pulpit this past month were Bros. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). May the Lord bless these brothers for sharing the Word with us.

The past month our congregation held a ground breaking ceremony for the apartments located to the west of our church. Each minister turned the soil with a shovel and a prayer was said asking God to bless this project. The Apostolic County Villas will be an independent living facility with 10 units.

Two hearts were united in marriage this past month. May the Lord watch over Bro. Brad Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and Sis. Kim Sauder (Bro. Rich and Sis. Evelyn, Tremont, IL). We welcome Sis. Kim as she makes her home in Latty.

Cody Stoller (Sis. Irma) and Kara Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) are planning an August wedding. May they look to the Lord for guidance as they make plans for their future.

Not very many couples get to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary so we are very happy for Joe and Sis. Elsie Schlatter. As they continue in life, may the Lord's hand of blessing be upon them.

Our congregation bid good-bye to Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner. We are thankful for the time they spent in the Latty congregation. We enjoyed getting to know their children, Jacob and Isabelle. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they return to the Rittman area where they are originally from.

We have many to pray for, including those who have had afflictions of the body. Those in need of healing and spending time in the hospital are Sis. Elizabeth Wieland, Sis. Clara Sinn, Bro. Kevin Wenninger (Sis. Della), Bonnie Evans (Tom), Bro. Dick Schlatter (Sis. Viola) and Sis. Viola (Bro. Dick).

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**John and Marci Pfeiffer**

We remember and pray for souls who have been hospitalized recently. The Lord has created us and He can also fix us. We are glad our Sis. Miriam Bird (Bro. Bob) and our Bro. Joel Beer (Sis. Sue) are recovering from surgery.

On March 18, a precious son was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel. Hallie and Leanna now have a little brother, Dominic Elijah.

Thankful grandparents are Jim and Barbara Somers and Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH). May God's blessings be upon Bro. Bill and his family. May the Lord strengthen all the messengers of His Holy Word.

Bro. Mike Baumann Jr. (Sis. Lilly) is our new assistant Sunday School Superintendent. May God grant him the needed grace to fulfill this duty. We appreciate and thank Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy) for his past service as assistant Superintendent.

We ask our Father in Heaven to comfort Bro. Clair Keever (Sis. Bev) and family in the passing of his fa-

ther, Monte Keever.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine thro' the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee!  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

*Hymns of Zion #110*

On April 16, our Sunday School students sang and told us of a Saviour—One who was crucified for our sins—One who arose and is interceding for us.

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.  
Our ransom now is paid.  
The Son is victor over death,  
Whoe'er believes is saved.

*Hymns of Zion #257*

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Beth Beery**  
**Lynda Beery**

We were blessed to be able to sit together in love and unity and partake of Holy Communion on March 18. Visiting Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in this sacred work. Elder Bro. Ken also shared the precious Word on Sunday. We thank them and our Heavenly Father for their labors of love.

On March 19, the wedding engagement of Sis. Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) to Bro. Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella, Smithville) was made known. As they have trusted our Heavenly Father to lead them in this important step, may they continue to trust Him as they prepare for their wedding day and for a marriage in faith.

Bro. Marc Beer (Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Jodi Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) were united in marriage on April 2. We wish them God's richest blessings in their walk together. We were blessed with many visitors that weekend, including Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and ministering Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). May God add His increase to the Word of life which was read and meditated upon.

On April 19, we also enjoyed visitors from several congregations, including ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). We are thankful for all of our ministering brothers who "preach the Word", are "instant in season, out of season", who "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine." (II Timothy 4:2).

Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion) and Sis. Joann Christian (Bro. Ron) have been hospital patients during the past month. We trust our Heavenly Father to be near and comfort all of His children who must suffer in any way.

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### OHIO, SARDIS

**Angie Figel**

Our annual worship service to be held at the church in New Martinsville, WV, is scheduled this year for June 24-25. All are invited and please feel welcome to attend!

If there are any questions, please contact Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle at (740) 483-1593.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy Has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you.  
Mary, did you know that your  
baby boy  
Will give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your  
baby boy  
Would calm a storm with his  
hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little  
baby  
You've kissed the face of God?  
—Mark Alan Lowry

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller  
Ruth Gasser**

I now have found the firm foundation  
Where evermore my anchor  
grounds!  
It lay there ere the world's creation,  
Where else, but in my Saviour's  
wounds?  
Foundation, which unmoved  
shall stay,  
When earth and heaven pass  
away.  
*Zion's Harp #221*

With joy we witnessed the rebirth of three souls who have established their faith on the firm foundation of the Lord Jesus. Our new Sisters in Faith are Amber Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane), Arlene Troyer, and Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue). May they continue to build on this foundation as they grow in faith. We thank the brothers who shared the Word that day and assisted with the labors: Elder Bros. Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH); and Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH).

We appreciated the service of Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) on another Sunday. Although our ministers have the charge to preach the Word "in season and out of season", we as a congregation have the responsibility to hold them up in prayer.

As springtime brings new life to the cold, barren fields, we observe with thankfulness fruit emerge from the seeds of truth. Ron Marty (Tammy) has answered the Lord's call and has begun the pathway to eternal blessings. We pray that he might find overcoming grace, and true peace in due time. This is the wish for all of our converts.

Bro. Tom Stoller (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella) and Sis. Gretchen Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy, Rittman, OH) have felt the Lord's leading to become one in the Lord. Their engagement was announced to the church on March 19. May they feel the Lord's direction as they prepare for life together.

Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave) has submitted to surgery and we hope she continues to experience healing.

Bethany Lyn has come to bless the home of Adam and Marcia Martin on April 16. She has a brother, Tristin, and grandparents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Steiner, to welcome her. We pray that the Lord would lay His hand of blessing on this little family, as He blessed the little children when He walked this earth.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard  
Edie Fetter**

We were privileged once again to share in Christian fellowship with visitors. We appreciated the service of Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) on a recent weekend. May God bless those who speak His Word, and help those of us who hear to be obedient.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

### Louisa Gallup

We had our annual business meeting several Sundays ago. Bro. Denny Martin finished his term as Head Trustee. Our thanks to him for his efforts and willingness to serve. Bro. Denny remains our Treasurer and is much appreciated for this as well. Bro. Ray Moser is now Head Trustee. Bro. Mark Gallup remains Trustee and Bro. John Kinsinger was put in to serve as newly appointed Trustee. We thank these brethren for their efforts and may the Lord guide and direct them as they give of themselves for the benefit of our congregation. In a very small congregation like ours, one is likely to always have one or two positions and usually for quite a number of years. However, because of the small size of the congregation, this is not such a heavy burden. Everyone is needed and appreciated so much. May we all continue to be a blessing to each other as we journey on together.

Sis. Ginny Cooper (Bro. Ray) and Bro. John Kinsinger (Sis. Wanda) both had surgery this past month. They have been in our prayers and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

We enjoyed and appreciated our visitors and thank Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Word for mid-week services recently.

May everyone have a blessed Easter!

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

April is always such a pretty time of year with so many flowers, shrubs and trees in bloom. Even the trees not in bloom are filled with the light green of the new buds of life.

Our Sunday School students

again brought the beautiful and so important story of Christ's triumphant victory over death and grave. Nearly 90 were in the program held on Palm Sunday night, carefully and joyfully reciting their pieces, singing their songs and reading the Easter story from the Bible for us. The efforts of the students, their teachers and their parents is really appreciated by the congregation privileged to sit and listen.

Other signs of new life this spring are two new grandchildren for our Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz. Born April 6, was Josiah James to Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura Metz. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth Metzger (Lester, IA). Then on April 17, Bro. Christopher and Sis. Amy Menold (Bern, KS) were blessed with the arrival of little Sonja Marie. Paternal grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold (Bern). Both sets of parents are "first-time" parents, observing with wonder the joy and the awesome responsibility that these little ones bring. We pray they will ever look to our Lord for the guidance, encouragement and understanding that they will need for this very important work that He has given them.

Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis) and Becky Von Flue (Dan) were both hospitalized with serious conditions this past month. With thanks and hope, we note at this writing that both are showing improvement but still are very much in need of our prayers and encouragement.

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## PENNSYLVANIA

### PHILADELPHIA

#### Nathan Gasser

We were blessed this month to witness another miracle wrought by our God in the life of one dear soul. We welcomed Bro. Travis Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) into our congregation as we witnessed his testi-

mony and baptism. We rejoice with his family as we give praise to God for calling one more soul into that heavenly fold. We were very thankful to have our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, as well as many other visitors here for that weekend.

Although just beginning his walk with the Lord, Bro. Travis has already learned that daily prayer and reading of the Word are essential if we desire to follow God's will; indeed, His grace alone makes it possible. May we continually learn from the examples both of those who've walked with the Lord for many years, and those in whom the work of the Holy Spirit has just begun.

We enjoyed a day of spring cleaning this month as we labored inside and outside of our church building in the care of the Lord's house. May we remember that even more, the Lord desires to dwell in the hearts of His children, and may we ever strive to make Him welcome there.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

This past month, we were privileged to enjoy and be encouraged by the ministry of Bros. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sarah, Bloomington, IL). We are truly blessed to be strengthened from God's Word, brought to us by loving brethren from across the land. Throughout the month, we also enjoyed fellowship with many visitors from Cissna Park, Fairbury, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Francesville, and LaCrosse, IN; and Junction and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We enjoy the opportunity to worship and fellowship together. We have visiting ministers scheduled on the first and third Sun-

days of each month, and tape services on the other Sundays. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Chicago, IL (May 21); Forrest, IL (May 28), Francesville, IN (June 4), Junction, OH (June 18), Princeville, IL (July 2), Taylor, MO (July 16). 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 mentioned 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.

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**TEXAS, CENTRAL**  
Dan and Pam Sauder

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us this month were Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Lee Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO).

We found a blessing in coming together for Holy Communion on April 2. Brothers who shared this special occasion with us were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Bro. Lee Plattner.

Our June schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers include: the 4th at Austin (Sabetha, KS); 11th at Austin (Bloomington, IL); 18th at San Antonio (Altadena, CA) and 25th at Bro. Bill Zeltwanger's home in Round Top (Roanoke, IL).

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.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**

### **Viola Perdelwitz Melva Messner**

"He is risen!" There probably is not another sentence that holds so much power that can bring peace to the heart of man. How heavy that cross must have been for Jesus knowing what was ahead of Him! Hopefully our hearts and minds can be renewed to serve God more faithfully. Because of Jesus' obedience, we "freely" have access to God's throne. I remember hearing a minister saying it is much easier for our shepherds to shepherd willing sheep. Let us be willing sheep.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS). We thank them for bringing forth God's Word.

Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more happy years with God's blessings.





*Sermon continued from page 2*

deceived us in such a way.

May we have the faith to believe that God's Word is true, that we worship in a faith in which the truth is spoken and that we don't turn a page because it might bring self-condemnation, but we read and bring it forth, not taking any credit. No brother speaking from the pulpit would take credit for what they read or what they might preach. It is what God gives. It is the power of salvation.

It is interesting to me how often the word power is used in the Apostle's writing regarding how God brings the Spirit. Yet, if we see Paul's description of himself, we would think nothing about power, would we? He was contemptible of speech, apparently weak in physical body, but that wasn't the measure. The measure was the Spirit within him.

When we think of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, we are reminded here how He was seen by many people. When we think of the Word of God as being truth, it takes faith to believe that, doesn't it? We think of faith. We did not see the Lord and Saviour, but there are eye witness accounts in the Scripture of what happened in those times. No, not every second is recorded, not every minute, but enough for us to understand and enough for us to learn.

So may we be encouraged that God has preserved this Word for us. When we think of faith, what do we think of? Is it something unknown? No. Our faith does not represent something unknown to us. There are some things that we don't understand, but it rather presents things that are unseen, things that we are still hoping for, and things that we desire. May we be encouraged of the story of the reminder of the resurrection. See how the Apostle was bringing back the simple straight-forward issues

to the people. They were struggling with this. How does one become resurrected? We remember that there were those who struggled with the concept of how does one become born again?

Resurrection. There was a witness to Christ's resurrection. He was victorious over the tomb and the grave where He lay. God brought Him out of that! Do we take it for granted? Are we like some in the Corinthian church struggling with the very basic tenants of the gospel of salvation? How Jesus died for our sins? How He shed His blood? Has Satan somehow diminished this miracle?

There is an event in my life that comes to my mind and I hope I am not out of place sharing it. Some of you know that I wasn't raised in our church and I remember in Sunday school one time, probably about the sixth or seventh grade, it was Easter. The Sunday school teacher was telling us a story about Jesus hanging on the cross. He told about the nails being pounded into His hands and His feet and how He hung there.

Then he explained to us how He didn't really feel any pain because God was such a merciful God that He took the pain away! We sat there in awe as young kids do and thought about that, how it was just so evident how merciful He was. I do not believe that Sunday school teacher had any malice of intent, but I do believe now looking back that he was a product of Satan's deception.

Because you see, the true gospel message wasn't really preached. The truth, even the simplicity of hanging on the cross and suffering, wasn't known! Are you thankful that you know that His blood was shed for the sins of mankind? It covered your sins and mine! Christ really felt the pain on the cross and the agony. Are we

thankful enough for the simple gospel message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified? Think about it. What if you thought Jesus Christ hung on the cross and did not suffer?

How would you ever know about repentance? Why would you ever want to give up the things of this life? Because God is a loving God. He is merciful. He will take all this judgment stuff away from us because He loves us too much.

The Word of God can be watered down. It can be portrayed in the life in which it flexes us from the path of salvation. May we never take for granted the simple truth of Jesus Christ on the cross, and that separation He felt as the sin of mankind weighed so heavily down upon Him, and how He spoke out in agony to His God.

Notice what the relationship was there on the cross. When Jesus said, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" He was not talking, "My Father, Father, where are You?" It was at that point, "My God!" The reverence, the relationship between the Creator and the Created. Christ for the first time knew what it would be like not to live in the heavenly realms. That is the Saviour that we worship, the One that felt our pain. The vicarious Saviour Who was substituted on the cross not because we really deserve it, but He paid the price for us.

So is the preaching of the cross to you, dear ones, foolishness? Has Satan come to you in such a way that, "Oh, my life is so full. So many things are going my way. I don't really have to change." Maybe you would never say anything to anyone about the Bible being foolish, but what are your actions speaking? Or lack of actions? Are you really saying, "Jesus, you did not do quite enough

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

for me, that that death on the cross, the shedding of your blood, the separation from God, the pain, the suffering that you felt, that is not enough because what I am enjoying in life right now is too good to give up."

Think of Gideon. He had some challenges. I think about that time where he took that bullock and got his ten men together and he went and tore down the altar. Whose altar was that? It was Baal's but where apparently was it? It must have been in his father's area. I don't know quite how to describe it, but it was his father's. His father was responsible for it. Now think about that. It is natural for us to have earthly respect to our fathers, isn't it? We don't like to go up against our father.

But God told Gideon to go forth. He tore down the altar of Baal, that was his father's. I wonder what must have been going through his mind. Satan was just as present in that day as he is today. I wonder of the struggles that Gideon might have had or what will father think. What will the men, his friends, think? I wonder if this will cause some kind of a problem for our family. I believe Gideon would have had human thoughts like all of us might.

But he didn't let it stop him. He knew what God's will was for him, and he carried it out. It looks as if his father must have mellowed from the comments that he made. It could have been a mountain in Gideon's eyes, but he had the faith to believe that God would move it for him.

I wonder what it is that is standing in the way of our friends from repentance. Maybe it is their father, maybe it is their friend, maybe it is their husband or their wife. "I could never do it because what would they think. We will never have the same relationship

again. I just can't do it."

If Gideon would not have accepted the simple direction to tear down the altar, would the people of Israel ever have been saved? God is calling you, dear souls, and whatever it is that is holding you back from making that decision, is holding you back from salvation. Now it may not be as clear as the angel that stood as face to face before Gideon, but God still talks to us today through His Spirit. Not like you hear words being spoken this morning, but the direction of His Spirit is still clear and plain.

He calls to us and beckons because He loves us. You might say, "Well, God probably doesn't have a place for me." That is not true. The Scripture tells us that God desires everyone to turn to Him in repentance. Everyone! That means you, and that meant me. Aren't we thankful that we have such a loving God who desires for us to live with Him in Heaven?

We think of the example of the Apostle Paul. Doesn't that three-word phrase, "I die daily" give us some encouragement? Jesus Christ told us, "Take up your cross, and follow after Me." He made some promises about lightening our load along the way, didn't He? Do we think of each day as a spiritual challenge? Or do we let one day run into another before the week is gone, the month is gone or a year gone. Sometimes we hear the expression, "Time flies." It is really true.

What is the Apostle encouraging? What is this dying daily? When we awake in the morning, what has God created us for? He created us for His use and for His purpose; not for our own. So are we asking ourselves when we get on our knees and pray in the morning as we start our new day, "God, what is Your purpose for me today?" Then each day, die daily.

What does that really mean? Sacrifice and take up the cross whatever it might be every day for God. Do not neglect it.

Are we looking for opportunities in our life to serve Him big or little? We don't all have the situation of Gideon where He is asking us to do some great work. It might be something tiny. When you walked through the doors of the church this morning, when you met that first brother or sister, did you have a warm greeting? A smile on your lips? Was the joy of Jesus Christ apparent in your life? When you met that ministering brother, did you encourage him that he had the opportunity to stand and preach the Word and that you would be praying for him? It is not a big thing, but is it important?

When that temptation comes to you today, have you already prepared yourself in your mind whatever it might be to pull it back? Or are you just kind of going along and take what is coming? The Apostle Paul did not. He died every day sacrificing his self for Jesus Christ.

May we be encouraged as we read the Scripture as it comes to us in whatever way it comes. It is the Living Word! It comes in the way we need it, and it may be different for one than another. But are we sharing the same attitude as the Apostle that we are willing to give up whatever we can every day of our life to serve the Lord our Saviour and our Father in Heaven?



## 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/June 2, '00	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	May 25/June 2, '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

### Opportunity for Disaster Work Project Coordinator

The USA Board has a need for a Disaster Work Project Coordinator volunteer for a building program in Camilla, GA. Construction knowledge and supervision experience are needful. A commitment of several continuous weeks is desired. Agreements have been made to construct four homes, with three bedrooms, built slab-on-grade. Current estimated starting date is June 1, 2000. Please send information to Bro. Arnold Gerst, 1107 Madonna Drive, Quincy, IL 62301, phone 217-223-8424, or fax 217-223-0116.

### Silver Threads

#### Spring Cleaning

A leper came to Jesus, and got down on his knees...

He said, "Lord, you can make me clean and if you would, then please..."

The Lord said, "I am willing," and healed him...to show...

His purpose is to make us clean that healing we could know.

We wash our clothes and wash our cars, our houses and our dishes...

But think about a clean heart as among some lofty wishes...

The things we know we need to change we often push away...

Thinking, well I ought to change but I am just that way.

No time to change our goals..to more eternal view...

Too busy doing all things we think we need to do...

No time to clean out corners of a heart where pride has crept...

No time for dealing with a mind that's needing to be swept.

For sometimes when the job looks big, we forget it's true...

The cleaning is not yours or mine, but Jesus' work to do...

And if we pray He'd enter in and on His mercy lean...

He surely will be willing...to speak and make us clean.

*Written by a sister-in-faith*

### USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764

### Gateway Woods Auction

Saturday, August 19, 2000

### 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.



### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Gateway Woods offers two \$2,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by writing or calling Janel Ramseyer at 219-627-2159. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 30, 2000.

### - NOTICE -

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

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DISTRIBUTE THEM.**

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

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

### Director of Operations (formerly Assistant Administrator)

Position available Feb/May 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





## 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.

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## 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.

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### German to English

One of the major changes in the Apostolic Christian Church—67 years after its entrance into the United States—was the change in worship and Scripture language from German to English.

Today that might seem minor, but it was not so when it occurred, during the time of World War I and a few years subsequently.

It must be remembered that the church membership at that time was mostly steeped in the German culture. By 1914-1918, a significant percentage of the brethren were third generation Americans and were still speaking German. It's not as if they were solely first generation immigrants in transition from German to English.

In fact, just prior to World War I, there was a bill before Congress to make German the national language. Because of the large influx of German immigrants during the preceding 50 years, the bill stood a good chance of passage. When war broke out with Germany, however, the proposed legislation was doomed and English was retained.

Church leaders, with a sense of practicality and reality, decided there was little point in holding to the German language. Future generations would not benefit by using German in church and English in the culture.

So a directive was given that the churches should move as quickly as possible to the English language.

Social pressure was also a factor

hastening the change to English. During the time of World War I, citizens at Pulaski, IA, placed an American flag on the church that hung horizontally from the building. Then they watched to see if the brethren would walk under it (proving loyalty), or around it (proving disloyalty). The brothers and sisters walked under it. (So intimidated were the brethren that no one removed the flag for 10-12 years thereafter).

Likewise, at Gridley, IL, the local citizenry was resentful about our brethren using the German language. One Saturday night, local ruffians scrawled on the church (in yellow paint) the message, "No More German."

This was a startling occurrence. When the brethren came to church the next morning, they were saddened and made fearful. This hastened the use of the English language.

Instituting the English language in the churches was easier said than done. There were two obstacles. First, many brethren felt the Scriptures were "a little richer" in German (versus English). The change was difficult for them. Second, at many congregations, it was difficult to find brothers who could preach in English. This resulted in many younger brothers who were placed in the ministry. Bro. Noah Schrock was an example of this trend.

The evolution to English was slow. The German language was not totally extricated until mid-century.

Sometimes an English sermon would be preached followed by a German one. This was for the benefit of older grandfathers and grandmothers who understood German better than English.

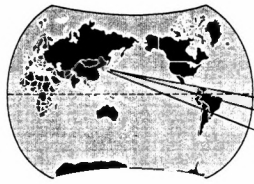
At the outset of the language transition, there were some who were strongly resistant. To them, the German language was nearly sacred. They could not go along with English. This, along with an unmovable sense of what constituted the "narrow way" resulted in about 10% of the membership leaving to form the German Apostolic Christian Church. This was a sad time for the church. It was known as the "second split" or the "thirty-year split" (because it occurred approximately thirty years after the first split).

The German Apostolic Christian Church suffered a split in 1955, when people left to form the Christian Apostolic Church, with new congregations in Forrest, IL; Silverton, OR; and Sabetha, KS. Today, several offspring from the Christian Apostolic Church have become members in our church.

The lesson from division? Let us be humble, likeminded, and obedient to the Godly authority over us. If we have the true Spirit of Christ, the enemy can never divide us.

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

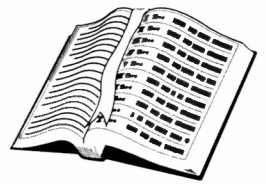
**Next Issue:**  
Servicemen in World War II



# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “ONLY LOVE”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

During our early years in Japan, it was explained to me, in regard to leadership in the church, that only love, is not enough. It is true that the Bible instructs church leaders to, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (II Timothy 4:2). Therefore, I must agree that only love is not enough.

I keep thinking about this. It is also true that love is quite important. In I John 4:8 we read, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” Perhaps the question is not “Do we love?” but “How much do we love?” Maybe reproving, rebuking and exhorting is an indication of love, if it is done in a kind manner. Surely no leader should put himself above those he is trying to lead. Leaders are not necessarily better than those they lead, but they do have more responsibility.

Only love, is not enough. That’s probably true also for mothers. They may love their children very

much but letting them run wild is not exactly the way love should be expressed. Thank you, mothers, for your love and your guidance.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, it is written, “When he saw him, he had compassion on him.” To have compassion is to love someone who is in difficulty. The good Samaritan didn’t say, “I love him very much but I don’t have time for him.” He took the time to help him. In this sense, also, only love, is not enough.

In the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, if He had only loved us and had refused to die for us, we would still be in our sins, in our lost condition. Only love, is not enough.

Now let us suppose that leaders admonish those they are trying to lead, that they take time to help them, and that they die to self in their effort to help them, but that they have a stern face and are somewhat arrogant. Now then, we have a problem. I keep thinking that both mothers and leaders in the church, should at the very

least, have love which shows in the tone of their voice and the look on their face. Only love, is not enough, but without it, nothing else is any good either.

Only love, is not enough, but how everyone in the world wants to be loved! If no one loves us or respects us, we will surely become ill. Our capacity to work is greatly decreased and we become discouraged. Only love, is not enough but without it we are sunk. It doesn’t cost anything for us to love and respect each other, but it is medicine for our bodies and our souls. Criticism is counter productive. Loving exhortation, OK, but not criticism. I’m using the word criticism, in the sense of belittling someone else. The Bible must be used as we try to figure out what should be allowed and what shouldn’t be allowed. Therefore, only love, without the Bible, is not enough, but at the very least we must have overflowing love in our hearts, which shows in the tone of our voice.

## 希望の光



*... The Lord is Almighty and powerful; able to create mountains by His Word and with mercy and love He doth gently lead the butterfly to spread the pollen of the flower.*

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