

The Silver Lining



Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation.

February 2001

“DO YOU HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST?”

Sermon by Bro. Ed Strahm, Elgin, IL

Leviticus 22 and Philippians 2

So Paul here in writing to the Philippians, starts out and says that the Philippians should, “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.” Philippians 2:2. The Lord who created us all, didn’t create us all exactly the same. If we look around the room, none of us look exactly alike. If we could look into our minds, none of us think exactly the same thoughts, but here he tells us to be likeminded. So what does that mean? Does that mean we should all have exactly the same desires in life and that we should all be going exactly the same places and doing exactly the same things? I don’t believe so.

But there is that one decision that, without question, we need to be likeminded. That is the question that each of us need to address as individuals. Are you going to serve the Lord in your life? Am I going to serve the Lord in my life? That is a question that without any reservations, we should all really answer today whether we are going to have the mind of Christ and make that decision to serve Him. We should all be likeminded in that without question.

We should all be striving as we sing in that hymn, “Striving to keep the Lord in our hearts every day.” If we do that, if we strive every day to keep the Lord in our hearts, we are going to have the mind of Christ.

In this chapter, it goes on and talks about the mind that Christ had. We think about the Lord. When He came to earth, He took on flesh, He took on a body like you and I have and yet He was separated from this life. He was always striving to be helping someone else. I think this maybe came up in the tapes at the

last Conference (I forget for sure), but it was instructing us and we think about the things we should be doing. Sometimes we think of an activity or a place to go, and we think that won’t harm me spiritually to do that or to go there.

Yet, the more relevant question to ask is not, “Will it harm us?” but “Will it help someone else?” If we can have that mind to think like that, I think we would be so much further ahead when we consider the things that we should be doing in life. Is it hurting me? That is not the question to ask. Is it helping someone else? That is the example that Christ lived. I don’t believe you can go any place in the Bible and find examples where Christ was seeking to satisfy His own flesh. He ate and drank, we can say that in a sense to satisfy His flesh, but He was always striving to help someone else. That is a guideline that you and I can use today, a very practical application that we can use in our life and in our daily activities. Are we striving to help someone else? Are we seeking to satisfy our own flesh?

This flesh is going to pass away. This flesh will cease to exist. It will turn back into dust. The Scripture is very clear on that. From dust we are and to dust we shall return, and we need to be striving to lay upon those treasures that are in heaven that will not pass away. This starts out by coming to the Lord with a broken heart. When we come broken, then the Lord can really use us and He can really give us His mind. Sometimes we think about these things and in the fleshly sense when we think about serving the Lord, just on the surface, there is not anything too attractive about that from the perspective of the flesh, because the

flesh seeks after the things that the flesh likes.

When we think about it from a spiritual perspective, when we start taking on the mind of Christ, then we can see that there really isn’t a decision at all to make. We think

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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

February 2001

Accountability II

Accountability is the requirement to give a satisfactory explanation for the actions we have committed. Although there are a variety of excuses people use to try to escape accountability, we know we are accountable to God, the Church, each other, the government, our parents and to our children. Just as we do not all have the same talents, we are not all accountable to the same degree nor do we all respond the same way to the accountability set before us.

One way of responding to the need to be accountable is to be completely submissive in all things. When Saul was struck down on the way to Damascus, after learning that God wanted him to change the belief he held, he became totally submissive. "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do" (Acts 9:6)? He obeyed the instructions he received there and followed the Lord faithfully for the remainder of his life. As he neared the end of his life, he could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). His submission to God was complete and his commitment was strong.

Unfortunately there are others who try to escape accountability by looking for the minimum level of service required for salvation. When the rich young ruler went to Jesus, he asked what he needed to do to inherit eternal life (Mt. 19:16-22). When told what he needed to do, he was sorrowful because he regarded the price as being too high.

Others try to escape accountability by remaining ignorant of God's ways. Peter uses the term "willingly ignorant" and explains the dangers of not learning the ways of God. (II Peter 3:4-12). Are we willingly ignorant of the will of God because we have chosen to absent ourselves from special services such as the reading of the memorandum, playing the conference tapes and attending provings? Do we really believe that we will be found guiltless because we chose not to hear the truth?

Finally, there are those who try to avoid accountability by altering the Word of God to make it sound like sin is no longer sin. There are those who have rewritten the Bible so it is more "relevant" to today. Others give false interpretations to scripture pas-

sages, hoping that if they sound convincing that everything will be acceptable in the day of judgment. Sadly, they will be eternally disappointed if they alter the truth and believe a lie.

To whom are we accountable? There are those who would say that they are accountable only to God. The Holy Word of God teaches us that such is not the case. Certainly we are, first and foremost, accountable to God, but we are also accountable to others.

We are accountable to the church and to church authority. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account" (Heb. 13:17). The authority of the church is further supported in Matt. 18:18. "...whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Finally, Ezekiel 33 and 34 also reinforce this measure of accountability to the church.

We are also accountable to each other "that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way" (Ro. 14:13). In spite of Cain's plea to the contrary (Gen. 4:9), we are our brother's keeper and we will be held accountable if our example causes another to fall.

Accountability to our parents is also important. "Honor thy father and mother: and He that curseth father and mother, let him die the death" (Mt. 15:4). Children must learn that obedience to godly parents is a commandment from God.

We are also accountable to the government in those areas that belong to Caesar. Jesus said "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's:" (Matt. 22:21). The Apostle Paul instructed us to "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God:" (Ro. 13:1). When government does not conflict with scripture, we must obey the law.

Finally, we are accountable to our children. We must teach them the truth. We are instructed to "...teach them diligently..." (Deut. 6:7), to "Train up a child in the way he should go..." (Pr. 22:6), and to "...provoke not your children to wrath:" (Eph. 6:4). Parents who neglect this very

important duty may prevent the truth from passing from one generation to the next and deprive many generations of the opportunity to know the truth.

Our degree of accountability is related to our opportunity to know the truth. "But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more" (Lk. 12:48).

Since we are among those who have received much, our responsibilities are great. We must live a holy life so our salvation is assured and to provide the proper example for others. We are also accountable for helping to preserve the faith and to keep the doctrine of our faith on a solid foundation. If we do not preserve the faith, those who follow us may be deceived and thereby deprived of the opportunity for their salvation. The consequences for such unfaithfulness will be severe.

Surely those of us who have been taught from our youth the truth of God's Word are very accountable. We have had parents to teach and show us the way of truth, thereby having easy access to the instructions in God's Word. We have also been privileged to be instructed by faithful brethren and we have the support that comes from gathering together with God's children as often as we wish.

With all of these benefits, we are among the most accountable of all people. We must keep God's Word and follow His commandments. One day we will all stand before God for judgment. We can live by God's Word and hear "Come, ye blessed of my Father" or we can ignore the truth and hear "Depart from me, ye cursed..." (Mt. 25:34 & 41). We can be blessed eternally if we serve God faithfully or we can be separated from Him forever because we allowed ourselves to believe that it is not important to follow the plan God has for our lives. The choice is ours. All of the excuses we may use and all of the attempts we make to limit our accountability will not alter the fact "...that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Ecc. 11:9).



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

European Board Activities in 2000

Efforts to assist our needy brethren in Eastern Europe are coordinated by our European Board. The past year saw a lot of activity in each of the countries we serve. These are Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Ukraine. The European Board has established relationships with responsible brethren across Europe. Elders in each land have selected brothers to assist in this work. Our policy is to channel all efforts through these responsible brothers.

Board members assigned duties

Individual brothers on the European Board have duties assigned to them pertaining to individual countries. We communicate with each country in their own language, using a translator if necessary. Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego) corresponds with the Croatian and Yugoslavian brethren in the Serbian language. He also handles communications with Slovakia, which has a different language. Bro. Louie Bikadi (Denver) communicates with brethren in Hungary and Romania in the Hungarian language.

The work in Ukraine requires two translations, the first being in the German language, which is then translated into Romanian by a brother from Germany who has skills in both. Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) normally makes the initial contact in German which then proceeds through Breidenbach, Germany. Members of this congregation have established and maintained contact with the Ukrainians since the fall of communism in 1989. Prior to that time, brethren from various congregations in Europe kept the contact alive.

Hungary

Most of our efforts in Hungary at this time consist of helping our brethren build or repair church buildings. Presently they have plans to build a new facility at Dunavecse this year.

There is also a relief committee that has been established in Hungary to address individual needs. Some regular funds are sent for such needs through the European Board.

Funds are also sent regularly through brethren in Breidenbach to purchase prescription medicines for the needy in Hungary and other areas.

Croatia

There are several small groups of members in this former state of the Yugoslavian federation. It has been possible to establish a bank account in this country into which we can send funds by electronic means. The system is working well. Regular assistance is being provided for the needy in this struggling land.

Two vans have been purchased, a new church constructed, and repairs are underway on the small church building in Osijek.

Yugoslavia

The last several years have been quite difficult for brethren in this land of turmoil. We thank God that it is now possible to transfer funds through a bank account in Szeged, Hungary.

The elder body in Yugoslavia just recently appointed a committee of brethren to oversee this work. The system seems to be working, and we thank God for this.

Romania

It was a hard year for Romania because of adverse weather conditions during the growing season. The harvest was only about half as much as normal,

and cold combined with hunger are the lot of many Romanians. For a number of years World Relief funds have made possible a shipment of consumer goods via sea container to be sent to Romania monthly. There is an established system that is working well. This brings much needed relief to those who would be in desperate straits without it.

Iron Curtain Ministries, an Amish group in Holmes County, Ohio has taken a real interest in this work and now finances half the cost of these monthly shipments.

Ukraine

Considerable amounts of financial assistance have been channeled to Ukraine this year. A number of self-help projects are underway. Land and machinery have been purchased, and just recently a substantial sum of money was sent electronically through a bank account in Szeged, Hungary to provide humanitarian aid during the winter. Brethren from Ukraine picked up this money in dollars and carried it into their land.

Although the harvest was poor, it is hoped that our own brethren have received enough help to get them through the long winter.

Other Board members

Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) chairs the European Board, Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) is vice-chairman, and Bro. Leon Graf (Akron) serves as treasurer.

Thank you to our generous supporters for the large amount of financial aid contributed over the years. Contributions to our ongoing work in Europe can be made through your local World Relief Representative. Funds should be specified for Eastern Europe if that is the donor's wish.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

...Go Ye Into All the World



...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ST. MARK 16:15-16

After the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the apostles began in earnest to obey His last words of instruction. The Apostolic letters were written, eventually being compiled in the volume we know today as the Bible.

Through the centuries, the faith spread across Europe, and as time passed, serious apostasy and doctrinal error occurred. In reading history, one finds accounts of corruption and practices far removed from original apostolic intent and doctrine. This gave rise to evangelists and reformers resulting in the numerous denominations which exist today, the Apostolic Christian Church among them. In order to understand the present, it often helps to review the past.

Samuel Heinrich Froelich, born in Switzerland, (1803-1857) is known as the founder of the Apostolic Christian Church in America. Although trained for the ministry in the Protestant state church, he was awakened to scriptural truth and repentance in a manner far different from the lukewarm state church teachings. The story of his life is quite

interesting, as the birth struggle not only of a single soul, but a movement which finally reached those of us living today. Even during his training, he wrote of the attitude of his heart as follows, "*In the meantime the might of sin and the power of death had grown up hand in hand with unbelief... I became enwrapped and entangled in such a horror of sin that I shudder now when I think of it.*"

A true conversion

With praise to Almighty God, the time came when this struggling soul came under conviction of the Holy Spirit, and experienced a true conversion, a process which took about eight years. During this time, he entered the ministry of the state church, and was later removed from it because of his doctrine. The breach became total with young Froelich's excommunication from it in 1831. The concept of repentance and conversion, which is the heart of our faith, was strange and foreign to the established church.

Bro. Froelich had no intention of starting a denomination. In his heart was a burning passion for the purity of the Gospel and bringing it to the lost. What had began as an individual search for truth, because of his tireless efforts, became a movement that spread throughout Central Europe.

As emigration from Europe to America began in great volume, it was inevitable that the faith of our fathers on that continent would take root and develop in this country. It was in 1847 that a group of farmers in upstate New York had written to Froelich's group, known as "Evangelical Baptists" in Europe, requesting assistance in spiritual matters. Unable to go himself, Bro. Froelich sent a young man recently ordained an elder. His name was Benedict Weyeneth. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Christian

Church in America. The story of these pioneers of faith are well documented, and books are available through Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka, IL (309/467-3611). The Mission Committee encourages our people to read and learn more of their heritage, which came about through intense struggles and persecution.

The harvest is plenteous

Over the years, the faith spread across the nation, and from small beginnings, flourishing congregations grew. This process is continuing today. One of the purposes of the Mission Committee is to encourage and assist new congregations in this country and around the world. Most of our churches begin with just a few members who move and assemble in homes or hotels for a period of time. Ministers are sent on a rotating basis to help them grow. The world begins at our doorstep. As Jesus said to his disciples, "*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few...*"

In keeping with the directives in the Scripture, we encourage one another to lives of godliness and holiness, and a sharing of the Gospel with friends and neighbors. Through the years, seeking souls have been brought to repentance, faith in Christ and a hope for eternity, initiated by an invitation from a friend or neighbor to come to church. These souls found an interest by observing the walk of life of those whose faith was shown by their actions.

The final instructions of Christ to His followers, just before He returned to heaven, were sincerely and seriously given. Today, perhaps as never before, believers should take them to heart and put them into practice. We surely wish to be found working for our Lord when He returns to claim His own.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants...and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us..." These words of prayer from Psalm 90:16-17 are an inspiration to us as we go in and out of the eight homes which have been dedicated for God's work.

Prayers were answered in all eight homes as willing workers filling three shifts of staff 24 hours a day managed to travel to and from work during the recent snowstorms. God obviously blessed the "work of the hands" of our capable maintenance crew as they worked long hours keeping driveways and sidewalks as clear as possible. Carolers from local churches were very welcome this year as many usual holiday outings were canceled due to weather conditions.

February finds us celebrating the gifts of love and friendship. People from the group homes often enjoy dressing up in their finest and going out to eat at a nice restaurant for a Valentine Banquet.

As always, we are grateful for blessings of gentle touches, frequent smiles, easily forgiven hurts and other evidences of unconditional love daily witnessed among our residents and their interactions with others. "Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." (Psalm 90:17b)

MARCH birthday at **TIMBER RIDGE** are: Judy Grimm (6), Margo Ebert (12), Susan Crose (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), Nancy Meister (31). **AT OAKWOOD ESTATE**: Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9), Richard Bundy (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Chuck and Naomi Wiegand

Greetings in Christ's name from all at Gateway Woods! We are thankful to have enjoyed another holiday season, and with all the cold weather we enjoyed many cozy fires in the fireplace. It is always a good time to do some activities with the children that the school schedule does not allow time for. We thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Platter for pulling taffy with us.

This year, of course, with all the snow the children kept asking to go sledding. On one occasion, all the houses got together and took most of the children on campus sledding. I must admit that I think I enjoyed it as much as the children. It brought back many memories from my childhood. I remember hills getting so slick that you had to find just the right spot to walk up or else you would slide back down the hill, and of course, there were always some bumps and bruises, not to mention cold feet.

I just had to marvel many times in the last month how great our God is as I would see the postcard-like winter landscape—the snow on the tree limbs, the full moon reflecting off of the snow, the frost-covered trees—just to mention a few. It seems that there is so much beauty in each of the seasons that God has made. But of course, since we are in a fallen world, there are things we don't like about each season such as dry cracking skin in the winter. But we will not focus on the negative things as the positive things overshadow the negative.

As Naomi and I prepare to enter another season of life at the end of March (Lord willing), I have been doing more reflecting on the "Gateway Woods season" of our life. We have had so much to be thankful for in our

3 1/2 years here. We are just so blessed to work with others who love Jesus! The work atmosphere here is so much different than a typical workplace where people are concerned about how much money they are making, grumble to others about the decisions the boss makes, and many other negative things. We have been blessed many times over watching the children we work with grow up physically, spiritually, and emotionally. It has also been a blessing to enjoy many walks through our little timber here and see the impressive hardwood trees and to watch the sunsets over our little pond.

We want to offer a warm welcome to Justin T. in the Wiegand House and Tim W. in the Meister House. Please pray for these residents, their families, and the staff they work with so that God's power can be revealed in their lives. We also said good-bye to Jasmine H. in the Meister House.

Once again, we do have an opening for an alternate houseparent position. Please pray for God to again bring the right couple at the right time. All of the staff here want to again thank all of you dear brothers and sisters for your support, either by prayers, finances, volunteering your time, or various other ways. We know you will be blessed because Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). We wish you all another blessed month in Him!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Monica Steffen

It's time to get back into the routine again after an enjoyable couple weeks off. This is a relaxing month with our only big day being "Pajama Day". The students, as well as the teachers, enjoy this carefree day, in which we sit on blankets, eat pop-

corn and watch our favorite videos. The students also enjoy wearing their favorite pajamas to school. What an ideal way to break up the winter season!

This month we are working on the letters O, P, Q, R and S and are focusing on the themes of Manners, Family and the color Purple. It's encouraging to hear the students "using good manners" and hope they will continue to use them as they grow older. These students are at a very impressionable age and love to copy the teachers. This is a good reminder to us teachers that we too must mind our manners.

When talking with my students about families, I shared with them a little about my own family. Then I asked them to share their own family experiences with the rest of the class. Our conversation reminded me once again that being raised by both parents together is rare. It always touches my heart to hear of so many young children living in broken homes. We are so blessed.

This month we are also thankful to have Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) helping out with a variety of jobs, while Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk are in Texas. They have also helped out with the cooking while Sis. Doris is taking time off work to be with Bro. Lavoyd. (I know the Moore family has appreciated all the prayers offered in their behalf and would appreciate it if you would continue.) We have also enjoyed having Melinda Matuch (Mansfield, OH) who came to visit our preschool. We love having visitors and let me remind you that spring break is coming up soon. We would welcome any and all volunteers who would like to get away from the stresses of school and see how enthusiastic these young ones here are with learning.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Joan Reinhard

Louise Hall

Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter became first-time grandparents and Sis. Ola Mae Barnes became a great-grandmother again with the safe arrival of Thomas Eldon Jefferson Kyle. He was born December 14 and only weighed 4 lbs. 6 oz. His parents are Steven and Becky Kyle and his other grandparents are Michael and Melissa Kyle and David and Carolyn Siniard. Thomas is doing well and was at church on Sunday, January 14, weighing over 6 lbs.

We had a New Year's Eve get together on the 31st. After sharing a potluck meal, we sang for awhile and then finished out the year by just fellowshiping and enjoying each other's company. One thing about a small church is that all age groups participate in the same gathering and that has been such a blessing for us. From less than a year old to the twilight years of life, we all began the New Year together and we pray for God's blessing on our small gathering here in Athens.

We had a good turn out for our January monthly singing and it was a special treat to have Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) join us. They will be here for a few weeks helping out in the Preschool and in the ministry while Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk are in Zapata, TX. We miss Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan, but we are thankful for Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda and their willing hands and hearts to be a part of us here.

We have had visitors from Oakville, IA; Peoria and Princeville, IL; and Bluffton, IN, this month. We do so appreciate it when people stop by and worship with us. Thanks for including us in your plans.

Most of you probably know the situation with our Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore and we would just ask that you continue to pray for him and his

family. Bro. Lavoyd had a second surgery on January 12 and the doctors removed several tumors from his abdomen. His cancer has spread and the situation is very serious. He is still in the hospital in Huntsville as this is being written and the family is asking that there be no visitors and no phone calls. They would appreciate cards and do want to thank those of you who have sent cards in the past. His address is 15448 US Hwy 72 W., Athens, AL 35611. We know that God is in control and we just pray that His will be done.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"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 weep, a time to laugh."

Eccles. 3:1,2,4

Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather Thorpe were first-time parents on December 30, when daughter, Dakota Pearl, was born prematurely at 3 lbs. 13 oz. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Frautschi, and Brian Thorpe and Lisa Broedres (Canada). Great-grandfather is the late Bro. Al Frautschi.

We gathered for a church fellowship dinner and singing on the night of December 30 in honor of the upcoming wedding of Sis. Holly Kokanovich and Bro. Andrew Kieser.

Many out of state brothers, sisters, relatives and friends were in attendance December 31 when Bro. Andy and Sis. Holly exchanged wedding vows before Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, the bride's father. Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich are Sis. Holly's parents. Bro. Andy's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL). We

pray God's love and blessings on our newly wedded couple. His love did make the 31st special; it was 68 de-grees.

Our special New Year's Eve service and program was well attended by many. Thanks to those who planned and participated in singing, readings, and the buffet lunch. If you weren't there, plan for next year. Riches for the soul—love for everyone.

On January 4, Sis. LouAnn and Bro. Dave Klopfenstein received word that her Dad, Bro. Curtis Tonner, passed away in Bluffton.

On January 5, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein became parents of Emily Nicole. Erin is glad to share their grandparents' love. Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein went to meet the new baby before leaving for her great-grandfather's funeral.

Our sympathy to Jim and LaVonne Anliker on his Aunt Millie Stichling's death in Illinois on January 6.

On January 7, a wedding reception was held in the congregational room for Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein who were married in Chicago on December 19. We welcome Sis. Katie.

Sorry we neglected to report that on November 16, Bob and Arlene Farney welcomed grandson, Cade, into the family. He is the son of Mike and Lisa Gorton.

According to the 2000 census, Arizona population increased by 1.5 million.

There is always comfort in reading the Bible. Ephesians has much for today.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

"But though our outward man

perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

II Cor. 4:16-17

This scripture correlated so well with our first reading in Job 2, one Sunday morning, when we were reminded of all the afflictions Job experienced, and he still fell to the ground and worshipped the Lord. Wouldn't it be nice to have God as satisfied with each of us as He was of Job, when he asked Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause." (Job 2:3)

During the holiday, instead of having ministers leave their home churches to serve us, we had phone services from Phoenix for two Sundays. This wonderful age of technology allows us to receive the services from Phoenix over the phone and then relay them through our speaker system. All we have to do is visualize the minister on the pulpit. Worshipping the Lord and the fellowship are the same.

Our ministers the other two Sundays were Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Herb Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix). May God richly bless them and their loved ones as He has so richly blessed us.

It hardly seems possible that it has already been a year since we started services in our new church. All of it still seems so new and a dream come true each time we are assembled together. We are so thankful to the Lord for knowing our hearts and blessing us with such a beautiful place to assemble. We in-

vite all of you to come visit, share in our blessings and worship with us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We have appreciated the visits of several ministering brethren this past month. On New Year's Eve, Bro. Jon Stoller (Leo, IN) shared the Word with us over the pulpit. Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was with us for Wednesday evening services and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) is visiting as I write this column. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and greeting these brothers and their wives, and we thank them for stopping in Tucson on their travels.

We are starting to welcome our winter visitors and are enjoying renewing Christian friendships. Our weather at times might have them wondering if they "took a wrong turn" along the way somewhere. We experienced a winter "storm" with lots of rain and colder temperatures than usual. We had some days with 30 and 40 degree temperatures and actually could see some snowflakes if you looked really hard! As is usually the case, it didn't last long and today our high was 67 and our sunshine has returned. It was fun while it lasted!

Our annual Pancake Supper was held January 14. The men served up their usual pancakes, applesauce, sausage and ice cream bars while the women enjoyed being served for a change.

An Open House was held on Sunday, January 7, to honor the wedding of Doug and Young Bauer. Doug is the son of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. We wish Doug and Young God's blessings as they start their new life together.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Greetings from the Altadena congregation!

How refreshing it is to have this avenue of communication between our congregations! This world in which we are pilgrims ever threatens to divide and corrupt us. Often, our goals become temporal and our vision short. As Jesus Christ said to a crowd who followed Him after He fed the five thousand:

“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”

John 6:27

What an appropriate reminder from our Saviour as we strive to walk daily by His example. We said farewell to Bro. Sam and Sis. Lilly Bence and their sons, Ryan and Jordan, this month. They have relocated in Oregon and plan to attend the Silverton church. We pray for God's blessing as they follow His direction in their lives.

We are looking forward to our annual reading of the Memorandum here in Altadena, and sincerely appreciate the time and labor dedicated to bringing us this instruction.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

As we have now greeted a new year, it causes us to reflect back on the past year and how the Lord has been faithful to us in everything. May we each ask ourselves the question: Have we been faithful to Him in everything?

The many visitors that we received this past month were again a wonderful blessing to our congrega-

tion. Among them were visiting ministers, Bros. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Richard Aberle (Sis. LaNae, Altadena, CA). We appreciate Bro. Richard coming to serve our congregation when Bro. Peter and Bro. Doug were both gone.

Our hearts rejoice with Melinda Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde) as she has made the most important decision of her life in turning to the Lord in repentance. We pray the Lord will supply her with the needed grace and strength to overcome the evil one and a humble heart to submit her life completely unto our dear Lord's will.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Greetings dear brethren. We rejoice that the Lord has provided another month for souls to make right with Him and man before that judgment day. May we all be ready. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

This month we enjoyed the ministry of two visiting ministers. The first one was Bro. Ted Steffen and his wife, Sis. Sandra (Alto, MI). Secondly, we were happy to have Bro. Duane Reutter and family (Rockville, CT). They were here to visit family. We also enjoyed the ministry of our home brother, Bro. Mike Ursu. We appreciate his efforts as he is often used on our behalf. I am sure he could use and would appreciate your prayers as well as ours.

We welcome a new face in our congregation as little Julia Rose was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Laura Baxter. We wish God's continuing grace in training their five children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the

womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them...”

Thus ends our news here. We wish you God's richest blessings in the month to come. Don't forget to read the Bible and pray often.

COLORADO, DENVER

Mike and Heather Katanic

We are happy to hear of the safe arrival of Victoria Elizabeth, born to Bro. Mike and Bethann Martin. Big brothers welcoming her home are Benjamin and Joshua.

Thanks to Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) who brought forth God's Word to us this month. His message urged us to look back to the day we were at peace and to be encouraged by God's faithfulness.

We also rejoice with Don Katanic as he awaits his testimony, the weekend of February 3. We are also looking forward to listening to the Memorandum that weekend.

January 20 we had our annual business meeting, which reminded us of all the duties and responsibilities required maintaining our church building. We want to thank all that took part in any way towards the upkeep of the physical church in the past year. The building committee discussed briefly the progress and location options for the new church building in the Denver area. We ask all to keep them in their prayers as they seek God's direction in this endeavor.

CONNECTICUT

ROCKVILLE

Cherie Galat

“...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:14

Our children and young adults reminded us of our dear Saviour as they sang Christmas songs during the Sunday School program. Worshipping our Heavenly Father, may they grow in years and seek Him early while He may be found.

A dear family has been blessed with another bundle of joy. Noah Keith was born January 1 to Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill Welti. He joins big sister, Taylor, and big brother, Christian, at home. Grandparents are Donald and Marilyn Welti and Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

I Cor. 3:6

How thankful we are that we live in a country that allows us to worship our God freely. Our dear ministers, Bros. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) preached unto us the Word of Life.

We lift up many of our loved ones in prayer who have been sick or hospitalized recently: Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence), Bro. Alvin Lanz (Sis. Anna) and Dave Reutter (Ann). "I want my friends to pray for me, To hold me up on wings of faith..." (Hymns of Zion #201). Let us always continue to pray for one another.

May God console Walter Limberger upon the passing of his wife, Irma. May He comfort Walter's family, his sisters, Sis. Anna Thompson, Sis. Emma Herzig, and brother, Henry (Agnes).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON**

Henrietta Meyer

Our congregation gathered at

Phil and Mona Steffen's home one Sunday afternoon for a combination Christmas tea and farewell party for Sis. Renee Steffen as she left to take employment in Peoria, IL. When one leaves our little congregation, it leaves a big hole. We will miss her greatly, but wish her the Lord's blessings.

The Fetter family (Bro. Matt, Sis. Wendy, Skyler and Rhett) said farewell to a father/grandfather as Bro. Richard Fetter (Toledo, OH) laid down his cross and went to his Heavenly Home. We were blessed getting to know Bro. Dick and Sis. Betty from their trips out here to visit family and extend our sympathy to the family.

With the new year comes changes. Bro. Barry Steffen will be our Treasurer, Bro. Matt Fetter will be the Usher, Sis. Doreen Steffen will be the Hotel Liaison, Sis. Henrietta Meyer will be Lunch Coordinator, and Sis. Wendy Fetter will be the Silver Lining reporter. Just a personal note, I have received so many blessings from being the reporter and wish the same to Sis. Wendy.

Our visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Other visitors this month were from Lamont-Gridley, KS.

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

For more information, assistance, or just to let us know you are in the area, please call Bro. Barry

Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE
Gretchen Webb**

The annual Ft. Lauderdale Pig Roast was held on Friday and Saturday, January 12-13. The brothers enjoyed a chilly evening of fellowship on Friday, a campout that night and a tasty pig on Saturday morning. Once again, the sisters heard how much the brothers enjoyed their weekend!

We wish to thank our visiting ministers this month. Bros. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Wayne Lehman (Sis. Shirley, South Bend, IN) shared the Word with us. We pray that God will bless them for their efforts in Ft. Lauderdale.

Seth and Dawn Sauder welcomed Jalyn Noelle home on January 1, 2001. Jalyn joins her big brother, Nathanael. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jane Plattner (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). We pray that God will bless the newest addition to their family.

Sis. Delores Van Norman was hospitalized this month. We are thankful that she is at home now and pray that God will continue to heal her.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer**

We have had some very cold weather this winter which froze the vegetable farmers' crops, but the citrus was mostly spared. As of now, the temperature is back to normal, between 70 and 80 degrees.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Stephen Baner and Dave Zehr

(Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN). May God bless them and their families for their willing service.

On December 24, we had our Sunday School program. It was very special because the children and young folks (who were on Christmas vacation) participated. Joining our 6, there were 22 singing in the choir. A real spirit of cooperation!

Since the first of the year our attendance is increasing each Sunday. We welcome all who come to worship and fellowship with us.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

The last day of the year 2000 was special for our Bro. Doug Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary, Pulaski, IA) and Sis. Robin Esslinger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy, Pulaski, IA) as they were united in Holy Matrimony at Bern, KS. We heartily welcome Sis. Robin to Sarasota!

The following Sunday, Bro. Mark Koehl and Sis. Tricia Gutwein (Francesville, IN) announced their engagement. Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francesville, IN) are their parents. Our small congregation is very thankful and excited to add more young couples! We wish Bro. Doug and Sis. Robin, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Tricia God's rich blessings.

We want to thank visiting ministers, Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN).

Graveside services and burial were held on January 5 for our dear Sis. Vi Leman. She and Bro. Chris (also deceased) made Sarasota their home for many years. Their son, Larry, and his wife, Sherri, still live here.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sisters Elda, Vera and Mary Martin in the passing of their mother, Sis. Louise Martin (Princeville, IL).

Ralph Walters (Ruth) was in the hospital this past month to get a pacemaker. Let's remember him and Sis. Hermine Miller as she continues to heal.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone remembering our family with your prayers, cards, telephone calls, food, and flowers in the loss of our dear mother, Sis. Sarah Dietrich, and our beloved brother-in-law, Bro. Philip Rapp. May God richly bless you for your love and support.

Sis. Millie Bigger

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Keith and Carol Kaufman

Our prayers are with Bro. Linn Stoller as he and the doctors try to find out what is causing his headaches. We are so thankful that the Lord knows the cause and that He is the Great Physician.

We were blessed this past month to have three visiting ministers. They were: Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Millie, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). May they continue to preach the truth in season and out of season. We also had other visitors this month for which we are very thankful. May the Lord richly bless each one of you. We appreciate your visits. The fellowship gives us a foretaste of Heaven.

Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are in the area, please plan to worship with us and feel free to call for an evening of fellowship. The church is located at

6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd. (Highway 92), Fairburn, GA. Take I-85 south to Exit 64. Go west four miles and the church is on your left. Please contact one of the following brothers to let us know of your plans. This helps us to plan our Sunday lunches and Sunday School. Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335. Thank you.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser

Sheila McCoy

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in Heaven
Another year for Thee. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #150

Whatever 2001 may hold in store
for us here on earth, whatever we
may pursue and wherever we may
travel, may we do it all to bring glory
and honor to our precious Lord
above.

What a wonderful change in my
life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart;
I have light in my soul for which
long I had sought.
Since Jesus came into my heart.

I'm possessed of a hope that is
steadfast and sure,
Since Jesus came into my heart;

And no dark clouds of doubt my
 pathway obscure,
 Since Jesus came into my heart.
 —*Melodies of Praise #95*

Alice Thompson and Jason Moser have been announced for Peace and look forward to being baptized and giving their testimonies as to how Jesus has given them peace in their hearts. May we continue to pray for our converts and many that still stand outside the fold.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Ron Schambach. How blessed we are to have ministers that preach from the Holy Bible and will be used by the Lord above to spread His message to us here on earth.

Our new church building is progressing. For those of us who aren't there every day and just see it every few weeks, great progress has been made. Any brethren interested in volunteering, please contact Bro. Clint Heinold at 262-695-8108 or at heinold@prodigy.net.

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

We were blessed to have Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) share the Word with us. We appreciate your willingness to encourage and teach us through God's Holy Word.

Our church family had many reasons to rejoice this month. Glenn and Susan Hodel and Tim Virgil (Trisha) began their repentance. We pray they feel much grace and strength from God.

We want to welcome William Samuel Steffen to our church family. He was born on December 26 to Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley. Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch and Bro.

Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen are the thankful grandparents. May God bless you with the wisdom to raise your son in His ways.

Two families from our congregation are busy with upcoming weddings. LeAnn Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) plans to marry Dan Lubin. He is the son of Dr. Dan and Pam Lubin (El Paso, IL). Stephanie Virgil (Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev) will become the bride of Joshua Heller. Stephanie and Joshua are both living in Arizona.

December 23, Clayton Daily (Bro. Ben and Sis. Mary) and Natalie Druhan (Jerry Druhan, Bloomington, and Gwenn Druhan, Orland Park, IL) were joined in marriage. Also, Bro. Andy Kieser (Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Holli Kokanovich (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) became one in Christ on December 31.

Our church had many activities this month. In addition to a special Christmas and New Year's service, Bro. Mark Streitmatter had a Bible study on "Walking in the Light". We appreciate so much hearing the precious teachings in God's Word.

Sadly, Sis. Tami Masters (Bro. Ron) and James Martin had to each part with a Grandma. We will keep you and your families in our thoughts and prayers.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
 Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

We are thankful for the blessing of another child born in our congregation. Austin Daniel Endress was born on December 29 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee' Endress. Andrea, Tyler, Brendan and Mikaela are also thankful for their new brother. Grandparents are Sis. Lois Endress and Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO).

Over the Christmas holiday,

Wayne Tanner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marilyn) announced his engagement to Betsy Welsh from Decatur, IL. We pray they may seek wisdom from God as they prepare for their marriage, scheduled for August 18.

We recently held our annual business meeting. Our new usher is Bro. Richard Slutz, replacing Bro. Richard Tanner. Our new trustee is Bro. Nathan Stoller Jr., replacing Bro. Jordan Elsasser. Bro. Les Fehr will be our new World Relief representative, replacing Bro. Don Duckworth. May God bless all who have served quietly behind the scenes and our prayers and support are with the new appointments.

Sis. Verla Ehnle (Bro. Ed) was hospitalized recently for surgery. May God's healing hand be upon her as she recovers.

After 11 weeks of recovery in both the hospital and nursing home, we are very thankful to have Bro. Elwin Rumbold (Sis. Loretta) return to his home and even begin to assemble with us again.

May God bless the ministers who have recently visited us. They are Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), and Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

On January 18, Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. was with us to discuss the subject of depression. It was a good reminder of how important it is for us to support and encourage each other. May God bless him for his time and efforts to do this.

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

In Ephesians 4:2, Paul urges readers to "[forbear] one another in love." As we have Valentine's Day, a special day to focus on love, we might

consider one aspect of that phrase. At the time that Paul was doing his writing, people frequently lived in walled cities. Upon those walls, it was common practice that dwellings were built. I recently read a little explanation regarding these Bible-times condos on the city walls. The roofs of these dwellings extended a distance from the wall to give protection from sun and rain giving sheltering protection to those inside. The word for this "outroof" that we would now call an overhang translates to English as the word "forbear". In love, we are to serve as an outroof or overhang to one another, giving protection to those we love.

On the topics of love and dwellings, our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart are settled into their new home in Champaign. We had a nice evening of singing there in January, giving the house its little blessing from our congregation. The Banwarts have surely warmed our church with their years of dedication, forbearance, and service and we wish them many warm memories in their new home.

Corbin and Stephanie Kupferschmid have the special blessing of adding a young man to their family. Harlan Alfred Kupferschmid was born on November 24, 2000. Harlan has two sisters, Audrey and Lydia, who will help their parents love and care for him.

Sis. Isabelle Bauer was saddened by the death of her brother, Marvin Feller. Our thoughts and prayers extend to the family as they endure a difficult time.

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) returned to Urbana to spend time with his family at Christmas. We were pleased to have him with us for the Christmas Day service. Between the college semesters, the local congregation had the opportunity to listen to the annual Conference tapes.

portunity to listen to the annual Conference tapes.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

Our family has been involved in a bit of a historical study of people who have risked their lives for the sake of God's laws. Not all of these people died, such as Esther the Queen, but many did. I must confess I have been challenged to think about my actions if ever I was faced with such a situation. I find myself swallowing hard and praying more fervently for grace! Aside from preparing me for the possibility of being persecuted for exercising my faith in God, this study has helped me focus on what is really worth holding onto to the point of persecution. We all have a list of priorities whether written or not and at some point in that "list" it changed from "important without exception" to "important with some exception". A clear list like this is helpful even in handling the smaller issues that may come our way.

Although the good condition of our physical bodies is not required for faithfulness, we are thankful for the successful surgery experienced by Chuck (Ella Mae) Stoller.

Although companionship is not required for faithfulness, we rejoice with Sis. Robin Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Justin Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol, Rockville, CT) at the announcement of their engagement.

Although newcomers are not required for faithfulness, we are glad to warmly welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracey Gudeman and their little boys, Samuel and Caleb, from the Francesville, IN, congregation.

Although the absence of bitter-sweet farewells is not a requirement for faithfulness, we bid farewell to

Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter and know the Milford, IN, congregation will rejoice to fellowship with this dear couple.

Although encouragement from ministering brothers is not a requirement for faithfulness, we are grateful for Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) who served us from the pulpit this month.

We have so many blessings above and beyond the requirement for faithfulness. It is no wonder I swallowed hard. May we be encouraged to praise God for His unspeakable gift!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder

Cheryl Eisenmann

January 10 was our annual business meeting, with election of new Sunday School teachers. Our prayers will be with Bros. Todd Kaeb and John Maul and Sisters Beth Kaeb, Kathy Walder and Angie Young as they assume these important positions. Our new trustee is Bro. Fred Maul.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate each one and marvel at the way God inspires and uses them.

First-time parents of a precious baby girl are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder. Erica Marie was born January 8. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger and the late Bro. Steve Rinkenberger. We pray that God will give these parents Godly wisdom in raising Erica.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Jennifer Fehr, Bro. Earl Knapp and

Brian Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer). Our convert, Gretchen Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth), broke her leg.

Our prayers are with Bro. Art and Sis. Lou Hari in the death of their son, Dean Hari, of Milford, IL.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, kind deeds and concerns during the illness and death of our loved one. May God bless each one.

The family of Sis. Gladys Winger

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

Isaiah 65:17

As a New Year begins, let us be thankful. Each day is given to us as a new beginning to increase our faith and serve the Lord more sincerely.

Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) were with us for New Year's Eve. One very simple bit of advice we were given was, "The best way to avoid temptation is to avoid temptation." We appreciate our visiting ministering brothers for allowing themselves to be empty vessels filled with the Spirit.

Loved ones who have been hospitalized are Bro. Steve (Sis. Gerri) Schrock, Tony (Rachel) Nohl, and Ivy (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette) Knepp. We pray for the healing hand of God to be with all of us through these winter months when we all seem to have more sickness.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Kay Kellenberger

Have you read the story of the
Cross,
Where Jesus bled and died;
Where your debt was paid by His
precious blood,
That flowed from His wounded
side?

Have you read how they placed
the crown of thorns
Upon His brow for you,
When He prayed, Forgive them,
oh, forgive;
They know not what they do?

Have you read how He saved the
dying thief,
When hanging on the tree,
When He looked with pleading
eyes and said,
Dear Lord, remember Me?

Have you read that He looked to
Heav'n and said,
'Tis finished? 'Twas for thee!
Have you ever said "I thank
Thee, Lord,
for giving Thy life for me"?

He died of a broken heart for
thee,
He died of a broken heart:
Oh, wondrous love! it was for
thee
He died of a broken heart.

Gospel Hymns #816

So much focus is emphasized in the month of February on sending love one to another. However, let us remember that Christ's sacrifice was the greatest love ever given. "He died of a broken heart for thee." Thus, the most sincere love is shown when we first have Christ's love in our hearts.

We rejoice with Bob and Eleanor Weiss as they have turned to God in repentance. Many prayers have been answered. May we continue to pray for friends and family who have not accepted God's most precious gift. As a visiting minister expressed, people of the world and even God's children underestimate the power of God. May we remember that God hears our prayers; we just need to wait for His timing.

Our hearts and spirits continue to be refreshed. We may have read the same chapters many times; yet God always has something new to impress upon our hearts. We express our sincere thanks to the visiting ministers for their continued faithful service. We enjoyed the fellowship with Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

We rejoice with Brooks and Donna Boyce as they welcomed their newborn son, Nolan Michael, on January 10. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Howie and Sis. Pat Schifferer and Guy and Barb Boyce. Brian and Kelly Heiniger welcome a precious second son into their family. Brady Christian was born on January 16. Brady's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger and John and Linda Park. May we uplift each family in our prayers as they seek God's guidance in raising their child in the fear of the Lord.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Philippians 4:19-20

May each of us continue to thank the Lord for this month of many

blessings.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Janet Zimmerman

Baptized into Thy name most
holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place though weak and
lowly
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen
host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead
to sin;
Thy Spirit new shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41

On January 14, we welcomed our new sisters and brothers into our fold after hearing their testimonies the previous evening. We welcome Sisters Bethany Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Jill Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Kalsey Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris) and Bros. Kevin Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) and Todd Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy). We rejoice with them and wish them much grace and joy as they continue on their Christian walk. Visiting ministers with us were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Bros. Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL). May God bless them.

God has blessed Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bradle with a precious baby boy January 9. Jesse Wallis is their first-born and happy grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN).

We wish God's blessings to Lisa Hartter (Bro. John and Sis. Bev) who is engaged to Jacob Rouse of Nathrop, CO. His parents are David

and Karen Rouse of Longview, WA. May God bless them as they plan for their wedding in April.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our loved ones who have been in the hospital this past month. Sis. Lavina Dotterer (Bro. Joe), Sis. Frieda Knepp and Sis. Lula Fehr have been hospitalized. May they feel our prayers and God's healing power.

We appreciated the ministry of Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) on Christmas Eve day and on Christmas day and also that of Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) on Christmas day.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Tami Vierling are thankful for God's blessings in the birth of a daughter, Rachel Sue. Rachel was born January 3. She is welcomed home by her brothers, Jonathon and Michael. Her grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie Hoerr on the death of their stepfather, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, of Fairbury, IL. He died December 30. We also sympathize with Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov and their family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Franciska Nenadov, of Kitchener, Ontario. She died December 22.

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Knecht and their children, Landon and Carly, to our congregation from Pulaski, IA. It's good to have them back home.

Ministering Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) shared the Word of God with us on a recent Wednesday evening. May God bless him for his labors.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

Our hearts are filled with joy and thanksgiving as Laurel Zimmerman, (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl), Trudy Zimmerman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sue) and Marsha Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) have answered the call to repentance. We wish them God's grace.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank our dear brethren and friends for your love, prayers and memorials since Sis. Grace's death. We have many fond memories and pray the Lord will richly bless you for your many deeds of kindness.

The Emil Strahm Family

The Beauty of a Rose

Have you ever really noticed,
All the petals on a Rose?
How they hug and stick together,
For the sunshine, as they grow.

Even in the wind and rain,
And storms, they stand the test.
And afterward they blossom out,
Their beauty is the best.

If it wasn't for the petals,
There wouldn't be a Rose.
It wouldn't hold together,
Such beauty to behold.

God writes His love with flowers,
And gives us eyes to see.
A faith to keep us humble,
True love, to keep us free.

—Anon.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Sally Fehr
Joann Zehr

A son, Jeremy Albert, was born on December 26 to Bro. Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen and is welcomed by Tiffany, Tami, Ryan, and Renae. He

is the grandson of Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bev Young welcomed Evan Thomas on December 30. He has a sister, Lori. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger. May God bless these couples.

We extend our sympathy to the nieces and nephews of Minnie Bachtold, 102, who passed away on December 30.

Ralph Hoffman, 77, passed away on January 13. We extend our love and sympathy to his dear wife, Rosie; and sons, Gerald of Fairbury and Ronald (Brigitte) of Bloomington; and daughter, Marjorie (Martin) Meister of Fairbury. We are so thankful that in the final months of his life, Ralph could seek his Lord and Saviour in true repentance.

We rejoice with Bro. Ned Bahler and Sis. Anna Fehr who were married on January 14. May God bless their new life together. Parents are Elder Bro. Arthur and Sis. Suzanne Bahler and William and Helen Fehr.

A special thanks to our visiting ministers during the last month: Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Marvin Dotterer and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

As the year 2000 comes to a close, we had 2 weddings, 10 deaths, 15 births, and 2 baptisms.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to each one for their care and concern, prayers and food while I was unable to get around. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless each one.

In Christian Love, Bro. Willis and Sis. Elsie Bachtold

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker**

When Jesus comes knocking on our heart's door, do we open up with gladness and let Him abide therein? Tyler Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) has answered that knock and we pray he can sincerely let Jesus live in his heart, and guide and direct his life.

May the Lord always be the Unseen Guest in the union of two couples as they exchanged vows of Holy Matrimony. On December 31, Bro. Shawn Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne) and Sis. Tami Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) joined hands and hearts to begin their new life as husband and wife. January 7 was the wedding day for Bro. Tory Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Wendy Dotterer (Sis. Kathy).

Seeking God's direction in their lives, Bro. Adrian Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Shawna Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) made known their engagement.

We are thankful to have had visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), share with us from the Word of God. May they continue to lend themselves as the Spirit directs.

First-time parents, Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman welcome into their hearts and home Allie Ann. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman.

Ending their ten year term, we thank Bro. Terry (Sis. Debbie)

Nussbaum and Bro. Rod (Sis. Micki) Zimmerman for their willingness to teach our youth in Sunday School. May the Lord bless their many efforts.

Ending his earthly pilgrimage, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss was laid to rest. For many years he preached the gospel across the pulpit. We pray God will provide comfort to his wife, Sis. Doris, and his children, Carol (Earl) Robbins (Normal, IL), Nancy (Duane) Martin (Corinth, TX), Shirley (Ernie) Herman (Denton, TX), Jim Kachelmuss (Bloomington, IL); and stepdaughters, Sis. Connie (Bro. Norman) Hoerr (Eureka, IL) and LaRae (Pete) Walter; and his grandchildren. We also extend sympathy to his sister, Sis. Martha Greiner (Elgin, IL).

May the Lord provide healing and strength to Sis. Dawn (Bro. Paul) Stork, Ethan Schaffer (Bro. Erik and Sis. Michelle), Reuben Metz and Dale (Harriet) Farney as they have spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

True Happiness

Happiness is something we create in our minds.
It's not something you search for and seldom find.
It's just waking up and beginning the day
by counting our blessings and kneeling to pray.
It's giving up thoughts that breed discontent,
and accepting what comes as a gift Heaven sent.
It's giving up wishing for things we have not,
and making the most of what we have got.
It's knowing that life is determined for us,

and pursuing our task without fret, fume or fuss.
For it's by completing what God gave us to do,
that we find real happiness and contentment too.

—*author unknown*

How thankful we are to report another healthy baby. Bro. Kris and Sis. Heather, Gabe and Sydney Swords, welcomed home a baby boy, Kaden Lewis. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner and Dennis and Karen Swords.

We were privileged to have quite a few visiting ministers this past month. They are as follows: Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our nation begins a new era as a new president took office on January 20. He pledged to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land.

Our duty as believers in Christ Jesus is to pray for our secular leaders "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Truly, our happiness and contentment do not come from the government, but from our close union with God and the Holy Spirit; and by following the wise teachings (and commandments) found in the Scriptures.

The new leader is off to a good start. May we remain "one nation under God." Let us pray earnestly that a sense of moral order can be reborn and that our president will set a

good example for the citizenry.

Bro. Todd Witzig was married to Sis. Nicole Yackley (Taylor, MO) on December 31, 2000. His parents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig. She is the daughter of Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudy Yackley of Taylor. We wish this young couple many blessings as they embark to share their lives.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Jessica Gramm became the parents of a daughter, Josie Noel, born on December 16. This is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosemary Gramm and Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman, all of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm and Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge Meiss.

Madison Marie Schlipf was born on December 22 to Bro. Jaron and Sis. Julie Schlipf. She is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. John M. and Sis. Jill Schlipf, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville, IL). Great grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred Schlipf, Sis. Elna Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL), Sis. Irene Schrock (Eureka, IL) and Robert and Lillian Schierer of Eureka.

Bro. Jon Baner and Sis. Ashley Romersberger were announced to be married. Lord willing, it will be on May 13. His parents are ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger. Both sets of parents are from Gridley.

Sis. Becky Ringger was announced to be married to Bro. Phillip Romersberger. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger, and he is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller and the late Bro. Rob Romersberger, all of Gridley.

Sis. Eunice Schlipf, who resides at the Eureka Home, was baptized on December 14. She is the widow of

Silas Schlipf. We rejoice that she could find salvation, even at a high age. May God be with her.

Nick Stoller (Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol) was injured in a serious car accident. Thanks be to God for sparing his life. He is recovering nicely.

Sharon Rinkenberger was also hospitalized.

We are thankful that God is working among us in many ways. During the year 2000 we had 16 converts and 7 baptisms. Also, 8 weddings, 11 births and 12 deaths. Our lives are in God's hands. May we stay close to Him.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Steffen and Sis. Cara Hartter of Bern, KS, was made known. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie and Cara's parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn of Bern. We rejoice that the Lord has drawn two of His children together. We wish them the Lord's blessings during their engagement period and forthcoming marriage.

We also rejoice in the engagement of Sis. Julie Schick and Bro. Joey Hoerr of Peoria, IL. Their parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Bro. Joe and Sis. Jo Anne Hoerr of Peoria. We are thankful that another Christian home is being established to bring glory and service to our Lord.

On January 6-7, we gathered to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three precious converts. They were Sis. Kelly Kaiser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine), Sis. Taryn Kaiser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly)

and Bro. Adam Spangler (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn). This was a special time as they are all first cousins. Sis. Til Kaiser is their mutual grandmother. We pray for their continued growth and rejoice with them and their families.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jane Kieser along with their son, Scott, are thankful for the safe arrival of Trent Alan. Trent was born January 10. The happy grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Schmidgall.

We want to thank the visiting ministers and their families that were with us this month. They were Bros. Scott Schaefer (South Bend, IN), Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL) and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL). All three of these brothers grew up in Morton and it was wonderful to have them "home" to share the pulpit.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank all of my brothers and sisters and friends who remembered me with cards, flowers and especially their love and prayers while I was in the hospital and in rehabilitation. God richly answered our prayers as I am recovering daily with minimal weakness from my stroke.

Humbly, Bro. Joe Zimmerman

A very special thank you to those who showered me with love, cards, notes and gifts on my surprise 80th birthday card shower given for me by my daughter. All was deeply appreciated and what a wonderful surprise! May God bless each and every one of you.

Sis. Dorothy Belsley

Last fall, the Board of Directors of Apostolic Christian Restmor (the Morton church nursing home), after considerable prayer, planning and evaluation, concluded that a new Restmor would be the best option for the continuance of our mission to

the aged and disabled. In transferring this vision to a possible reality, a funding approach combining an initiative for raising funds with responsible financing was needed.

A new Restmor would include enclosed Memory Support (Alzheimer's) neighborhoods, other skilled nursing neighborhoods, and assisted living units at a cost of about \$13 million, on the same site as our Parkside of Morton retirement community.

Fundraising began with the Morton and Tremont churches in mid-November. Almost 50% of the needed funds have been committed or raised to date. God works in marvelous ways. We believe if it is His will, He will provide the resources. We ask you to join us in praying for God's will and that His divine direction and blessing will be revealed on this mission.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Holidays draw families together. We appreciated the visit of Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner (Winthrop, MN) on December 24. Jesus is either our Saviour or Judge. There is no benefit to His gift if we don't pick it up and use it for salvation to escape damnation. None of us are ignorant; we all have the same spiritual meat and drink and just need to come and ask for it so none will perish but make it safely to the Heavenly shore. Thanks, Bro. Paul, for your ministry.

We realize even more, at the threshold of a New Year, that time does not wait for anybody. We don't know what a day will bring forth—it is in God's hands, but today we hold that precious gift of life, which God has given us, and we need to take advantage of it (Bro. Rick Plattner 12/31). Man has tried to anticipate

the future in many ways - the Greek oracle of Delphi, visions of Nostradamus (1500) - but "the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) gave us insights into "Living a joyful life" for our family night on January 3. How do we live in joy, contentment and happiness despite the many troublesome aspects of life? We are not an act of nature, but "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), beyond our comprehension. From birth to death we are in a process of change, from growth to decline, as designed by our Creator. Life may at times be painful and not physically and emotionally pleasant and "the day of death is better than the day of birth" (Eccles. 7:1). Why are we here? "I have created him for my glory" (Is. 43:7). We have desires of a sinful nature and are not getting better all the time, unless we step aside from it through the grace of God. Jesus had to pay the price so we are not eternally separated from God. God's desires and ours are opposite, but through His mercy we are able to repent, believe on Jesus and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. True happiness is the state of mind of having the right relationship with God as detailed in Titus 2. In good and bad times we live to please the Lord. His grace is sufficient to endure it and trust in Him, not be anxious for anything, looking to that goal and keep going towards Christ so He can take us into eternity. If we keep this perspective, we will live joyfully, surrender our lives and trust in Him. Thanks, Bro. Bob, for this spiritual evening.

Bro. Jim Hoerr accompanied Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Joe Braker on January 9 to India (his 10th trip) to witness the ordination

services of Dr. Parkhe (who has visited here 3 times) and Raju Kasbe of RGGMI, which the church has supported since Dr. Bhagwat's death in 1980. Their doctrine follows our faith and the installation was patterned after our practices.

Gabriel Nicholas was born December 31 to Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Meister and we congratulate his parents and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Suttor and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dana Meister (great-grandparents are Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister).

Andrew David joined sister Emma on January 5 to the delight of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Amy Ginzel and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol Rieker and Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel (Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dorothy Ginzel of Eureka, IL, are his great-grandparents).

Sisters Louise Martin (96), Viola Leman (91), Mildred Stichling (87) and Marie Schafer (92) passed away; they were Skyline residents. May the Lord comfort the hearts of their sorrowing families.

A special wish for happiness to Bro. Joey Hoerr and Sis. Julie Schick for their engagement on January 14 and anticipated wedding on June 10. Parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick of Morton, IL.

Bros. Ken Hoerr (on his 7th trip) and Greg Herman directed the spiritual and physical activities of a 56-member work team, under the auspices of World Relief, at the Montego Bay Campus (Jamaica) of CCCD from 1/2 to 1/10. Many blocks were laid and wheelbarrows of cement poured and good fellowship and edification were enjoyed by all participants.

At our annual business meeting on January 14, Elder Bro. Chuck

Hemmer thanked the various office holders, and all who contributed towards a well-functioning church, for their many hours of volunteer services. Bro. Steve Schmidgall was elected trustee to replace Bro. Marv Hodel, who concluded his 5 year term.

The second week of December brought an early winter to our area. We were greatly indebted to several members of the Dave Hoerr Sr. family, who made time and equipment available to clear the parking lot and sidewalks of a massive snowfall so we could have our Wednesday evening services on December 13. If you can walk across the lake in December, you can't return that way in January...an old saying, which will have been tested by the time you read this.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Mary Ehnle Crystal Streitmatter

Our Princeville congregation has been blessed with the following visiting ministers this month: Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Rick Platter (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL). We are thankful for brothers who are willing to visit us and preach unto us God's true Word.

We have also had three dear souls pass on to the life awaiting. Sis. Louise Martin (late Bro. Sam) passed away shortly before the new year, and her funeral was in our Princeville church on Sunday, December 31, 2000. We sympathize with the Martin family as they feel the loss of their mother. Our prayers are also with Sis. Helen Schick (late Bro. Herb) as her brother, Andy Hauk, has passed away. He resided in St. Charles, MO. We also sympa-

thize with Sis. Bertie Kieser (the late Bro. Ludwig) for the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Marie Kieser, who was residing in the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home.

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

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Boni Stoller Linda Hodel

Life with Christ is an endless hope; without Him, a hopeless end.

What a complete difference a life can be, determined by the relationship they have in Jesus Christ. We rejoice with those who have recently turned to Jesus in repentance. They are Allison and Lindsey Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel), Donnie Tolan (Don and Jill), Josh Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Kaitlyn Isaia (Bro. Rich and Deanna). May we take comfort that those who have been born again and

remain on the strait and narrow pathway have a beautiful, endless hope of being forever with our Lord.

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Mike Leman (Denver, CO), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) who gave a Bible study on heaven and hell.

Sis. Dorothy Bittner and Bro. Raymond Roth spent time in the hospital and have returned home. May God continue to provide healing and strength to them. It warms our hearts when we can see them worship with us.

We look forward to being able to utilize our fellowship hall soon, possibly the beginning of March. We pray that the new construction of this will continue to provide us with blessings and fellowship that we have enjoyed in the past.

Bro. Lyle Martin (Sis. MaryLou) spent time in the hospital some time ago and wished to express his thankfulness to those who did acts of kindness to him during his recuperation from surgery.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Master, let it be
 On earth, or else in heaven
 Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

It's hard to believe another year has passed. With the New Year comes the reflecting of past blessings and anticipation of what God has in store for us in the New Year.

We rejoice with the new parents as they are blessed with new little ones. Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner were blessed with Benji Glen

born December 18. He was also welcomed by Heather, Emily, Lena, Noah and Claire. Grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna Sauder, along with Heidi, welcome Deborah Lynn born December 20. Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder are grandparents.

First-time parents are Eric and Karla Yamada. Makaiah was born December 28. Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane Leuthold are her grandparents.

We continue to remember Bro. Leslie (Sis. Betty) Schweigert in our prayers as he returns home from his recent hospital stay.

Our prayers go out to Nate and Nicole Zuercher, Amanda and Noah on the loss of their father and grandfather, Nick DeMarini. Also, to Bro. Mike Stichling who lost his mother, Sis. Mildred Stichling, of Peoria.

We rejoice with Bro. Troy Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Anne Beutel (Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn) as they were married January 7. May God bless them as they begin their life together.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). We appreciate their willingness to serve us.

We welcome Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever and little Joel as they make this area their home. What a nice addition to our church family!

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Denise Romersberger
Sue Ruppert

The holidays are over, and we have begun a new year. The rush of the holidays have given way to qui-

eter days. The air is cold and the days are starting to get longer, which always reminds us that the season is marching on in rhythm to God's eternal timetable. God is such a God of order, and there is none like Him. He has the details of the seasons, the world, and the universe at His command. Should we not then trust that He can handle the smallest detail of our lives? Should we not know that He has our lives ordered in exactly the way that He intends? What a wonderful thing to know that the Master of the Universe loves us, and cares for us.

"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand."

Psalm 139:17-18

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA), Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Niles Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Randall Gasser and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI). As always, we appreciate these brothers and their families as they lend themselves to the preaching of the Word.

January 14 was the date we rejoiced at the wedding of Sis. Abby Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Jeff Kaufman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda, Morton, IL). May God's presence go with this young couple throughout their years together.

Sis. Helen Woerner underwent surgery this month and is now recuperating at home. We thank God for the healing properties of our bodies. "I will praise thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14)

We were blessed to host the Detroit Choir here for a potluck supper

on Saturday, January 20, followed by an evening of worshipping our great God through the power of the human voice. What a blessing the fellowship and worship was. Thank you to the choir for traveling here and to our home folks for the efforts toward this weekend. "I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee." (Psalm 138:1)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman
Tonia Isch**

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when the heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Bro. Curt Tonner. Bro. Curt went to be with the Lord on January 4 after an extended illness. We love his dear wife, Sis. Jeanette, and will continue to pray for her. Bro. Curt will be greatly missed by sons, Bro. Gary (Sis. Diann), Bro. Bill (Sis. Diane); and daughters, Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein (Bro. David, Phoenix, AZ), Sis. Linda Klopfenstein (Bro. John, Leo, IN) and Sis. Becky Leyse (Bro. Mike).

Also passing from this life into eternity is our dear Bro. Roy Reinhard. After an extended illness, Bro. Roy passed away on January 14. His wife, Sis. Vergene, and children, Randy (Marilyn), Sis. Carol (Bro. Roger) Compton, and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Kim), will miss him very much. Also, two brothers, one sister and

eight grandchildren survive Bro. Roy. We wish them all our deepest love and sympathy. Bro. Curt and Bro. Roy leave behind a beautiful heritage.

As a church we grieve with those who grieve and also we can rejoice as we have a new convert. Doug Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys) has started his walk with Jesus. We pray for Doug as he starts this beautiful journey.

Spending time in the hospital was Bro. Paul Schladenhauffen (Sis. Mildred), Bro. Kurt Ifer (Sis. Angie) and Bro. Todd Reimschisel (Sis. Lori). We wish them a complete recovery as they heal and recuperate.

We always appreciate our willing brothers who visit Bluffton. We thank Bros. Dave Sinn (Sis. Joleen, Ft. Scott, KS), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North). May God bless you and your families.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

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

Isaiah 26:3

We were blessed to have three souls give their testimonies of finding peace through the blood of Christ and be baptized on January 7. Our new sisters in faith are Sis. Jane Braselton (Lee and Julie), Sis. Sarah Meyer (Ron and Kathy) and Sis. Sheena Milholland (Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel). As they live out their commitment in the rest of their lives, may they truly learn to always put their trust in the Almighty God. We appreciated Elder Bro. Ed

Schwartz (Bluffton) helping with the weekend and also the visits of Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Lynn Fiechter and Mark Gerber (both of Bluffton).

Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy Shorb were thrilled with the birth of their first granddaughter, Hannah Noelle, born January 4. She's also loved by her brother, Noah, and parents, Lyndsey and Candy Weiland.

Also receiving their first granddaughter on November 20 were Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller. Jeremy and Tina Greenway are the happy parents of Ireland Sahara along with her brothers, Hunter and Karsen.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy Honegger added another grandson to their family. Little Hank Allen was born January 11 to first-time parents, Chris and Christina Honegger. Babies are such a gift from God. May these families strive to raise their children to glorify the Lord.

It's hard to say good-bye to loved ones when we part for a long period of time, but how much more so when our loved one leaves this earth. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Karen Gerber (Bro. Neil) and her family since her father, Paris Hakes, passed away on December 25. Also our thoughts are with Sis. Fern Leman whose father, Bro. Joe Leman, passed away in Roanoke, IL, on November 24.

Our dear Sis. Dula Pulver spent some time in the hospital this past month and is now recuperating at home. We hope she can return to church soon.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

Ephesians 6:6

As the year 2000 came to an end and the new year has begun, we see the cycle of time coming full circle. So it is also in our own congregation as the dearly departed go on to their heavenly home and precious new lives are brought to us straight from the hand of God. It is a good time to stop and ask ourselves if we are "redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:16). May God grant us wisdom to fill our days with the best things in life.

Sarah Faith Johns was born December 20 to Bro. Earl and Sis. Stephanie Johns and welcomed home by her sister, Andrea. Thankful grandparents are Don and Roberta Johns and Bro. Rod and Sis. Donna Gutwein. We pray God guides you as you raise your little ones for Him!

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

Proverbs 18:22

Finishing the year off with a new beginning, Sis. Miranda Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) was wed to Bro. Paul Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) on December 31. Our Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein were doubly blessed this past month with the marriage of their daughter, Sis. Sandra, to Bro. Nick Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marsha) on January 7. Another daughter, Sis. Tricia, was announced to be engaged to Bro. Mark Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol) of Sarasota. May the Lord open your hearts even wider as you learn of this earthly example of God's love for His bride.

Our dear Sis. Catherine Neihouser went from this world to be with the Lord on January 3. She will be greatly missed by her chil-

dren, Sis. Yvonne Gutwein (Bro. Carl), Sis. Sharon Neihouser, Bro. Perry (Sis. Sally) and Bro. Andre (Sis. Lois). Our sympathy also to those of her brothers and sisters who worship with us at Francesville: Bro. Leon Wuethrich (Sis. Mabel), John (Violet), Sis. Minerva and Sis. Marie Heinold. Sis. Lena Ward also went on to her heavenly reward on January 12 leaving behind her children, Bro. Dale (Sis. Ann) and Bro. Roger (Sis. Sandi), and Sisters Barb and Nola (Bro. Richard) Wuethrich, who fellowship at Francesville. We pray God's peace and comfort be with you all.

We also extend our prayers to Sis. Rosella Bucher (Bro. Wally) whose brother, Marvin Feller, of Minnesota, passed away. Sis. Karlene Isch (Bro. Burt) and Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris) spent some time in the hospital this past month. May God give you strength and grace as you recover.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel have recently moved to Parkview Haven retirement home, along with Sis. Millie Huber (Bro. Eugene). Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracey Gudeman have also moved to Elburn, IL, and will be fellowshiping with the Chicago church. We hope your transitions go smoothly and pray for peace in your new homes.

Many thanks to the following brothers who shared God's Living Word with us this past month: Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo). God bless you and your families for your labor of love.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sue Levy
Gail Bradford**

Our dear Bro. John Mayer rests in the arms of Jesus after a long illness. Bro. John and Sis. Edye served the Indianapolis congregation faithfully for many years, being one of the first church families to move to Indianapolis. No matter what needed to be done, Bro. John was there. Along with Sis. Edye, he is survived by his children, John Mayer II, Elizabeth Stone, Kevin Deeds, Sis. Rebecca Pearson, Sis. Susan Levy, two brothers, 13 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

As a young-in-age congregation, we pause to reflect on the faithfulness of our older brethren, and their consistent, edifying walk with the Lord. We can only pray that as we mature, we provide the same example for those who follow us.

On the very last day of the year, we were blessed to have three visiting ministers on the pulpit: Bros. Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) and Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN).

At our annual business meeting, we reviewed the past year and elected brothers and sisters into various areas of service. Shared tasks provide sure evidence of brotherly love and submission one to another!

We remember Bro. Bruce Shafer (Sis. Lauretta) as he bids farewell to his mother, who was laid to rest in Peoria, IL.

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Isaiah 46:4

INDIANA, LACROSSE Natalie and Jeremy Freed

The Red Sea Place in Your Life
 Have you come to the Red Sea
 place in your life,
 Where, in spite of all you can do,
 There is no way out, there is no
 way back,
 There is no other way
 but—through?
 Then wait on the Lord with a
 trust serene,
 Till the night of your fear is gone,
 He will send the wind, He will
 heap the floods,
 He says to your soul, "Go on."
 And His hand will lead you
 through—clear through—
 Ere the watery walls roll down,
 No foe can reach you, no wave
 can touch,
 No mightiest sea can drown;
 The tossing billows may rear
 their crests,
 Their foam at your feet may
 break,
 But over their bed you may walk
 dry shod,
 In a path that your Lord will
 make.
 In the morning watch, 'neath the
 lifted cloud,
 You shall see but the Lord alone,
 Where He leads you on from the
 place by the sea,
 To the land that you have not
 known;
 And your fears shall pass as your
 foes have passed,
 You shall be no more afraid;
 You shall sing His praise in a
 better place,
 A place that His hand has made.
 —Annie Johnson Flint

Our prayers are with Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold (Bro. Eric), who has undergone shoulder surgery at Mayo Clinic. Recuperation will take

several weeks. May the Lord grant healing and encouragement to her and her family as she endures through this difficult recovery.

Sis. Carol Troxel (Bro. Ed), who has also been ill, needs our love, support and prayers.

How blessed we felt to hear the inspired Word through Bros. Dan Stoller and Ken Weerts. May God reward their labors.

Dear Sis. Martha Peters celebrated her 95th birthday this month. As her life passes, she longs to be in Heaven with the Lord and loved ones. Until then, "The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." (Numbers 6:25)

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Bro. Paul Fischer broke his arm in a fall, same side as his foot that is healing from surgery. Bro. Paul is cheerful in spite of all his mishaps. Sis. Thelma Schlatter has missed attending services due to failing health and weakness.

Bro. Pete Maxfield is scheduled for surgery. Our prayer is for God's healing hand on all who suffer the afflictions of the body.

On New Year's Eve we gathered for a carry-in dinner at the Fellowship Center followed by singing and a program by various families, ending with prayer at midnight.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich, accompanied by Sis. Lyn (Indianapolis, IN) presented our topical Bible study "On the Road to Jerusalem". He started by reviewing Revelation 21, a description of the new Jerusalem. Verse 7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God..." Bro. Ken asked "What do we have to overcome?" There were many things mentioned that were personal to those responding. The

children from Gateway Woods were very interested and took an active part. Bro. Ken read the parable in Matthew 22 how those called to the marriage supper rejected the invitation and were in turn rejected. He concluded with Hebrews chapter 11, that we overcome by faith. The road map to Jerusalem is the Word of God. If our goal is Jerusalem, God promises to help us arrive through the Spirit, His Word and a prayer of faith.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and his family, and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) with his family. Bro. Greg read from I John 4.

I thought of his message on love as I contemplated for something to write for February.

"...try the spirits whether they are of God...Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God...Beloved let us love one another; for love is of God...He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

INDIANA, MILFORD Stacey Feller Pam Beer

We started the New Year out with our annual business meeting and with this the newly elected members to various jobs and committees in our church. Brothers who will teach Sunday School are Bro. Lee Beer, Jeremy Price and Marc Beer; Sis. Jodi Beer - Sunday School teacher;

Bro. Ray Haab - trustee; Sis. Stacey Feller - Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Bob Cockburn - treasurer; Bro. Bill Longcor - World Relief representative; Sis. Gwen Steffen - World Relief sewing committee; and Bro. Rich Schlipf to help run the speaker system at church. May God bless all these brothers and sisters as they take on new jobs and may those who are finishing their terms have felt a blessing in their past service.

Our church heard two very special announcements one Sunday. First we heard that Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) has found peace with God and man and we look forward to his testimony and baptism on the weekend of February 17-18.

Our second announcement was the engagement of Sis. Holly Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) to Bro. Micah Zeltwanger from Morris, MN. Bro. Micah's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel. We pray a blessing on Holly and Micah as they make plans for a June wedding.

Bro. Roy Lehman recently passed from this life of pain and sorrow to a joy filled eternity with our Great God. Bro. Roy was a brother-in-law to Sis. Mayedene Lehman and an uncle to Sis. Edna Leman and Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman.

Many prayers have been offered up for Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch as their 21-year-old grandson, Joseph Emch (John and Bev, Archbold, OH), was taken from this life unexpectedly. We pray that God can comfort and uphold the family at this sorrowful time.

Prayers have also been answered as Bro. Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy) underwent surgery and is back worshipping with us already.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Rochelle Ward Beth Virkler

We welcome Bob and Heather Schini along with their two small children, Michael and Alexis, back home to our congregation from Indianapolis, Bob grew up here and is the grandson of the late Bro. Albert and Sis. Amelia Schini who lives at Parkview Village in Francesville.

Jarod Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie) has experienced peace with God and awaits baptism. A few days after Christmas, Ruth Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth) decided to repent of her sins and serve the Lord.

Bro. Paul Virkler and Sis. Miranda Wuethrich of Francesville, IN, were married on December 31. Parents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth, along with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich, rejoice with them. Their new address is: 211 Lincoln St., Lafayette, IN 47906.

December was the coldest one on record for our area. Even though many cancellations took place, including caroling, we were thankful to still be able to have our annual church meeting on January 2. New Sunday School teachers are: Bros. Tim and Ed Bahler, and Sis. Heidi Schneider. New trustees are Bro. Mark Bahler (church) and Bro. Rolyce Scheitlin (fellowship hall), hospitality is Sis. Charlene Getz, new usher is Bro. Jerry Bahler, and Bro. Ron Clark volunteered to be our new church custodian. We also voted to host the winter Elder conference in 2002.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider spent a week at Mayo's clinic in Minnesota regarding her health. As we read or skim the Silver Lining each month, what an opportunity we have to whisper prayers for those we read about; especially our brethren with physical ailments or those having lost a loved one on this side of

Heaven.

Likewise, we share our prayers and sympathy with Betty (Braker) Vaughan who lost her mother, Sis. Clara Braker, in December.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Lavilla Langhofer DeAnn Schlatter

We were blessed by the Word this past month through our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and visiting ministering Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH). May God grant the increase.

January started our winter Wednesday evening service schedule in the homes of our brethren every other week. Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer opened their home to us the first evening. This schedule will continue through March.

We rejoice as our convert, Caleb Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi), was announced for peace. God has truly blessed our small flock. We look forward to welcoming him as a brother in Christ.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Hope Bucher

"This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

This month, our church enjoyed a special time of Christmas caroling for some families and nursing homes in our area. We are thankful for this opportunity to share songs about the precious Christ child who was born in a manger long ago.

Our Bro. Ed Lester has been in our prayers as he underwent surgery this month for a knee replacement.

We continue to welcome all to

come and visit us in Valpo. We wish you all a blessed and Christ-centered 2001.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**
Geoff and Angie Ginzel

We would like to thank the following ministering brothers and their wives for visiting us in the past month and allowing God to use them to bring forth His message: Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). A rotation has been established so we look forward to our visitors, and thank God for them.

If you are in the area, please join us on the first and third Sundays at 10:00 a.m. For local correspondence, contact our trustees, Bro. Dick Meister (765) 567-4704, Bro. Duane Schieler (765) 567-2922, or Bro. Neil Widmer (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bros. Wendell Gudeman and Curt Frank.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Erica Wagenbach
MaryBeth Lehman

“...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”

Ruth 1:16

We rejoice with Bro. Nick Waibel (Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia) and Sis. Sandra Gutwein of Francesville (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice, Francesville) as they became husband and wife on January 7. May Christ always remain the center of their marriage.

Little Calista Marie joined the family of Philip, Sandy, Hunter and Trenton Kyburz on January 8.

Grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy Kyburz, are enjoying their first granddaughter. We wish God's blessings and guidance on this dear family.

We appreciate willing messengers of the Gospel. Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was with us and shared God's Word. How important for us to not only hear the Word, but more importantly to act upon the directives therein.

Bro. Richard Stoller (Sis. Viola) broke his foot recently. We're thankful it's healing nicely and he's able to get around better again.

On January 8, our annual meeting was held and physical and spiritual roles were filled. We are thankful to all of those who completed their terms, and appreciate the willingness of those filling the open positions. It's a comfort to know that we can all have an active part by praying for those teaching our Sunday School students, and for those who work so diligently to keep the church functioning. God bless each one as we strive to serve Him as we serve each other.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst

Inspire, O Lord, each servant
With love and ardor fervent
Thy Gospel to proclaim;
That, prompted by Thy Spirit,
They work and toil with merit
Unto the glory of Thy name.

Zion's Harp #207

We are thankful that five of the Lord's servants were able to visit our congregation in the past month. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) shared the Word with us, as did ministering Bros. Wayne Grimm

(West Bend, IA), Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). May the Lord richly bless each of them for being willing to give of themselves in His service.

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

Zion's Harp #207

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

“...Thou hast made the summer
and winter”

Psalms 74:17

As we are now enduring the winter months with its cold temperatures, piles of snow and roads often not conducive to travel, may we remember it is all a part of God's plan for us. Humanly we would probably choose skies always sunny and temperatures perfect for our individual likings. But all sun and no moisture would not provide the green grass, flowers and crops that we enjoy and need. So also in our spiritual lives, God in His perfect wisdom often sends storms of trials and heartaches knowing that the trying of our faith worketh patience and to prove our faithfulness and help us to be more equipped for His service. May we always be willing to accept from God's hand whatever He sends, knowing that no tribulation or distress will ever separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8).

Angie Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Kenny Taylor (Junior and Sharon) have made their

engagement known and have set June 16 for their wedding date. We wish them God's nearness and guidance as they make plans for their wedding and the future life together.

Reminder: Silver Lining dues are due in February for Elgin, IA.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) were with us in December to celebrate Communion. What a blessing it is to remember the supreme gift that Jesus gave us, in the same season that we celebrate His birth with gifts and sharing.

Other visiting ministers in December and January have been Bros. Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA). We are so thankful for the messages and the love of God each one has shared with us.

Rachel Smith has been laid up at home since she fractured a vertebra in a fall on December 26. Progress seems slow, but we see God's healing hand as her pain decreases and she is able to be up a little.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt and Sis. Janelle Steidinger in the birth of their first child. Little Mariah Grace will be a bundle of joy in their home. Mariah's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Art and Jana Lehmann (Strawn, IL).

Bro. Man Huynh is currently living in the Des Moines area. We are thankful for his fellowship with us.

Our hearts are filled with sympathy to our dear Bro. Phil Weber and his family at the death of his sister, Mary.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We are thankful for all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA). May God richly bless all who travel to assemble with us.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our Bro. Man Huynh, who has graduated with a degree in Computer Science from UNI in Cedar Falls. We wish God's direction and provision as he relocated to the Des Moines, IA, area to live with family while he seeks employment.

With the staggering high cost of heating and other fuels this winter, it makes one wonder what is ahead for us. Will it prove good for us and cause us to "tighten our belts" and spend less on our wants? Will unchecked spending lead to financial difficulty, or will it be the beginning of harder times to come? Only time will tell. May we pray for guidance in our daily decisions, may we be ready to sacrifice our "wants" to help others who are struggling to meet their needs, and may we rely on our Heavenly Father to provide for us according to His will.

IOWA, LESTER **Dawn Metzger** **Dawn Knobloch**

We are always grateful to our brothers for preaching the Word of Life. Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN).

We want to remember our loved ones that spent time in the hospital. May God be with Sis. Salome Knobloch, Ethan Metzger and Lydia

Moser. Lydia is now residing at Premier Estates. We hope Brooks Metzger is recovering well from his outpatient surgery.

On January 5, Dayra Esther was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knobloch. Big sisters welcoming her home are Tyra and Kiana. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN). Dayra's great-grandmother is Sis. Zelma Knobloch.

We want to congratulate Collin Leuthold (Bro. Larry and Sis. Mardi) and Cheri Kooima on their engagement. May God be with them as they make their future plans.

Our sympathy is extended to John and Louise Tolvstad in the passing of John's mother, Evelyn Gustafson. We also want to give our sympathy to Paul and Jo Feucht in the death of their son, Richard.

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

Eccles. 3:1

This past year has brought about some changes in our congregation. We experienced 15 births, 5 deaths and 8 baptisms.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who remembered us with thoughts, prayers, cards, memorial gifts and food. Your acts of kindness and love have greatly helped to ease the recent loss of our mother and grandmother. A special thanks to Virgil Metzger, Dennis Warner and Myron Knobloch.

The family of Anna L. Knobloch

IOWA, OAKVILLE**Debbie Wagenbach****Melody Steiner**

Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz welcome to their hearts and home their seventh little blessing from Heaven. Samuel Edward is welcomed home by his brothers and sisters, Sis. Heidi, Kelli, Renee, Benjamin, Molly and Ross. Also rejoicing in his safe arrival are his grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Burlington, IA). May the Lord bless and keep these dear ones as they raise the precious family He has entrusted to their care.

We recently laid to rest two dear sisters. We want to extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Bro. Carroll Berres in the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Ruthie. What a cheerful spirit she always portrayed in spite of her earthly afflictions. We will truly miss her smiling face.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Doris, John, Leroy, Karla and Jennifer Cordill in the loss of their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Bertha. What a quiet, strong, faithful pillar she was. We will truly miss her also. What a day that will be when we can see each of our loved ones again and their bodies will be whole and free from the pain and afflictions of this earth. May the Lord be near each of these dear families in their time of sorrow.

We rejoice with Bro. Ryan Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Heidi Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) as they recently were joined in Holy Matrimony. We pray Sis. Heidi can feel welcome and at home in our congregation. May they together feel the Lord's blessing and guidance as they now walk as one with Him.

We recently had our annual business meeting. We want to thank

each of those who have completed their terms in serving the physical needs of our church. Filling new terms will be Church Trustee - Bro. Todd Massner; Cemetery Comm. - Bro. Trent Kuntz; Sister's Comm. - Sis. Roletta Gerst; World Relief Sewing - Sis. LeAnn Siegle; Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Colin Wagenbach; and World Relief Rep. - Bro. Mark Schmidgall. May the Lord bless each one as they fill these duties.

We also want to thank our visiting ministers this past month. May the Lord continue to bless them for faithful service on our behalf. They were Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Andy Moser and Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

Note of Thanks:

A loving thank you to all friends and relatives for all love shown through my dear sister, Mildred Stichling's, funeral. We pray God will bless all of you.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Luella Anliker and families

IOWA, PULASKI**Katrina Knobloch**

We are thankful for Bro. Brad Funk's (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) willingness to bring God's Word to us Christmas morning. May God bless him and his family for being with us.

January 7 marked the golden wedding anniversary of Joe Dean and Georgia Wells. We rejoice with them as they celebrate 50 years God has granted them together.

Blake Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) was hospitalized after having his tonsils out. We are thankful he is home and look forward to having him assembling with us

again.

We have enjoyed 7 years of fellowship with Bro. Mike, Sis. Lisa, Landon and Carly Knecht. They have felt God's leading to move "home" to Eureka, IL. We will miss them and pray they will continue to feel God's presence.

IOWA, WEST BEND**Lori Skogland****Berniece Banwart**

Among our many holiday visitors, we appreciated the ministry of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN) and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA); and on a more recent weekend, retired Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Mildred, Elgin, IA). May God bless them for being willing to bring forth the Word as directed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Bro. Vic Banwart (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Art Banwart (Madeline), and Irene Banwart spent time in hospitals and we are glad our prayers were answered and they can be at home again. At this time, Helen Gerber is in the hospital for fracture care and Linden Venhuizen (Ione) and Sis. Ida Schmidt are in the hospital for surgical care. We pray that all would be blessed with a good recovery.

Louis Schafer has been in failing health and is now being cared for at the West Bend Care Center. We hope he can enjoy the fellowship of the residents and those who take time to visit our loved ones there.

"To every thing there is a season...A time to be born and a time to die..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

Though a year seems to pass and we often wonder how it can pass so swiftly, we know God has an account of what each of us has done and whether we have spent the time

wisely. We at West Bend keep track of some of the past year's occasions and they are as follows: 10 weddings, 11 births (7 girls and 4 boys), 2 deaths and 5 baptisms. We realize each one of these occasions has had a life changing impact on the loved ones involved and their families. We trust God to provide what is needful in each case, whether it be an extra measure of patience, comfort in sorrow, or wisdom to make decisions that will be pleasing to our God.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Akihiro Ito**

Greetings, brothers and sisters, from Shioda. A new year has just started. What do we expect from the new year?

We had some snow this month and Mt. Fuji has changed to a snow covered mountain. This season is the most beautiful time for Mt. Fuji. We cannot help but thank God for making all creation.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Marie Inoue's mother, Sis. Catherine Neihouser, of Francesville, IN, on January 3. We were surprised by her unexpected death which was hastened by a bone fracture. We believe she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

We had a singing at Sis. Chizue Furuya's house on January 14. (We sat on cushions on the floor, around a low-legged table which had an electric bulb under it for heat.) A long time has passed since we went to someone's house for a singing. Usually we have a singing once a month at church.

Older brothers and sisters are often absent from church services because of their health problems. We would like to encourage them and pray for them.

Some people, especially the young, who live in the Shioda area,

may not know where our Shioda Church is located. It is a serious responsibility for us Christians to let people know the location of our church. Although we believe that, in the end, God must cause people to be converted and show them the way, surely we must work as one part of Jesus' body.

May God bless us this year and help us to walk on the right road, in the name of Christ.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Andrew and Jana Klaus

Greetings from Japan in the new millennium! New Year's time in Japan is used many times to reflect on what has gone on in the past year, and as we reflect on the year 2000, we realize God has been good to us, and we are thankful also for many special blessings in the past month.

Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's younger son, Makoto, gave his testimony of conversion on December 23, and we could all witness his baptism on December 24. Bro. Makoto is currently attending Purdue University and his home church is Indianapolis, IN. His counseling Elder, Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and his wife, Sis. Frances, also joined us in this special occasion, along with Bro. Makoto's roommates, Bro. Josh Overmyer (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Joel Zeller (Indianapolis, IN), and some friends, Bro. Dan Schafer (Indianapolis, IN) and Kan Uemura (Bloomington, IL). Kan grew up with Bro. Makoto here in Tokyo and started repenting last year. It is very encouraging to our church here to see these young people turning to the Lord. It was nice that Bro. Makoto could show his American friends his home country and that all these young men could sing together in our Christmas program, as

Makoto and Kan did for many years growing up here. We want to extend a warm thank you to Elder Bro. Alfred and his wife, Sis. Frances, for making the big trip over here and for their labors of love on our behalf. What a weekend heaped with blessings!

That same Sunday was also our Christmas service and Sunday School program, so there was record attendance and we truly felt the Lord's blessing upon our church. Sis. Marie's weekly English class students attend Sunday School, so there were many children and parents present for the program. The children did wonderfully, saying pieces in both Japanese and English and finishing with singing Silent Night in both languages. We, as observers, were very blessed, but even more, we believe the Lord was blessed by these precious children that He created telling the story of Him, even though many of their parents are not believers.

We were also blessed with a visit from Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) for two weeks in December, when they came to be with their son, Gary, and his wife, Yoko, and new baby, Koa. Gary is currently working at an international school in Tokyo. This was Sis. Ida's first trip to Japan, but Bro. Keith had been here some 30 plus years ago when he was in the service and stationed in Hawaii. We think he noticed many changes since that time! But, we were glad to have him back to our church where we are still serving the same God—that will not change.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Sis. Marie and her family, as we heard of her mother's passing, Sis. Catherine Neihouser (Francesville, IN), on January 3 at the age of 93. The Inoue family all went back to the States for a week to

attend the funeral and to be with family. We are thankful they have all arrived back safely, but we continue to hold them up in prayer as the adjustment to a mother and grandmother not being there is not easy. Andrew and I were able to listen to the funeral service on cassette tape and we were touched by the mentioning that Sis. Catherine had been a follower of the Lord for over 70 years and the same song that was sung at her baptismal service was also sung at her funeral service—"My Jesus, I Love Thee" (Hymns of Zion #153). Precious is this hope that we have of going to our Saviour's loving arms!

It is a custom at our church to eat "Ozoni", a special mochi (pounded rice cakes) soup on the first Sunday of the New Year, which Sis. Marie so kindly prepares for us. This year since she was in America and grieving the death of her mother, we did not think we would have it, but dear Marie had it all prepared the next Sunday after she came back. We do appreciate her labors of love.

On that same Sunday, January 14, we had a visitor, Ben Weber, who grew up in Wadsworth, OH, and, if we understood correctly, has relatives who attend our church in Phoenix, AZ. Ben is currently employed in the judicial system on Yap Island in Micronesia, an island straight south of Tokyo, a little above the equator. We enjoyed visiting with him and hearing his bass voice as he joined in the singing and even used the Japanese Hymnal since he has studied the alphabet. He passes through Japan on his way to and from the States to break up the long flight, so we hope he stops in again sometime!

May we all experience the Lord's grace and guidance in this new year with any joy or sorrow it may contain. "Another year is dawning,

Dear Master, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee." (Hymns of Zion #150)

KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

December 31, the last day of the year 2000, was a very special Sunday for our congregation as we were able to witness wedding vows and were informed of two engagements. The wedding was that of Sis. Robin Esslinger and Bro. Doug Wiegand. We rejoice with the two of them and their parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand and Bro. Leland and Sis. Patsy Esslinger, all of Pulaski, IA. We will miss Sis. Robin as she and Bro. Doug will be making their home in the Sarasota, FL, area.

The engagement of Sis. Lori Lehman and Bro. Myron Menold was made known to us. Sis. Lori's parents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman. Bro. Myron's parents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold. The other engagement announced on December 31 was that of Sis. Cara Hartter (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Jeff Steffen (Morton, IL). Sis. Cara's parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter (Bern) and Bro. Jeff's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie Steffen (Morton, IL).

The following Sunday, January 7, yet another engagement was made known to us. Sis. Tiffany Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS) was announced to Bro. Ryan Menold. Sis. Tiffany's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Ryan's parents are Bro. Joe D. and Sis. Kathy Rokey. We rejoice with these three engaged couples and wish them God's nearness during this beautiful time in their lives.

Our prayers have been with those who have spent time in the hospital.

They were Sis. Evelyn Robinson, Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) and Bro. Paul Grimm (Sis. Katie). We pray that God will allow healing according to His will.

We believe that it was God's will that our retired minister, Bro. Harvey Grimm, did not return to his earthly home following an extended hospital stay. God allowed him to pass onto his eternal Home on January 10. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Marie, and two sons, Bro. Gordon (Shari) and Greg, as well as four grandchildren. We pray that the Lord will provide comfort for Sis. Marie and her family. Bro. Harvey willingly served as a minister in our congregation for over 40 years. We will greatly miss him. Here to offer a prayer during Bro. Harvey's funeral service on January 13 was Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL).

Our annual business meeting was held on January 9. We offer our thanks to all of those who have held positions during the past year, and we offer our prayerful support to those who will be filling positions this year. May we all remember that "...the body is not one member, but many." (I Cor. 12:14). No matter what duty we have or do not have, we are all of equal importance in God's eyes, and we each have a specific purpose in the household of faith.

We don't have to look very far to be reminded of our God's infinite wisdom and purpose for every living thing He has created. I recently read an article about a bird and a tree who live in a partnership which is necessary for the survival of both of them. The tree (the white bark pine) produces seed cones that do not open to let the seeds fall out and reproduce as many other pines do. But rather, a little bird, the Clark's nutcracker, who nests in the branches of this tree, uses its long sharp bill to pry open the cones. This bird stores

these seeds in a pouch under his tongue and then buries them in holes in the ground to use later. The nutcracker digs up and feeds on these seeds all winter and also feeds them to its babies in the spring. Because the bird doesn't use all of the buried seeds, some remain in the ground to grow and develop into trees. It is quite evident that the white bark pine and the Clark's nutcracker help each other: the tree provides a nesting place and food for the bird; and the bird, unknowingly, helps to propagate the tree's seeds. If God has a certain purpose for a certain tree and a certain bird, how much more important are His purposes for each of His children? May we all willingly help in our various positions, however small or unimportant they may seem. For oftentimes our simple acts of godly service may help someone else in far-reaching ways that are unknown to us.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Joleen Sinn

We want to thank Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for sharing God's Word with us this past month.

We had our annual business meeting January 15. May our prayers be with everyone, whether they are new in office, once again filling an office, or still in the midst of their duties.

Bro. Wayne Sinn (Sis. Juanita) spent some time in the hospital this month. We are thankful that it was a short stay and our prayers are with him as the doctors attempt to find the correct dosage of medication.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Laura Wagenbach Jennifer Stewart

As we start the new year here in

Kiowa, we would like to wish each and every reader a very blessed and productive year. Just remember the invitation is always open for people to come and visit us.

We always start out our new year with a Sunday School get together on New Year's eve. We have a potluck snack supper and this year we had a taffy pull. Fellowship is enjoyed by all and at 15 minutes before midnight, we sing and at midnight we start off our new year with a prayer.

This congregation has just finished listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. We are thankful for our leadership and are mindful to keep them and their duties in our prayers.

We would like to extend our prayers to Sis. Janice Bahr and Bro. Arnold Ott for a speedy recovery.

KANSAS

LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Sarah Somerhalder

We are always appreciative for the labors of visiting ministers. We thank Bros. Jeff Bahr and Brandon Emch who were with us Christmas Eve and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell who was with us New Year's Eve.

A farewell singing was held for Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr and their three children, Brock, Kendon and Katelyn, as they plan to move to Illinois. Bro. Brian has accepted employment as a pharmacist at the Morton Restmor Nursing Home. They will be greatly missed in our little church. We certainly wish them the Lord's blessings!

Our prayers for the Lord's healing are with retired ministering Bro. Lloyd Kraft who has been hospitalized with severe back pain.

The annual business meeting was held Wednesday evening, January 17. Our support and prayers are

with those who have been elected to serve new terms.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Brenda Grimm

Mary Kay Wenger

Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Jarod Benjamin, on December 20. Jacob, Lena, Joshua and Jed are happy to have another brother. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner (Bern, KS).

Also thankful for the safe arrival of a new baby is Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne Edelman and their daughter, Laura. Tristan John was born January 8. Happy grandparents are Sis. Marge Edelman and Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle.

We welcome Bro. Phil Nenadov to our congregation as he is employed and living in Omaha, NE.

Seeking the Lord's will in their lives are Sis. Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey, Bern, KS), as they are planning a March wedding. We rejoice with them and pray they will feel the Lord's guidance always.

We were uplifted and encouraged as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls the weekend of January 13-14. Our two new brothers in faith are Bro. Rick Aberle (Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne) and Bro. Keith Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl). May they remain steadfast and strong in the faith, allowing God's Holy Spirit to guide them throughout their life.

Our annual business meeting was held the evening of January 16. Special thanks goes to everyone who has completed their terms and our prayers are with those that have been elected to a new responsibility.

We are so thankful for the many visiting ministers we have had this past month. They are Bros. Edwin Strahm (Elgin, IL), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), and Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and John Lehman (Bern, KS).

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The holidays are past along with one severe cold spell. Instead of New Year's Eve services, the congregation held a short song fest after church services on December 31. The songs from the Zion's Harp were especially meaningful as they made us aware of our dependence on the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Within our circle of fellowship, we had much need for prayer for the health needs of two of our loved ones. Bertie Reimschisel (Bro. Roger) underwent serious emergency surgery and, praise the Lord, is recuperating nicely. Betty Barth's scheduled surgery had to be postponed. May God direct her and her caregivers as they make decisions concerning her needs.

Tim Funk (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally) has enlisted in the navy. He is in basic training in Chicago and then will continue his training in Mississippi.

Our convert, Shwanda Reimschisel, has been announced to give her testimony prior to baptism, hopefully the weekend of February 10-11. It is also our desire to be served Holy Communion on that date.

Sis. Jodi Metzger has been spending the month of January in the Dominican Republic as a part of her residency with Via Christi Hospital in Wichita.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

The number 25,550 was written on the board one morning by a high school teacher. It was a unique way to stimulate her students to think. One pupil finally raised his hand and asked the instructor why this particular number was there. She explained that 25,550 represented the number of days in the life of a person who lives to be 70. This makes one think of the brevity of life and the value of each day.

When we are young and look ahead, time seems to move so slowly. It's hard to imagine at this stage the comment of older folk—that time has passed so quickly and I often wonder where it has gone. As we grow older, the years seem short and fleeting, especially when compared with eternity.

Only this hour is mine, Lord,
May it be used for Thee;
May every passing moment
Count for eternity.

—Christiansen

We were blessed to have Bros. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) minister to us this past month. It is our prayer the Lord will richly bless them.

We enjoyed a potluck and singing Saturday evening, December 30, the weekend Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and Bro. Mark Steiner were here. A blessed time of fellowship was en-

joyed by all.

We always appreciate visitors and especially in the New Year, we extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Lorenia Sibaja

"...And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

On December 31, we held our annual Christmas program. We were reminded of how the prophecies of Christ were fulfilled. Now we are the recipients of this great joy and hope.

On January 1, our convert, Nicholas Carillo, passed away, having already confessed peace with God and man. Although he was unable to be baptized as a brother in faith, we rejoice with the victory which was won through Christ Jesus. He left behind five children, including convert Berta Carillo Gonzalez, and 19 grandchildren, including Sis. Rosario Gonzalez, Sis. Claudia Gonzalez and convert Gloria Gonzalez.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death into life."

John 5:24

Meet Ana Cervantes:

"My name is Ana Cervantes; I am 26 years old. I was born into a "Catholic" home, although not 100 percent, as we did not attend mass regularly. I am the youngest of nine children. My parents were only able

to provide us with the bare necessities.

When I was four years old, one of my brothers decided to leave for the States to look for work. While he was waiting to cross the border, he spent some time in Tecate, Baja California, where he came to know the Word of God (through the Nazarene Apostolic Christian Church). He was baptized in the faith and later was married to a fellow believer.

Afterwards, my brother and his wife came to visit us every two years in the summer. They would read the Bible to our family and would teach Bible stories to the children. In this way I began to listen to the voice of God and to know the message of salvation. My brother did everything possible for his family to learn about the Lord. In the mail he would send recorded sermons and Bible stories. I would listen to them and even enjoyed them, but nothing more.

When I became a teenager, I felt great pride and hatred, and I harbored bitterness in my heart. I didn't want to listen to the call of God and was irritated by anyone who spoke about Him. But in the bottom of my heart, I also felt a great fear of dying and arriving in the presence of my Creator to be judged. I knew that I was not well with God and that I had to do something to change that, but I also had a tremendous pride that would not allow me to do so. I didn't want to change my life, I didn't want to leave my idols (one of which was worldly music—I couldn't live without it), and I didn't want to have a life like the believers. It seemed way too boring.

When the church was started here in Ixtlan, my mother and sister were already believers and so they attended the services. My mother asked me to go with them to church, and I did on Sundays so that they would not bother me with their nag-

ging. I listened to the messages and I felt conviction of sin, but it would only last a little bit, while I was in church. I had been going to the services for six months when a group of brothers came to conduct the first baptisms in the new church. This experience encouraged me to the point in which I, too, could make the decision to follow Christ.

I was baptized in July of 1997."

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Kristen Plattner
Sandy Schutte**

With this new year brings a new President and a new administration. A story was passed on to me about our new President. Shortly after he was officially announced President, he attended a fund raiser to thank his campaign workers. When introduced to one worker, she professed to be a Christian. With her son at her side, Mr. Bush asked the boy if he, too, was a believer. When the boy said he guessed not, Mr. Bush pulled up a chair and for more than thirty minutes told the boy how he had come to meet and dedicate his life to Christ. Does not God work in amazing ways?

Our annual business meeting was January 20. New trustee is Bro. Ryan Huber replacing Bro. Jim Blough. New kitchen committee is Sis. Julie Blough and Sis. Jamie Schrenk replacing Sis. Melva Oesch and Sis. Penny Erismann. New on World Relief is Sis. Heidi Stoller replacing Sis. Michelle Blough. Bro. Vern Meyer agreed to stay on as usher. Sis. Kristen Plattner and Sis. Sandy Schutte agreed to continue Silver Lining. Gordon Blough will continue to do lawn care and Bro. Marv Blough will continue to do snow removal. Sis. Margaret and Sis. Christine Wingeier have decided to retire, after many years of faithful

service from the duties of cleaning the church. We here at Alto are much in their debt for all the years of taking care of the building. Sis. Kathy Schrenk will take over their duties and seek help as she needs it. We would like to thank all those going out for their service and pray God's hand over those that enter into service.

We lost more snow birds going south to escape the Michigan winter weather. We pray for their health and safe return to us in the spring.

Also we had several of our kids home for the holidays from college and it is always good to have them here. Among those moving away to continue their education is Mark Schutte, who has moved to Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, to attend Lake Superior State University. Others who have gone away to school again are: Bro. Brett and Bro. Aaron Plattner to Kansas State, Bro. Jake Gerst, Bro. Brian Knudstrup, Bro. Ben and Aaron Kaeb, and Betty Jo Meyer, all to Michigan State; Jeremy Frost to Aquinas College; Tim Schutte to Hope College; Sis. Sara Gerst and Bill Stouffer to Grand Valley State University. Tom Oesch has also moved to Allendale while attending Grand Rapids Community College. We pray that the Lord will direct the paths that their lives are now taking and hope they remember the lessons they were taught in their youth. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Because of the number of children at Michigan State University, the combined Michigan churches will be holding services in the Ohio Room and the school one Wednesday a month. Alto hosted the first of these services with Bro. Bill Gerst giving the service. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen has decided to retire from his job in town due to health issues, but

will continue on as Elder at Alto. He and Sis. Loretta are planning a winter break in Prescott, AZ, to help with his healing.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a surprise open house given by their children on January 20, sharing stories of their years together.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough announced the engagement of their daughter, Joanna, to Jason Elenbaas. Jason's parents are Jim and Deb Elenbaas. A wedding date has not been set.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

There is no greater joy than when someone chooses to repent and become a child of God. We rejoice with Bro. Frank and Sis. Gayle Szabo as their son, Pierre, has begun his walk with the Lord. We pray that he will feel God's nearness and guidance as he begins this journey of repentance. May many more be encouraged to do the same.

We had several loved ones spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Sis. Leanore Knochel (Bro. Norman), Sis. Marie Wieland, Bro. Ron Wackerle, Bro. Brian Wieland (Sis. Char) and Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene). We trust that God's loving hand will continue to be upon each one and that they will experience full recovery and good health in the days ahead.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Bro. Dan Knochel (Sis. Dorothy, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Sis. Perseda, Detroit, MI). Both of these brothers were courageous in their battles over disease so often wearing a smile or sharing a kind word to those around them. Their loss will be

keenly felt and they will be greatly missed. What a blessing to know that "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of these two brothers. May they be comforted in their time of sorrow.

May God be near to you and your family in this New Year. God bless you.

Reminder: February is Silver Lining collection for Bay City.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Bonnie Bedolla
Crystal Ramsier

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. Herestoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Psalm 23

Our church experienced the sorrow of parting this month when Bro. Floyd Wieland went Home to be with the Lord. Bro. Floyd had been a part of this congregation since it was founded and served for many years as one of our ministers. We appreciated his kind, patient manner and his positive attitude. His wisdom, insight and prayerful approach to life

will be missed. We rejoice that Bro. Floyd is now free from that pain that plagued the last few months of his life and we are thankful we had the opportunity to learn from the consistent Christian example that he set. Our sympathy and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Perseda; their daughters, Anne, Bonnie and Judy (Keith), as well as their grandchildren and his brothers and sisters.

Illness and accidents have touched the lives of several people in our congregation in the past month. Sis. Arlene Belsley, Sis. Kristine Krieger and Bro. George Popp have all been in our prayers.

Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach traveled to India. We are thankful that he had the opportunity to go and that he returned safely.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon Rager and their son, Kurt, drove up from Toledo for a Tuesday night service at Woodhaven. Thank you, Bro. Walt, for sharing God's Word with the Woodhaven residents.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Cheryl Messner
Dianne Kellenberger

Our winter months have been so cold and windy, yet our hearts have been warmed and refreshed from hearing God's Word spoken to us from our own ministers, as well as from our visiting ministers who were Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bros. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO). We are so thankful to each of them.

The voice that breathed o'er
 Eden,
 That earliest wedding day,
 The primal marriage blessing,
 It hath not passed away;
 Still in the pure espousal

of Christian man and maid
The Holy Three are with us,
The threefold grace is said.

Be present, Holy Spirit,
To bless them as they kneel,
As Thou, for Christ the Bride-
groom,
the heavenly bride dost seal;
O spread Thy pure wing o'er
them;
Let no ill pow'r find place,
While onward to Thy presence
Their hallowed path they trace.

On January 7, Sis. Joan Messner was united in marriage to Bro. Ryan Kellenberger. Parents of the couple are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner, Sis. Dianne Kellenberger (Morris) and Mark Kellenberger (Leicester, NC). We pray God will bless their marriage with His abiding presence.

On December 24, the engagement of Bro. Micah Zeltwanger and Sis. Holly Beer (Milford, IN) was made known. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer. God be with them throughout their engagement as they make plans for their future.

We extend our love and congratulations to Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia Schmidgall who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May they continue to seek God's grace and guidance in their lives.

God has been so lovingly caring for 8-year-old Preston Moser who has been diagnosed with cancer. Preston has had surgery and is presently taking treatments. His parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Alpai Moser and others who suffer physical ailments.

We extend our sympathy to the

family of Wilbert John Spohr who passed from this life on January 10. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; three sons, Merle (Jean), Wayne (Camille) and Brian (Nina); two daughters, DeAnn (Steve) Heintzelman and Sis. Lynette (Bro. Guy) Koehl; two brothers, Charles (Liz) and Eddie (Karen); one sister, Sis. Ilene (Allan) Burnham; and one sister-in-law, Gloria Spohr; and 15 grandchildren.

During the year 2000 we had 12 births, 4 deaths, 10 baptisms, 2 weddings and 2 new converts. We're grateful to God for our many blessings.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for prayers, phone calls and gifts of love that were sent our way over the past two months while Shane was under the care of our physicians.

In His Love,
Shane and Ruth Jones and family

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner

"Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."

Psalm 33:20,22

Elder Bro. Ron Messner, Sis. Pam and family (Washington, IL) were here for Christmas. We enjoy hearing some of Bro. Ron's Winthrop church reminiscences when he ministers to us. "We each end the day alone with God...We each alone must answer to God...Have you claimed your inheritance from God? What have you done with YOUR inheritance?"

A precious new baby girl, Zoe

Talla, has been welcomed by Faith, Mercedes, and Gavin on January 5. Bro. Derick and Sis. Ruth Schmidt are the happy parents. Bro. Darrel and Darlene Schmidt welcome their granddaughter, also. God's blessings to all the family members.

February - Forgiveness

"...Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: But, until seventy times seven. "

Matthew 18:21-22

"To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also, for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

II Cor. 2:10-11

"...forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Mark 11:25-26

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Komari Neal

As a new year and a new millennium begin, many reflect on the past and make resolutions for the future. As the year ended in Kansas City, our ministers reminded us that our future is not determined by the success of New Year's resolutions, but instead, by our belief in the saving blood of Jesus Christ and following His perfect will. How truly we are richly blessed to have the knowledge of our Saviour and to be able to trust Him to guide us down the narrow

way!

Our congregation has recently seen some results of the Lord's leading hand. We have heard two engagement announcements in the last few weeks. First, Sis. Robin Kellenberger and Bro. Justin Moser were announced on December 24, 2000. Sis. Robin is the daughter of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Kansas City) and Bro. Justin is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser (Rockville, CT). Sis. Robin and Bro. Justin are both living and conducting studies in Chicago, IL. They are planning a June 10 wedding in Chicago. Secondly, Sis. Lori Lehman and Bro. Myron Menold were announced on December 31, 2000. Sis. Lori is the daughter of Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Myron is the son of Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold (Bern, KS). Sis. Lori has been completing her nurse's training at KU Medical Center in Kansas City during the last few months. Sis. Lori and Bro. Myron are planning a July 1 wedding in Bern. Both young couples have our prayers as they begin to unite their lives. May their marriages be modeled after the relationship between Christ and the Church.

As always, we were very thankful for the labors of any visiting ministers. This past month we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), and Bros. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Again, as we enter a new year, may our desire be to seek and follow God's perfect will.

"Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now

the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:18-21

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Kristen Braker

Kristi Huber

We welcome Bro. Brian Leman to our congregation. He has moved to our area from Eureka, IL.

We are always thankful to have visitors among us. We appreciated having Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) with us this past month. May God bless him for ministering the Word to us.

On January 9, we had our annual business meeting at church. Our prayers are with those who were given responsibilities and our thanks to those who have fulfilled their duties.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Rachel Schrock

In a recent sermon we were reminded that even King David was unable to keep himself pure from sin. As faithful to God as he was, he fell to sinful lust. King David lived before the dispensation of grace. We must never take the grace of God for granted. It is such a precious gift that can help us along the pathway of life.

Another precious gift that God has granted our Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger is the gift of a new granddaughter. Emily Nicole was born to Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ) on Jan-

uary 5. Emily is also welcomed home by her big sister, Erin.

We welcomed our visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God bless them for giving of themselves. May He also bless our minister, Bro. Loren Schrenk, who served us many sermons in a row during the past month.

We are thankful for those who have joined us in the past. One of our visitors last year left a set of keys at the church. We believe the keys showed up around Labor Day weekend. If anyone has been missing their keys, please contact Bro. Loren or Sis. Betsy Schrenk. Their phone number is listed in the Ministers' Book.

We always welcome anyone who would be traveling through the area to come and worship with us on Sundays. We also have services on the second Wednesday night of the month. On the remaining Wednesday nights, we enjoy studying the Bible together. If you plan to be in the area, please join us. May we see many more of you this year!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

Austin Daniel Endress was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee (Bradford, IL) on Friday, December 29. Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona are maternal grandparents and Sis. Lois Endress (Bradford, IL) is the paternal grandmother. We pray much wisdom and many blessings upon this family.

December 31 was the wedding day for Sis. Nicole Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) and Bro. Todd Witzig (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary, Gridley, IL). We wish them God's blessings and pray that they will return to Taylor often to visit!

Kaitlyn and Ashley Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna) and Luke Hoerr (Sis. Shelly) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of January 6-7. We welcome them as our sisters and brother in Christ. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) were here to assist with the services and we thank them.

The grandmother of Bro. Rusty Adrian (Sis. Amy), Roberta Adrian McCain, passed away this month. Sis. Louise Martin (Princeville, IL), grandmother of Sis. Lori Stratton (Bro. Michael), went to her eternal reward last month. We wish these families our sincere sympathy.

Our annual business meeting was held January 10. We thank Bro. Don Hoerr (Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis) for their past service and are thankful that Bro. Shannon Haerr (Sis. Susan) has agreed to serve as trustee, and Sis. Ellen Gehring (Bro. Brad) is willing to be part of the kitchen committee. We thank each one for their willingness to do their part.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Anna Mellnitz**

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving,
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training,
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth or else in Heaven,
Another year for Thee. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #150

On New Year's Eve we had a pot-luck supper and had services afterwards. We have had visitors from Rockville, CT, in January; and had World Relief night on January 19.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Luke 15:7

It is wonderful that God is still calling and giving peace to those that turn unto Him. Our convert, Gwen McGillvray, has found peace with God and will be baptized in the near future. She is the daughter of Sis. Jeanie and Bradley L. Herzig.

Molly Hirschey passed away to her eternal reward. She is the wife of John Hirschey. John is the son of Sis. Bernice Hirschey.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

Sis. Margaret Gruenig passed away January 3, just five days before she would have been 93. She was born in Switzerland, but lived most of her life here. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church for 74 years. She is survived by a brother, Werner Gruenig, and nephews, nieces, and great-nephews and nieces.

We are sorry for Bro. John Schamback and Sis. Esther Graf be-

ing hospitalized, and pray for their recovery.

Those of our members that went on the January work team to Haiti were Bros. Ron Palitto; Greg, Ben and Gregory Henico; Mark and Andy Steidl. We appreciate the work the brothers have done there.

We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Glenn Rigggenbach (Smithville, OH) recently.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Anita Steiner**

On January 5 we had a World Relief night. The time flew by as we enjoyed fellowship together working to do our small part to help those who are less fortunate.

January 20, Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) lovingly read to us the Memorandum. How blessed we are to be reminded that our Elder brothers care about each one of us individually.

The following day we had our annual business meeting. Election results are as follows: Bro. Neil Knobloch replaces Bro. Bill Sauder as trustee, Sis. Julie Grimm replaces Sis. Becky Sauder on the kitchen committee, Bro. Jason Whitman will continue to serve as usher, and Sis. Becky Sauder will continue to serve as Sunday School teacher. We offer our support to those who will be serving in the various stations and may God bless the efforts of those who will be relieved of their duties.

Also serving us this past month were Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) who was also here at the end of December. May God bless them for their efforts.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and
voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices...
Zion's Harp #236

How thankful and happy it makes us feel within to be able to announce three more converts as having the peace of God in their hearts. Chad Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Matthew Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) are looking forward to the time they can come before the church to give their testimonies. We trust God to continue to be ever by their side.

Ellie Marie Stoller has brought much joy into the home of Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy. She was born December 29. Big brothers, Emil and Adam, welcomed home their new little playmate. "I and my house, we are prepared, As long as to us life is shared, To serve Thee, Lord, sincerely. Thou shalt be Master of the house, Who with His blessing us endows, And we may love Thee dearly. Bless all, Though small, as Thy lowly Pure and holy Congregation To Thy name's adoration." (*Zion's Harp #160*)

Those spending time in the hospital this past month were Staci Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben) and Sis. Gwen Manz (Bro. Ken). Our prayers are with you both that you will be healed by God's mighty hand.

Recently Sis. Vicki Klopfenstein moved into our area and has begun assembling with us. We welcome you, Sis. Vicki.

OHIO, LATTY Kathy Sinn Heidi Hackenjoss

We enjoyed a blessed evening on December 20 as we gathered for our Christmas program. The Sunday School students sang songs and recited verses to commemorate Christ's birth. We were all reminded that the "story" of Christ's birth is just the beginning. Denying ourselves daily and living a convert life will prepare us for the return of Christ. We wish to thank the brethren who made the evening such a blessing for us.

Bobby Stoller (Brent and Angie) and Sis. Mary Eisenmann have spent some time in the hospital. We pray that the Lord will again mend their bodies, so that they can gather with us.

We rejoice with Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann) as he was announced as having peace with God and man. Each day anew may he feel the continuing peace and contentment we have in walking a converted life in service to the Lord. We await a time of testimony and baptism.

During the month and including Christmas Day services, we were privileged to gather with visiting ministers. These brothers include: Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). God's richest blessing will be their reward for their service to us.

Ellie Marie Stoller was born to Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Junction, OH). Her brothers, Emil and Adam, seem quite pleased with their baby sister. We look forward to having her visit Latty as she comes to visit her grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller.

Our congregation also looks for-

ward to welcoming Adrienne Rebekah Rosswurm into our midst. She was born into the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm. Her siblings are Mallory, Rachael, John and Dana. Grandparents are Sis. Irma Stoller and Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman.

We extend sympathy to several families in our congregation. Sis. Catherine Neihouser (Francesville, IN), mother of Sis. Renee Sinn (Bro. Walter), was called from time into eternity during the month. Bro. Kurt Tonner (Bluffton, IN), brother to Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin), was relieved of his pain and suffering. Sis. Elizabeth Wieland's brother-in-law, Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit, MI), has also gone to his eternal reward. As the members of these families reflect on their loss, Heaven will become more dear and near, thus giving them strength and zeal to strive to walk an even closer walk with the Lord.

On January 1 we gathered for our New Year's service and annual business meeting. During the meeting, Elder Bro. Ray Sinn announced the following blessings that we experienced in the year 2000. Within our congregation, we had 1 death, 15 births, 4 baptisms, 4 weddings, and currently have 13 converts. This serves as evidence that the Lord is still working in the heart of man.

The following Sunday, the results of our voting was announced. With prayerful hearts, the following brothers and sisters will perform the duties of each office. They are: Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet) for Sunday School, Sis. Connie Krzesinski (Bro. Keith) and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee) for Sunday School, Bro. Tim Schlatter (Sis. Becky) for Church Trustee, Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Sis. Lisa) for Fellowship Hall Trustee, Sis. Joanne Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith) for Kitchen Committee,

and Bro. Don Wenninger (Sis. Josephine) for the Apostolic Christian Country Villa board. We trust that God's richest blessings will be felt by those brethren who have fulfilled their duties.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for ministering unto us this past month. The Lord is their reward.

Sis. Missy Sauder (Greg) and Roma Them (John) were hospitalized. We are thankful they are both able to assemble with us in church again.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Sophie Sabo (Bro. Bill) and Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty) in the death of their sister, Margaret Nagy.

Steve and Melinda Robertson were blessed with Ashley Nicole, born on December 18. Jacob is happy to have a little sister. Grandparents are Jim and Gaye Robertson and Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmer.

Peace: calm; repose; freedom from disturbance, war, or hostilities; freedom from sin.

We are thankful for Tony Eichof who has found peace with God and man. Tony is the father of Sis. Pat (Bro. Ken) Beer.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Cheryl Hartzler Beth Beery

Meekness is the noblest virtue,
Ev'ry Christian's honor bright;
It adorns the youthful member
And the aged with its might.
Though it does not stand in favor
with those of a proud behaviour,
Yet 'tis more than precious gold,
More than fame and wealth un-

told.

Zion's Harp #186

Humility or meekness is defined in the Funk and Wagnalls Comprehensive Standard Dictionary as "Of gentle and longsuffering disposition and submissive." In the Bible, Col. says, "...not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh" and Philippians 2:3, "...let each esteem other better than themselves." Christmas Carol Kauffman defines humility as "perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or vexed or irritated, never disappointed. It is to expect nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret and be at rest and peace, as in a deep sea of calmness when all around and above me is trouble."

Why should we be humble? I Peter 5:5 says, "God...giveth grace to the humble." We need that "grace" to reach Heaven. James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Certainly at times we feel discouraged and need "lifted up" and the Lord tells us how to receive that. Several verses also refer to a humble person being exalted and Matthew 18:4 says about being humble as a child and "the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." We don't relate the words "exalt" and "greatest" with humility but God's Word is true. I love the verse in Micah 6:8, "...and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Sometimes God humbles us so we can obtain His favor. Four dear souls, Jessica Musser (Bro. Michael and Sis. LuAnn), Mary Bauman

(Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Shannon Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) and Trudie Hartzler (Bro. Thomas and Sis. Diane), have experienced humbleness, submissiveness and peace as expressed in their testimonies Saturday, January 13. On Sunday, we witnessed their baptisms. Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in this miracle of becoming a child of God. Many gathered to receive a blessing including ministering Bros. Steve Pamer and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

We hear the truth, so pure and clear.
Of Jesus' love so sweet and dear;
There we are taught to lift our eyes
to Him who lives on high.
You teach us of the heavenly home,
How we may enter there.
And when we leave our father's house,
And journey thru this world of strife,
Oh may your loving counsel then,
Show us the path of life.
We love to hear the words of truth...

Hymns of Zion #73

Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) visited us December 17, read Luke 7:36-50 and touched upon divine thinking vs. mortal thinking. I Corinthians 2 expresses the wisdom of God vs. the wisdom of this world, as exhorted to us by Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) on December 24. Our minister, Bro. Ron Steiner, encouraged to have the "mind of Christ."

May we all have the "mind of Christ" which includes "divine thinking" and "the wisdom of God". December 25, ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) visited us. Bro. Todd Stoller referred to "God's Timing" in Matthew 1:17. Bro. Ron Palitto was here January 1 and again brought us teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. To all of our Elders and ministers, we thank you for bringing to us the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

God brings children into the world to raise in the fear of Him. On December 16, Charity Ann was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Debra Gasser. Her sister, Kayla, and grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH), welcome her home. Chad Timothy was born December 26 to Bro. Timothy and Sis. Jonell Ramsier. Happy to help care for Chad are three sisters, Kelly, Katie and Heidi, and grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

"...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matthew 8:17). Our hospital patients this month were Doug Raifsnider (Sis. Diane), Mark Bachman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Ruth), Rex Young (Carol), and Bro. Ralph Weber. We pray for God's healing power.

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

Genesis 2:17

Nathan Bauman (Daryl and Ivy) and Bonnie Graves (Terry and Debby Graves; Chris and Kathleen Setzelter) were united in marriage January 5.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:"

Romans 12:4

We have changed office members in our church. Many thanks to those who have served us and the Lord. Elected into office were Bro. Jerry Gasser, Trustee; Bro. Matthew Rufener, Usher; Bros. Fred Gasser and Michael Miller, Sr., Nursing Home Director; Bro. Vern Lanz, Prayer Microphone Operator; Bro. Richard Hartzler, Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Dave Emch, Treasurer; Bro. Aaron Beery, Song Leader; Bro. Brian Acker, Fellowship Hall Director; Sis. Lucille Blough, Nursing Home Auxiliary; and Sis. Lois Gasser, Kitchen Help.

OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
Knows thine every care;
Knows thy deep contrition,
Hears thy feeblest prayers;
Do not fear to trust Him,
Tell Him all thy grief.
Cast on Him thy burden,
He will bring relief.

Jesus knows thy conflict,
Hears thy burdened sigh;
When thy heart is wounded,
Hears thy plaintive cry;
He thy soul will strengthen,
Overcome thy fears;
He will send thee comfort,
Wipe away thy tears.

Hymns of Zion #74

Feeling a loss over the past holiday season is our Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John) in the passing of her mother, Gaynell VanCamp. Our prayers are with them and their children, Bro. Andrew (Sis. Cyndi),

Dave (Amy) and Bro. Robert (Sis. Angie), who have also lost a dear Grandma.

One Sunday when meditating on St. Luke, chapter 16, we were reminded from the parables that there are two different kinds of riches. Is it the worldly riches of this world that we hold dear, or is it the true riches of Heaven that will be most important to us in this new year?

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Ruth Gasser Edith Miller

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

Psalms 133:1

Our prayers are with our Elder brethren as they meet together for the winter Conference. We trust they will feel the support of the entire brotherhood.

We were blessed with the visit of several visiting ministers in the past month. Our thanks to Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for bringing forth the Word of Truth unto us. Bro. Marvin also spoke to our single brothers and sisters and converts on New Year's Eve. May God bless each for their efforts.

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

Isaiah 26:3

We are happy that Jon Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) has experienced this peace and now awaits baptism at the appropriate time. May his faith and trust in God continue to grow during this time of waiting.

A precious baby boy has arrived to bless the home of first-time parents, Scott and Deana McCune. Trent Alan was born on January 5. Bro. Dean and Sis. Martha Marty are his grandparents. We are sorry that little Trent had to return to the hospital for a short stay, but are thankful he is home again. May wisdom from God be given to these and all parents, as they face the responsibility of raising their little ones.

Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle (Sis. Vera) was in the hospital for a short time. We are thankful he is doing better again.

Sis. Krista Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) has recently accepted employment in the Detroit area. May she feel God's nearness in this new venture. We look forward to frequent visits from her.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We congratulate Sis. Jill Manz (Junction, OH) and Kara Gasser (Rittman, OH) as they have completed their bachelor's degrees at the University of Toledo. May they find God's blessings in their occupations. Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bro. Richard Fetter (Sis. Betty) who passed away December 22. His family includes children, Bro. Matt (Sis. Wendy, Washington, D.C.), Andy (Tracy), and Laurie Jackson (Michael); 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. His brother and sisters are Bro. Gene (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. May Fetter, and Sis. Herma Whittaker. May they feel the comfort of God in the loss of their loved one.

We were glad to welcome Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and his family to our congregation again. The spoken Word is a blessing to us, and we hope that he feels God's

blessings for his service on our behalf.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

On Sunday, December 17, our six Sunday School students presented to us the annual Christmas program. All students put forth their effort and the program was enjoyed and appreciated by all. May they keep the real meaning of Christmas in their hearts always.

We thank our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Word recently. We appreciate Bro. Art and Sis. Betty's support very much. May the Lord bless them both. We likewise wish to thank all visitors who came to Portland to worship with us this past month. May you all have a blessed New Year.

OREGON, SILVERTON

RosaLee Kuenzi

February 11 is the day chosen for the wedding of Bro. Kyle Walter and Sis. Tricia Young (Forrest, IL) whose engagement was announced last month. Parents of the young couple are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young (Forrest, IL). May they feel the Lord's nearness as they make their plans to "walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart..." (ZH #79).

Our church has been blessed with three new babies in recent weeks. Born December 20, 2000, was Cassandra Sue Stadeli, new daughter of Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadeli. Siblings at home are Trever, Kiersten and Malinda. Grandparents are Norman and Maryann Stadeli and Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol

Virkler (Owatonna, MN). Then on January 12, born about an hour apart were Trey Hunter Stadeli and Katrianne Marie Sinn. Trey's parents are Chad and Cathy Stadeli, with siblings, Jens and Annika, at home. Grandparents are Norman and Maryann Stadeli and Cleason and Cindy Helm, all of Silverton. Katrianne's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn and grandparents are Sis. Marian Sinn and Bro. Dan Edelman (Bern, KS). Katrianne's welcoming committee were Kenton, Brianna, Laura, Darwin, Trenton, Nelson, Troy, Erin, Travis and Desiree. What blessings that these little ones can claim...they have already been brought in, to sit under the sound of the true Gospel "in their Mother's arms" and are surrounded by generations of love and care.

After much thought and prayer, our dear Sis. Vicki Klopfenstein has decided to move to Ohio. She is assembling with the Junction, OH, congregation and we wish her God's richest blessings. We will miss her here but believe she will continue in nearness to our Lord, heeding His daily guidance and direction, wherever she lives. "But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again." (HZ #156).

On the "plus side", we welcome home again Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara). Sis. Melissa has been working in the Philadelphia, PA, area for the past year and is now home again and going to school at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. We are glad to have her with us again.

The first weekend in January was very special as we had the blessed opportunity to welcome three new lambs into the fold. They were Bro. Todd Haun and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Lisa Kuenzi. Bro. Todd's mother is Dorothy Haun;

Bro. Nelson's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi, all of this area; and Sis. Lisa's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger of Lester, IA. They were all here to witness the baptism on January 7. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) shared the pulpit with our Elder Bro. Art Metz, for this special occasion. "Now it is accomplished! I now become free; From sin and transgression redeemed I shall be;" (ZH #209).

We have had several in the hospital for various surgical and medical problems. They were Bro. Carl Schmid, Sis. Gloria Kuenzi (Bro. Lewis), Travis Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith), Abigail Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie), Bro. Greg and Sis. Carol Wackerle, and Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet). Some of these are again able to come to church and some have convalescent time ahead of them, but surely all would appreciate our prayers in their behalf, for our Lord's healing mercies. Often we also need to remember to pray for each other for the ability to endure whatever situation we find ourselves in, with patience, and even with cheerfulness. "Endure, and be still, believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will." (ZH #241).

We have had several visiting Elders and ministers that we wish to thank for their willingness to serve us from time to time during the past weeks. They are Elder Bros. LeRoy Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Robert Miller (Portland, OR). "Hold thou fast! Hold thou fast! Persevere now as of old." (ZH #20).

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

"O sing unto the Lord a new song:
sing unto the Lord, all the earth.
Sing unto the Lord, bless his name;
shew forth his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the heathen,
his wonders among all people.
For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised."

Psalm 96:1-4

We can imagine the joy and the zeal with which David would "sing a new song" unto the Lord, and while we may not spend hours, or perhaps days, composing a new song to the Lord, may our joy and zeal still show forth in the way we sing to the Lord.

This month we began the new year with joy in our hearts and a zeal for serving the Lord and for giving Him praise and thanksgiving for His care and guidance over us throughout the past year. And what better way to welcome a new year of life walking with the Lord than in His house, gathered with His children.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are truly humbled by God's abundant provision for our every need. We praise Him for providing willing ministering brothers to bring forth His Word. Recently we were encouraged through the Word by Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), and we also enjoyed the fellowship with his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and their converted children. We have also recently enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Minneapolis and Winthrop, MN.

We are thankful for God's gracious protection as most of our congregation traveled many miles over

the Christmas and New Year's holidays to visit family and friends. What a strengthening it is to our faith to be able to travel and fellowship so freely, and to feel the loving welcome of the brethren wherever we go.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please give us the opportunity to show you a loving welcome by planning to worship with us. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet and fellowship with our brethren. Beginning in March, we will have a visiting minister scheduled for every Sunday (except Easter, Christmas and New Year's). The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Alto, MI (Mar. 4); Akron, OH (Mar. 11); Athens, AL (Mar. 18) and Bradford, IL (Mar. 25). We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, CENTRAL Dan and Pam Sauder

Our visiting ministers in the past month were Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN) and Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL). We appreciate the support of our brethren throughout the country.

Our small congregation continues to meet at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35 approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Exit at #206 and find the hotel on the northwest side access road.

Our March schedule of worship

services and churches sending ministers include: the 4th (Mansfield, OH), 11th (Bradford, IL), 18th (Lester, IA) and 25th (Fairbury, 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 (979) 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 and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

The Church now assembling at San Marcos, Texas, has seen growth in recent years. At the current time we are in the process of searching for a property with either a building on it that is suitable for services, or one on which a church building could be constructed. The area being searched for such a location is bounded on the south by San Marcos and on the north by Austin. This area affords reasonably easy access to IH 35 and the airports in Austin and San Antonio. Those who regularly attend and actively support these services live in Austin, San Antonio (which is 40 miles south of San Marcos and 75 miles south of Austin), and in some small communities to the east of Austin.

For those who may have an interest in visiting this Church, the services are now being held in the Quality Inn at 1433 IH 35 North, San Marcos, TX. Services are held

every Sunday except for some holidays. Phone numbers for the contact persons for these services are listed in the Directory of Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers. It is recommended that anyone intending to visit should call one of those contacts.

For those who would be interested in permanently locating in that area of Texas, employment opportunities are very good. Several high-tech companies are large employers in Austin. Other large employers in the area are the Texas State Government offices, Travis County offices, and the main campus of the University of Texas which has an enrollment of approximately 50,000 students. Employment in the medical field is available since there are some very large hospitals and medical training schools in both San Antonio and Austin.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl Mary Plattner

It is a blessing to see our congregation grow each Sunday during our winter season as many of our brethren from the north take refuge from the winter weather. The ministers that have been here to serve us have been Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH), Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), and retired Elder Bros. Paul Fehr (Sis. Anna, Morris, MN) and Ken Sauder (Sis. Suzanne,

Mansfield, OH) and retired ministering Bros. Elmer Schmidt (Sis. Hazel, Winthrop, MN) and Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther, Forrest, IL). Elder Bro. Ray Sinn is here for several weeks and during his stay the Memorandum will be read and Holy Communion served.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Viola Perdelwitz (John). We are thankful that her health has been restored.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy in the passing of his mother, Sis. Louise Ballasy, of Rockville, CT. Norman and Lavina had returned home to CT for the holiday season and while at home she passed to her eternal rest at the age of 101 years.

We have enjoyed having families visit Zapata over the winter season as they come to visit their family here. It is unusual, but pleasant, to hear the many voices of young children. Sisters Viola Perdelwitz, Melvene Stoller and Jennifer Kellenberger have shared the duties of Sunday School teacher.

Thursday afternoon has been designated as a day the women met to do sewing at the local library. There are several World Relief projects that they are currently working on. An afternoon of fellowship is enjoyed as they work in love.

We certainly welcome anyone wishing to visit a warmer climate this winter to consider Zapata in their travel plans.



Sermon continued from page 2

about the end result of serving self or the flesh versus the end result of taking on the mind of Christ and serving the Lord. The end results are so vastly different and the Scripture is very clear on that. It says that there are two ways we can go. We can either be forever with the Lord in heaven and that is the goal that I hope we are likeminded about. That is the goal I hope we are all striving for. That is the goal that I think is referred here when it tells us that we need to be likeminded. We all need to be striving daily for that goal of eternal life.

We have to make sure that that is more than just wishful thinking. It is not just a wishful thought that we hope we are going to go to heaven some day. I think if we honestly ask ourselves and honestly go around the room and ask each individual, I think we would all say, "Yes, I want to go to heaven." We say that with our lips and maybe even think it in our minds, but are we striving daily to keep the Lord in our hearts? This is a day we may make even a commitment right now in our heart to say, "Lord, I want to serve You. I want eternal life."

But what are we going to do tomorrow? Are we still going to have that same desire—not just in our thoughts—but in our actions? Are we going to be striving to keep the Lord in our hearts tomorrow? It is pretty easy here in this room to have heavenly thoughts, to have thoughts of Christ, and to have the mind of Christ. But what about in our daily actions?

That is when it becomes a real test for us. Are we striving daily to keep the Lord in our hearts? If we aren't, the Lord is going to help us. The Lord will help us attain to eternal life. That hope that we can have in our hearts today, it is more than just a wishful thought. But it is that common assurance of knowing that

if we die today, we can go to be with the Lord.

We need to stop and think about that today...right now! If our life ceases to exist, do we have that comfort and assurance of knowing that if we fell over dead right now that we would be with the Lord? We need to think about that because it is going to happen. My life will end and I can guarantee you that every one of your lives will end also. If it happens right now, do we have the assurance, do we have that calm peace in our hearts knowing—not doubting—knowing that if our life ended now, we would be with the Lord? We can have that. The Lord can give us that. It doesn't have to be a question mark.

But the Lord also wants us to know that there is another option. There is another option, another alternative to be in heaven. That is being forever in the lake of fire, as the Word tells us. It tells us that we will go to hell and it says, "...death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire." (See Revelation 20:14). There we will be forever. Let us make no question mark about it. Sometimes in the flesh, we like to explain away that alternative because it is too unpleasant to think about. Yet, the Lord loves us enough today to tell us about it that if we go through this life denying the Lord, He is going to deny us in an eternity with Him. It is not a pleasant alternative, but that is why the Lord came. That is why the Lord came to give us the ability today to have that assurance of life eternal. Also that every day that we submit our hearts to Him, we take on the mind of Christ and we are striving to do His will. Every day we are looking to live like Christ lived and that we are seeking what others need, and not what we ourselves need.

It even reminds us in verse three, "Let nothing be done through strife

or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3. That right there is a fundamental teaching that goes against the flesh. The flesh likes to build itself up. We have that element of pride that we all battle against. We like to build ourselves up but it says here, "...esteem others better than ourselves." Do we do that? Are we looking to build others up? Are we looking to tear others down? We need to support one another.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" Philippians 2:4-5. We need to have a concern and a love for each other—a real caring concern and a real caring love that we would be willing to do whatever to help someone else. How far should we go in that? Christ went to the cross for us. Christ performed something that you and I could not do. In an earthly sense, perhaps, we sometimes see those around us maybe struggling with something in life or maybe it is something that they have of themselves can't do. Maybe they don't have the resources to do something. Whatever it is, time or talents or money or whatever, we need to, in an earthly sense, be willing to help other people.

But even more so in a spiritual sense. We need to be down on our knees praying for those who don't know the Lord. We need to be seriously concerned about the unsaved soul and it is not that you and I can save anyone. We cannot. It is the Lord that does the saving, but we can be prayerful. Sometimes I wish it were more clear to us what goes on in the spiritual realm when we have our prayer. When we pray someone's name, what happens in the spiritual world? In one place,

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the Scripture tells us that our prayers ascend to the throne of God as a sweet smelling savour. Our prayers do not go unnoticed. Sometimes we think they do. Sometimes we think the Lord doesn't hear because He doesn't answer, at least He doesn't answer in the way that we think He should.

Yet, God's ways are so much higher than ours and so far above ours. Sometimes we think we know what the answer is. The Lord knows and He can see the end from the beginning and He knows what is best for us. He knows that we need Him. He knows that we were lost, and without Him, we had no hope. That is why the Lord came and He offered Himself on the cross as that Supreme Sacrifice that we today can have the hope of eternity. Do you?

Do you have in your heart today a peace of forgiven sin? Do you have a peace knowing that you can stand before the Lord, as it says here later, "That ye may be blameless and harmless"? Phil. 2:15.

Are any of us blameless? Of ourselves, we can't be. Of ourselves, none of us are blameless because the Scripture tells us so clearly, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23. What does that mean? We all need the Lord. Since we have all sinned, we all need the Lord. There are no exceptions. There will be no eternal life to the soul who does not submit to the will of God. To the soul who doesn't take on the mind of Christ, there will be no eternity with the Lord.

We will all be in eternity. We will all be in a place of time without end, if we can explain it that way. Where are you going to be? Are you going to be with the Lord? Are we going to be faithful unto death and grave? That is a question we need to ask ourselves today: Are we seeking the Lord and His will for our life?

It goes on to talk about Christ. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:" Philippians 2:6. I was talking to a young man a few weeks ago and he said, "Jesus really isn't the Son of God. God would not share His glory with a man." He really didn't think that Christ died on the cross for his sins. Sometimes we take that for granted. I really don't know if there are any here today that don't believe that. Do you believe that Christ died on the cross for your sins? This young man did not. He just thought he could live his life and be good and do things as best as he could and that the blood of Jesus really didn't mean anything to him.

Today, I think, and I don't know of you here, I think we all here today believe that Christ died for us and that He shed His blood for us. At least we say that, but do we act like that? The devil believes that, too. The devil believes that Christ died.

There has to be a saving belief. There has to be a submission to the Lord's will. It can't just be a belief in the fundamental facts as the Bible lays them out. We are not going to be saved by saying, "I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins." The devil says that. The devil says that Christ died on the cross, not for his sins, but the devil believes that Christ died on the cross. He will tell us that, "Yea, Jesus died for your sins, but you don't have to do anything about it today. God is going to be merciful and He won't let you go to hell. You have all kinds of time. You have time to live how you want to live. You have time to do the things you want to do."

If we are doing the things that the flesh wants to do, we need really to stop and analyze our lives. We should be doing the things that we want to do if they are in alignment with the Lord. If we have the mind

of Christ, the things that we want to do will be those things that Christ did, like helping other people and not seeking to satisfy the flesh. In that sense, we should be doing the things that we want to do, but it is not from the fleshly perspective. It is from the spiritual perspective that we should be pursuing those things that Christ would be doing. We need to have Christ's mind. When we do those things, those things are not going to save us.

It says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9. But it also goes on to tell us that faith without works is dead. They go hand in hand but being saved is really a gift of God. Salvation is a gift of God. We need to accept that gift.

We need to come to Him with the best that we have to offer. Just like those people in Leviticus who were supposed to offer the very best of their flock. What you and I can offer is not very much, is it, because we are really nothing before the Lord. That is what He wants. He wants our nothingness and our weakness. It says His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He wants us to come in weakness; then He can make us strong. That is when He can really use us. When we come and really feel our nothingness and we really feel the need for the Lord, that is when He can cleanse us and when He can really come into our heart and work with us.

If we come thinking we know everything there is to know and we are going to teach the Lord a few things, that is not how He wants us. There is pride there. We need to come broken and humbled and just say, "Lord, here I am, just as I am without one plea," as we sing in a hymn. Have we done that? Have we come broken to the Lord? Have we come

confessing our sins? Have we come really realizing the significance of His death on the cross? Have we come realizing that without His shed blood, we cannot be saved? Have we come in true belief, really believing that He can save us and cleanse us from our sins?

He can take away our desires to sin. He can turn our life around, or do we have a doubt? Nothing is too hard for the Lord. Those things that are difficult to mend that we think are impossible, nothing is impossible with the Lord. So, let's not hold back thinking that we are such a big sinner that the Lord can't turn us around. He created everything we see. He talked here about the people who were called out of Egypt. He parted the Red Sea. He brought water out of the rock. He fed them manna in the wilderness. Great physical things the people could see and today maybe we don't see those miracles from that perspective but today we can feel God in our lives if we come to Him broken.

If we come to Him really desiring Him, we will feel His presence in our life. Just as He promised when He left, He said, "I am going to go away but I will send a Comforter to be with you, to guide you and to lead you every step of the way." Sometimes we go through life and things aren't always easy. We understand that. God understands that. He can understand that because He came down to dwell with us in the form of God the Son. So He understands the things we go through and He understands that it is not an easy life. He understands that there is a devil on this earth here that is going about to deceive us. We can read about the temptations of Christ, but He always overcame. He showed us that we can be overcomers, but we need to have the mind of Christ.

One of the instructions we re-

ceived over the past few weeks was we need to think about our thoughts. Think about what we are thinking about. When our mind has that spare moment to drift, where do your thoughts go? Where do my thoughts go? Do we think on those things that are eternal and really have value? It is a little sign of a converted heart or a changed heart. Then when our thoughts go to Christ, go to those things that are heavenly, when our thoughts go in a concern here about the things of others, or when we have that spare moment (they are so fleeting today, it seems like, with all the activities we have in our life) but when we have that spare moment, do our thoughts go to others? Or do our thoughts go to ourselves and the things we want to do?

The mind of Christ. Do we have it, or don't we? "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:78. The greatest example of helping others that there ever will be. The greatest act of love that there will ever be. Christ as a man didn't want to go to the cross. He prayed to His Father in the garden, "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42. He submitted Himself to the Father. He yielded His will to the Father's will. That is the simple example we need to take today and be yielded.

If we go down the road and see a yield sign and go through it without yielding, there is a danger there that we are going to hit a car coming from the other way. But if we yield, there will be no accident. That is the way it needs to be in our spiritual life. If we yield our will to the will of

God, there will be no spiritual accident. But if we just plow ahead on our own free will, there is a real danger there. There is a real danger that we are going to meet spiritual shipwreck. Are we yielded? Are we totally yielded to the will of God? Do we have the mind of Christ? Are we seeking those things that help others? Are we seeking things that appeal to our own flesh?

It is not always our first desire to help others. Our first desire is our own sinful nature. Our own selfish desire is to seek those things that we like. Christ didn't like the cross. He didn't like the pain He went through, but nevertheless, He yielded to the Father's will. We also need to yield to the cross. Not the same cross that Christ went to in a physical way, but we need to yield our life to Him. We need to die off to self.

I think we heard about this last Sunday that if we really want to be alive in Christ, we first need to die to self. That is really the only way that new life begins as if there is a death. In a spiritual sense, we need to die to self and then we can become one of those, as the Bible puts it, a new creature in Christ. There can be that new life and we can be like the Apostle Paul where he specifically said that he hated things he once loved, and he loved things that he once hated. Can you and I say that? Do we like doing things that we didn't used to like to do? Do we hate things that we used to enjoy doing? It is a little sign of a converted heart.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings:" Philippians 2:13-14. How quick are we to murmur? How quick are we to complain? When we think of that, we think of those children of Israel that were called out of Egypt. Ini-

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tially, they liked their new-found freedom. They liked being free from the slavery of making the bricks, but soon they were out in the wilderness and things were not as great as what they were going to be from the fleshly perspective.

They soon began to complain to Moses. They said, "Did you lead us out here in the wilderness to die?" They were lacking water and food. At least, they were lacking the food and eventually they were supplied with the manna and eventually supplied with water. Still they complained and they wanted meat. So it seems like they were never quite satisfied and they were so quick to complain and so quick to forget about the slavery they were delivered from. That is the same temptation that you and I can fall in today, (if we can call it that), that we don't think back to where we came from.

The hymn says, "Remind me where you brought me from and where I could have been." We could be totally without the Lord today. I know that there are many of you here today that has the Lord in your life because I can tell by the way you live. We could be in a position of not having that and not having the Lord in our hearts, but those who have yielded to Christ, He cleanses those hearts. Those hearts that have not yet yielded, today is the day that we can still yield to the Lord. It is His will for our life that we would be saved. He doesn't want one soul lost.

It is such a critical decision that it seems like such a weighty decision and when we really think about it, it seems like we would call today a "no brainer". Whether or not we would choose to serve the Lord or to choose to serve ourselves.

Is there really any decision to make? In light of eternity, is there really any question the choice that we should make? Yes, there is a de-

cision that we clearly do need to make. You and I clearly need to decide if we are going to serve the Lord and have the mind of Christ, or are we going to serve ourselves and have our own minds? Have you made the decision in your life that you are going to serve God, no matter what? Even Christ, He submitted to the will of the Father even though it meant His death, a very painful death on the cross. We need to be submitted to the will of God. If we are submitted to His will, we will be living a life wanting to help others. We will be living a life that we will have the mind of Christ. We will be living a life that will lead us by God's grace and by His mercy and by His help to an eternity of peace and love and joy forever.

But if we haven't submitted to the Lord, we really have nothing to look forward to. The devil loves to come and cloud our minds and make us think that we have so much to live for in this life. From one per-

The World Relief Child Sponsorship program has an opportunity for a Brother or Sister to serve the Lord as a volunteer in the Morton, IL office. This program was started over three years ago and is in a continual state of growth, therefore volunteers are continually being added. Our goal is to never have to ask a volunteer to come more than once per week and usually never more than 4 or 5 hours at a time. All volunteers must be computer literate and have some knowledge of accounting. If this is something you feel you would be qualified at, and feel led by the Lord to offer your services in this way, please contact the Child Sponsorship office during normal business hours at (309) 266-6080.

spective, we are blessed and we do have a lot of things to enjoy in this life. We don't want to take away from that, but we need to look at our lives and evaluate them from the perspective of eternity. Are we ready to meet our Lord? Really think about that. Don't leave here today without seriously answering that. Are you ready to meet your Lord? There are two ways we are going to end up, either one in heaven and one in hell. It needs to be very clear in our mind today. Are we going to be with the Lord? Or, are we going to be with the devil forever?

It is a weighty decision. It is one we all need to make. We all need to clearly make that because this life will end. This earth will cease to exist, but God will live forever and ever and we can be with Him today. Don't let this day pass without making a decision in your life.

Mexico Board Work Teams

**Orphanage
Casa De Elizabeth**

Imuris, Mexico

- 40 mi. south of Nogales

March 5-10:

masonry work, building

March 12-17:

masonry, carpentry,
electric, plumbing

March 19-24:

carpentry, electric,
plumbing

Contact:

Bro. Dick Beery

(602) 266-1517 - evening

(602) 625-7244 - days (cell)

Bro. Jerry Tooley

(480) 460-4531 - evening

(602) 256-2664 - work

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2001

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, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

Country	Project	Date	Location	Coordinator	Project Type	Count	Completion %
Haiti	SEED	Feb 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 2-10, '01	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	50%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 8-16, '01	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	(*) 50%
Jamaica	CCCD	Mar 9-17, '01	Deaf Village	(*) Michael Meister	Work Place	40	(*) 98%
Haiti	MEBSH	Mar 15-23, '01	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	(*) 40%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Mar 16-24, '01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
Haiti	SEED	Mar 22-30, '01	Les Cayes	Art Mueller	Agriculture Aid	9	0%
Haiti	Palm Grove	Apr 6-13, '01	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz (Washington, IL)	Grade School	11	60%
Jamaica	CCCD	Apr 7-14, '01	Deaf Village	(1) Peoria B.C.	Work Place	50	80%
Haiti	MEBSH	Apr 19-27, '01	Les Cayes	Nathan Gerber	Grade School	9	(*) 50%
Jamaica	CCCD	May 11-19, '01	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder (TBA)	Work Place	40	100%
Haiti	AWA-FWR	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Vocational Sch.	4	100%
Haiti	AWA-T	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
Haiti	AWA-B	May 25 - Jun 01, '01	Les Cayes	Bill Ragel	Vocational Sch.	2	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 2-9, '01	Deaf Village	(2) Gridley B.C.	Work Place	55	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 9-16, '01	Montego Bay	(4) Belvidere B.C.	Deaf School	40/50	(*) 100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jun 30-Jul 7	Kingston	(5) Bluffton B.C.	Deaf School	50/60	100%
Jamaica	CCCD	Jul 21-28, '01	Deaf Village	(1) Ak-Rit-Sville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%

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
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

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Saturday, August 18, 2001

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MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

CONSTRUCTION

RIO BRAVO - ICCD

*(International Christian Center
for the Deaf)*

March 3-10

Team Leader -
Bro. Todd Fiechter
219-334-5583

March 24-31

Team Leader -
Bro. Mike Fiechter
219-597-7330

June 16-23

Contact Bro. Joe Maller
219-565-3211

AGUA PRIETA PROJECT

March 3-10

Team Leader -
Bro. Wayne Lehman
219-773-4373

March 10-17

Team Leader -
Bro. Wayne Lehman
219-773-4373

JUAREZ PROJECT

March 3-10

Team Leader -
Bro. Bruce Aschliman
219-824-2829

March 10-17

Team Leader -
Bro. Jeff Sauder
217-367-1427 or 309-925-3215

March 24-31

Team Leader - Bro. Jeff Leman
219-565-3815

MEDICAL TEAMS 2001

JUAREZ

March 15-22

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082

JUAREZ or COPPER CANYON

August 29 - Sept. 5

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann
309-385-1082

PLEASE NOTE: The A.C. Mental Hotline that has been in operation for many years has become a part of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services as of March, 1 2000.

The old hotline number (800-747-9049) HAS BEEN CHANGED to:

(Toll free) 877-370-9988

Please make this change in your address book.



Alternate Houseparents Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand have informed us that they are expecting their fourth child and will be leaving their full-time position in March of 2001. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Child Care Supervisor
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Phil Stettner
Counseling Elder
1780 N. 450 E
Bluffton, IN 46714
(219) 565-3499
phs@adamswells.com



This begins a series on the development of the church in Switzerland. These are excerpts of a history talk on the Apostolic Christian Church delivered in 1947 by minister Henry Michel of Switzerland. He was a distant relative of former Congressman Bob Michel of Peoria.

He stated that the purpose of his message "was with the help of the Lord to kindle in the younger generation the spark of zeal, joy and faith that existed in those heroic times." This first article lays the groundwork for the work of Bro. Froehlich. It tells about the religious conditions that existed in Europe prior to the 1800's.

Devout Believers

In the year 400 A.D., in the southern part of France and in other countries, there were those who were believers and had the baptism of faith as we have. Baptism of faith is not an invention of our church, but always was since the Apostles, when these teachings were spread through all of Europe. I have read the history of some who went by foot from Spain to Germany. Those who know a little about geography can realize what a distance it was from Spain to Germany, crossing all of France.

These pilgrims could spend every night during the long journey in the homes of baptized Christians; of ones who were in faith. I don't know how many miles they made a day, but it required shelter in many homes until they reached their destination. Everywhere they found believers who were peacefully and joyfully going the way of truth.

Reformation

Then came a big awakening. You know the history of the Reformation. I don't want to speak about this all evening, but perhaps the thing that you do not know is that the beginning of the Reformation that eventually created the Lutheran churches and other churches was really a beginning, an awakening, a revival of people believing in the baptism of faith. Even Luther believed in the baptism of faith.

The one who brought the Reformation to Switzerland was a man who was visiting a small Swiss congregation where they preached the gospel exactly as we do and where they were baptized after a conversion. After a while he received a vision of a big, big church and, wanting to have a big church, he had to make a great big door. Having a big, big door, the way had to be made easy. Babies had merely to be brought on the eighth day after they were born. They were sprinkled and a document was given stating that they were a member of the church, and that was all. That was not the beginning; the beginning was the baptism of faith, based on conversion and new birth.

The Anabaptists

Afterwards, the "Taufers" (believers), as they were called, these poor people living in our wonderful country of Switzerland, were persecuted to death. The prisons were so filled that people could not stand, they could not sit, they were heaped one above the other for days. A terrible persecution

raged from about 1517 to 1525. In this persecution thousands were killed. A person even received \$100 when he denounced one of these people. One hundred dollars was a fortune at that time! In a certain forest in Switzerland in a very silent place, about three hundred used to come together. Informers denounced them, and so there was three hundred times \$100 paid. All went to jail, and all died.

Many thousands were killed in other places. At the shore of one of our beautiful blue rivers called the Limat, in Zurich, Switzerland, there is still a small chapel. From this chapel they used to put the believers in a cage and then let them down into the water in this cage for a few minutes and then lift them back out. When they did so, all the spectators were yelling, and then they put them in the water again and continued so, up and down, until they were dead. Many had been beheaded, and then something happened. One was the last who was beheaded. Before he was beheaded, he said, "I am dying for Jesus my Saviour; I am dying because I believe in Him; because I have been cleansed by His blood."

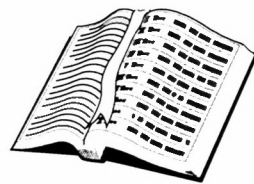
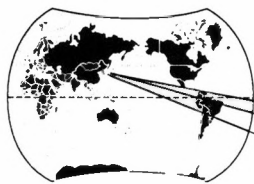
In the next month's issue, the early life of Bro. Samuel Froehlich is described. It tells how he grew up, attended seminary and began a life of service to God.

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The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Falling Asleep”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When I am tired, I love to fall asleep. It is a good feeling.

In the Bible, death is sometimes spoken of as falling asleep. In Acts 7:60 we read concerning Stephen, “And he knelt down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Falling asleep sounds pretty good; it sounds both restful and peaceful.

In I Thess. 4:13 we read, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” In verse 16, those who are asleep are spoken of as “The dead in Christ.” Death is definitely thought of in the Bible as an experience of falling asleep, and afterwards, of being asleep. A good night’s rest is something I look forward to.

In II Peter 3:4 we read, “For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the cre-

ation.” So our fathers, including the fathers of faith, also fell asleep. Not a bad situation at all, according to my experience of falling asleep.

In Daniel 12:2, we read, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.” This speaks of the resurrection from the sleep of death, so dying must be falling asleep. I like that.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He said, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” His body fell asleep, in suffering for our sins, but His Spirit returned to God, the Father.

The Apostle Paul spoke of death as the time to depart from the body. He wrote in Philippians 1:23, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.” He refers to his body as “The flesh,” and when he says “I”, he means his spirit. He sounds as if the

“Falling Asleep” is for the body only. Those of us who are in Christ may depart in peace to be with Christ until we get our new and resurrected bodies. This is spoken of as the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23, “Waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

In the Bible, death is spoken of as a falling asleep, but this is of the body, not the spirit and soul. The spirit is said to depart from the body, or to fly away from the body, at the time of death. Psalm 90:10 tells us, “For it (our life) is soon cut off, and we fly away.” The word “We” certainly refers to our spirit, the real you and the real me.

Falling asleep is a good experience. So much for our bodies. As for our spirits, flying away, departing to be with Christ, that also sounds good. We can look forward to being free from gravity, which ties us to this planet, and soaring away like an eagle.

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*In my soul I anguish, until I walk in thy presence.
Thy mercy is magnified unto me through thy creation and communion with Thee.*

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