

# *The Silver Lining*



*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and earth.*

March 2001

## “WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN”

*Sermon by Bro. Garth Steffen, Portland, OR*  
Proverbs 24 and Romans 14

In another place, the Apostle said he would not eat meat to offend his brothers as long as the world would stand. That is a wonderful attitude not to needlessly give an offense in a church to others who might be weak in faith. Certainly we have many wonderful examples in the Scripture, even the Lord, even though He came to fulfill the law. Yet, when He would cure, for instance, the leper, He sent them to the priest who would judge then whether or not he was healed and he brought his offering.

Throughout Christ's life, He observed the various feasts and He did not go into the Holy of Holiest in the Temple which is reserved only for those in Aaron's Tribe, the Leviticus Tribe. So if we consider one another, we too, then will not give needless offense.

In the beginning of this chapter, probably all we can say is that I think this is a good Scripture. It says, "...not to, doubtful disputations." Romans 14:1. If there are questions in a convert's life, they should be dissolved perhaps before he or she is introduced and incorporated in the household of faith. Perhaps we all feel weak in faith at times. In Pilgrim's Progress there was a man who had a little faith. He was always troubled but he finally made it to the everlasting goal as well as the others. The Lord can strengthen our faith. A lot of times our faith is tested and tried but we think of

those in Bible times, like the Apostle Paul and the opposition he experienced of persecution. Our forefathers encourages us and the faith is then renewed within us and especially if we remember and recall past blessings and deliverances of God. Then, of course, we can acquire this wonderful faith in which without we know we cannot please Him who called us.

We already know the times when there were diversions, you might say, that perhaps Satan introduced to weaken the church or to make it divided. Here he sets the story straight that whether we eat meat or don't eat it, it doesn't make us any better. We know the Jews were told in the Old Testament that there were certain creatures they could eat and what they couldn't eat. The Pharisees really followed this to a letter. They would even strain at a gnat which Christ referred to in condemning their critical ways. So they would not swallow a gnat which was unclean when they would drink. They would have a strainer over their cup. So we have to be careful that we are not drawn aside to unimportant and insignificant matters and make great issues of them.

He writes here "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4. We have to look at a larger picture

as it states here to do those things that make for peace in the church. That should not be difficult. We don't have a long list of rules. I remember when my father-in-law became introduced to our church and my future mother-in-law and future wife

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

March 2001

### The Wages of Sin is Death

The scripture is very clear in teaching us that "...the wages of sin is death..." (Ro. 6:23). Because all have sinned, we must die physically, and if we continue in sin, we will die spiritually, for "...every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;" (Heb. 2:2).

Wages are the payments a servant receives from a master for performing a task. Usually the wage and the task are agreed upon before the task is completed.

We are instructed in the scripture that a householder went out in the morning to hire laborers to work in his vineyard. "And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard" (Mt. 20:2). Later in the day he hired other laborers and told them "...whatever is right I will give you" (Mt. 20:4). There was an agreed upon task and either an agreed upon wage or a promise to give what is right. Both the servant and the master knew there was something to be given by the servant (labor) and by the master (wages).

Because wages are earned, there is usually some relationship between the task performed and the wages received. For example, more difficult tasks with a greater time commitment usually result in higher compensation.

Since the beginning of time, from the message given to Adam and Eve, God's people have known in advance that there is a relationship between sin and (spiritual) death.

The wages of sin were agreed upon long ago. In the Garden of Eden, God explained to Adam that "of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17). The task was clearly defined - obey God's commandment to abstain from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - and the wage was directly related to the task - a violation of the commandment would bring death. Adam and Eve knew exactly what was expected of them and they knew the results of disobedience.

The master of sin is well known and the wages to be received for sin are "earned". If

we are the servant of Satan, we will "earn" spiritual death when we reach the age of accountability.

There are numerous examples where God gave a commandment and tied it directly to a "wage" if violated. King Saul "...died for his transgression which he committed against the Word of the Lord,... which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it" (I Chr. 10:13).

In the writings of Solomon we are instructed that "...he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death" (Pr. 11:19). Ezekiel wrote "...the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ez. 18:4).

Further, Korah and his followers were swallowed by the earth (Numbers 16:28-33), Nadab and Abihu died for using strange fire in their censer (Le. 10:1-2); a man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath day lost his life (Nu. 15:36); Achan and his family were slain for keeping garments, gold and silver that were to be destroyed (Jo. 7:25); Jezebel (II Kings 9:32-33); Athaliah (II Ch. 23:15); Haman (Es. 7:10); Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:5-10); Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:23); and others died because of sinful deeds. From the point of view of mankind, some of the preceding transgressions seem more serious than others so we may think that the sentence should reflect this difference. However, all of these examples involved individuals who refused to obey a direct commandment of God.

Certainly we know that not all who sin are immediately slain. The scripture gives many examples of sinful men and women who were not required to immediately pay for their sin by losing their life. We could also find many examples in history for which those who seemed to perform very sinful deeds were not required to immediately die.

We are, however, instructed very clearly in the scriptures that ultimately we must stop sinning or we will die in our sins and lose the opportunity to spend eternity with God.

Christ explained to those who told him of the fate of the Galileans whose blood had been mingled with Pilot's sacrifices "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise

perish" (Lk. 13:3). Also those upon whom the tower of Siloam fell were sinners who paid with their life, but Christ reminded the people that "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:5).

When Jesus explained to the disciples who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, He said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3). Therefore, we understand that not only will unconverted people miss the opportunity to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, but much more serious is the statement that they will not even enter heaven. They will suffer eternal spiritual death.

So important are the concepts of repentance and conversion that Jesus made it very clear that those who refuse to recognize the sinfulness of their past by humbly repenting and continuing on the path of sin by refusing to be converted will perish and not enter heaven.

The need to repent and be converted was made very clear through John the Baptist's early preaching - "John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance for remission of sins" (Mk. 1:4). This message was continued throughout the ministry of Jesus. His disciples from the Acts ("commandeth all men to repent" Acts 17:20) through Revelations (... "be zealous therefore and repent" Rev. 3:19) also taught the message of salvation.

James gives an excellent summary of the progression of sin and its ultimate penalty. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust; and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Ja. 1:14-19).

Thus, we can easily understand that God has been very open and clear to His people. Although He has given us the opportunity to know the right way to live and the consequences of choosing to do otherwise, we know that the result of a life of sin is eternal death. We also know that God does not want that for His people. Therefore, He offers us the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life, a beautiful topic that will be covered in the next article.



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

### Faith Cometh by Hearing

While the Mission Committee has responsibility of carrying out the goals and purposes of spreading the gospel, each of us can have a part in this endeavor. One way that we can be involved is through the distribution of Bibles. In the darkness of this present age the seriousness and the significance of this work cannot be emphasized enough. The following article is to remind each of us of the purpose of the Bible in our lives, the urgency of sharing this truth with a lost world and suggestions to accomplish this important mission.

#### The purpose of the Bible

The Bible has been given to mankind as a witness of one God, who created and sustains the universe, and of His holy son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The story it tells is continuous—that of the perfect redemption of fallen mankind.

This story unfolds as one reads through the books of the Bible. The great truths of redemption are given through history and prophecy. By studying these truths, one can understand the divine role of Jesus Christ as redeemer. It is divine inspiration which sets the Bible apart from any other book in the world, for it is the mind of God.

#### Jesus Christ is the center and the heart of the Bible

The Old Testament is the account of a nation. The New Testament is the account of a man. The nation was founded and nurtured by God to bring the man into the world.

One can read at the beginning of Genesis that God made man in His own image. Man is the highest form of life on earth, and alone has been given the reasoning ability to make personal

choices. In exercising this right of choice, man willingly disobeyed God, and the sentence of death was placed upon him and his posterity.

In the fullness of time, God Himself was born as a man in the person of His only son. First man in God's image, and then God in man's image as an offering for sin. Christ's appearance on the earth is the central event of all history. The Old Testament sets the stage for it. The New Testament describes it with deep passion.

As a man, He lived the most beautiful life ever known. He was the kindest, tenderest, gentlest, most sympathetic person who ever lived. Multitudes, weary, worn, painridden, and heart-sick came to Him, and found relief. It is said of Him, and none other, that if all the deeds He did were written, the world would not contain the books.

Then, He died, cruelly tortured, to pay the price for sin. He rose from death, and lives today, not as a character of history, but the true redeemer of mankind. The Bible was written only that men might believe, repent, be converted, serve their God in loving obedience, and finally inherit life eternal in heaven.

#### How can they believe if they have not heard?

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

*...So then faith cometh by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of God."*

ROMANS 10:14&17

Our faith was made possible by having and hearing the word of God. Truly we are undeserving of such an opportunity. We have the privilege and responsibility to share this good news

with our fellow man—the good news of the Gospel recorded in the Bible.

#### Ways that we can share the Gospel

Bibles are available from distribution centers in Bluffton, Indiana and Eureka, Illinois. Several foreign language Bibles are also available for distribution in other countries. Listed below are some suggestions on how we can bring the bread of life to a hungry world:

- Plastic boxes are available that hold New Testaments. These can be placed in businesses, hospitals, motels, gas stations or anyplace where people can take them. On the front is a small decal that encourages anyone to take one free.
- Newspaper ads can be placed in your local paper offering a Bible free to anyone who requests one. These can be delivered in person, offering an opportunity to meet both physical and spiritual needs.
- Ask those who you work with if they own a Bible and offer to get them one if they express an interest in having one.
- Keep Bibles available in your car to give to someone who has a need.
- Invite someone to church. Have Bibles available to give them when they leave.
- Large print Bibles can be placed in doctor's offices, hospitals or anyplace where they would be read.

These are only a few suggestions. Each of us has unique opportunities to share our faith individually and give a testimony of the work Christ has done in our life. May we encourage each other and pray for one another that our efforts will bring honor and glory to our great God and Lord Jesus Christ.



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

## Medical/Dental Teams to Mexico From the Perspective of a Volunteer

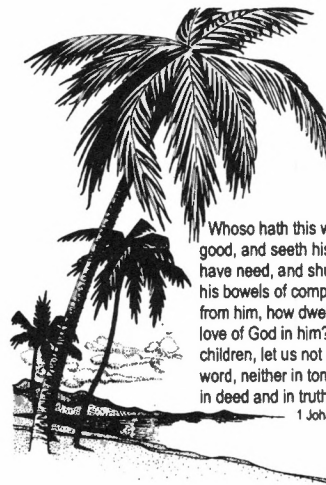
A brother who has been actively involved in the Medical/Dental work in Mexico has submitted the following thoughts to share how the work has affected his life.

**H**ave you ever been across the border to visit our neighbor to the south? Do you picture pristine beaches, and palm trees swaying in the breeze, ...or maybe banditos lurking around every bend? Have you ever been to Illinois? Do you picture the John Hancock Building, the Field Museum, and pristine Lake Michigan beaches, ...or maybe Mafia bosses shaking down neighborhood businesses? While all of these may exist, they by no means give a clear picture of Illinois, or Mexico. Misconceptions and stereotypes are hard to break. When I was first asked to participate in an Apostolic Christian World Relief Medical/Dental Team to Juarez, Mexico, I was reluctant to visit a country that I pictured in a less than favorable light.

We arrived in Juarez, Chihuahua in September of 1992, knowing that there must be a need, but unaware of the extent of that need. We found a hot, dusty, clamoring city bustling like a concrete anthill in the middle of a barren desert. Horns blaring. Hot wind blowing. Dust everywhere. Beat-up cars careening wildly. Desk clerks staring blankly, as I attempted to communicate my need for a room. "Why would anyone want to live in such a place," we wondered? This was not the land of palm trees and beaches.

That first trip we learned what it was to set up a mobile health clinic utilizing

scrap two-by-fours as frames, clothespins and baling wire to hang bed sheets as dividers between exam rooms, and sign language and smiles to communicate. We learned what it meant to meet unknown Brothers and Sisters from all over the U.S. and Canada, work together, learn together, and fellowship together. We learned what it meant to use a privy made of strips of lath (including the floor!), or a privy with a Dutch door (with the top half missing!). There were all kinds of challenges, and always a faithful Lord to help us through those challenges.



Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18

Since those days, we have seen improvements in average living conditions. Average wages have risen to approximately \$10 - \$12 dollars per day. Fewer people are living in houses made of discarded pallets, or bedsprings. More people are employed than before. However, it is still largely subsistence living, especially among the Tarahumara Indian people in the Creel area. Medical care of sorts is provided by the government to all who are employed at a company that pays into the national health care system. However, many are unable to participate in the system, and have no practical access to health care. Dental

care is likewise beyond the reach of the majority of Mexicans and takes a back seat to other more pressing needs. There is a definite need for any dental caregivers who may be able to participate on one of these teams.

Examples of the extent of the need abound: a dental patient who had filled his own cavity by biting down on a short nail; a Tarahumara Indian who had walked six miles through the mountains to see the doctor.... because he had a sore leg; and a man who had broken his arm, had it pinned by the local doctors, and subsequently broke the pins. Unable to obtain proper care, his arm now pivoted at a new "joint" between his shoulder and elbow. There was not much we could do for him.

One cold cloudy day, at a clinic in the Copper Canyon area, a Tarahumara man dressed in his native triangular skirt-like shorts arrived, and watched. He had no health problem, and did not want to see the doctor. After some time, Chuy, one of the AMMAR team members asked him if there was anything we could do for him. The Indian said he was cold, and he would like the pants that Chuy was wearing. Chuy wasn't much better off than the Indian, and besides that, he was a little reluctant to compromise his modesty. He explained that it wasn't possible for him to remove his pants, but if it would help keep the Tarahumara warm, he would give him his coat. The Indian accepted the gift with an expression of joy. It was Chuy's only coat.

Are there banditos? Yes, just like there are mafia hit men in Illinois. Are there palm trees, and beaches? Yes, but not in Juarez. Have my impressions of Mexico changed? Immeasurably. Have I been blessed, humbled, and inspired by participating on a Medical-Dental Team? What do you think?

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Is disease fair? Is heartache fair? Is being wealthy fair? Is knowing poverty fair?

There are times when persons express their bewilderment at handicapped individuals having to experience various painful events in their lives. They wonder about the very fact of their handicap not being enough of a problem for them. "It's not fair," they say.

God's Word tells us in John 16:33 that "...in the world ye shall have tribulation:". We are reminded in I Peter 5:8 that "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:". At this present time, the earth is his realm, and no one is exempt from his evil intent. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:" (John 10:10). "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth...even we ourselves...waiting for the adoption...the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:22-23)

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?" (Romans 11:34). In Job we read, "Shall man charge God with unrighteousness in his rule of the world?" Only when we stand before Jesus at His judgment seat will we know what "fairness" truly is.

At the end of some of the above quotes from the Bible are colons (:). If you read past these colons in the Bible you will find wonderful promises: "but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." "...But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

dantly."

I was recently visiting with a parent of a resident of ACHH. The resident was experiencing some health problems and needed to go to the hospital for a surgical procedure. The mother, a widow, was the only family member present as her daughter was being wheeled into surgery. She was feeling a great weight during that moment. The outcome was questionable. As she was trying to reassure her daughter before they parted, the daughter spoke these words, "Don't worry, Mom. If I die, I know I'll go to Heaven." What a tremendous witness of faith this mother received from her "handicapped" daughter.

Can you begin to imagine the worth of "handicapped" persons, not only to us...but to God?

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

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## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Kevin Fiechter

How happy were you yesterday, last week, or last month? I realize situations happen in life that cause grief, such as sickness, diseases, death, etc. I'm talking about everyday life situations. A few weeks ago I was not having a good day. Work was piling up, deadlines had to be met, and so on. I was not happy. The next morning, God showed me a verse in the Bible that caught my attention. Proverbs 16:20b states, "and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

The answer of my unhappiness was clear as crystal. I was trusting in myself rather than the Lord. My days are smoother and happier when I completely surrender and trust in the Saviour.

Often anxiety and worry follow right behind unhappiness when trusting in self. When all three are mixed together, usually distress comes about. We lose sleep. If we are married, we mistreat our spouse and children. We become sick. Our work and school production is not satisfactory. Why? Because we have allowed Satan to get a foothold, mainly on account of our unbelief in God. One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is Philippians 4. Verse 4 informs us to "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Rejoice, according to the dictionary, means to be glad, happy, or delighted. Always means at all times; on all occasions. Verses 6-7 advises us to, "Be careful (or anxious) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." It is really a simple solution, but at times can be very hard to carry out. Dear Brothers and Sisters, are you completely surrendering your all to Him? Dear friends, Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for your sins. Please obey God's calling TODAY. Humble yourself, repent of your sins, and experience the peace of God.

We welcome Nicole R. in the Plattner House and Derrick K. in the Wiegand House. Please continue praying for the staff as we proceed in touching lives. Pray that we may demonstrate appropriate role modeling in a Godly manner to the families we come into contact. We say farewell to Lydia A. in the Wiegand

House.

Every 9 weeks, Gateway Woods provides an honor roll breakfast for our students attending either Gateway Woods school or public school for students with greatly improved grades or making the Honor Roll. Students attending the most recent honors breakfast included, Bekki P., Lora E., Jessica C., Sarah E., and Larissa E. Congratulations, ladies!

Ashley L. returned home to her mother from our foster care program. Tasha F. was received into Paul and Jane G. home, foster parents through Gateway Woods. Please continue to pray, as we are seeking and needing foster parents (along with new foster children). If you are in the Leo/Bluffton/Fort Wayne area and interested, please give us a call.

Gateway Woods has an opening for an Alternate Houseparent couple, as Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand will soon be departing. Please pray that some couple who the Lord is already working on will respond obediently. Thank you, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi, for your Godly example while working at Gateway Woods the past 3 1/2 years. Our loss will certainly be Colorado's gain. God bless you and your precious children. We love you!

Our Annual Representatives Meeting is coming up this month on Saturday, March 17, here in Leo. You don't have to be a Rep to come. Anyone interested in our ministries is welcome. We'll start here on campus at 10 a.m. We'll also be launching our 25th anniversary then.

I personally want to take this time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, volunteering your time, giving of your money and talents to Gateway Woods. At times you have informed me that you set aside a particular day of the week to pray for Gateway

Woods. We appreciate it very much. Keep looking to Jesus, from whence all our help comes from.

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### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Tom Schrenk

As I write this it is the middle of February and we are beginning to get some warm days, and that means that the children can play outside. It is good for them and the teachers when some of their energy can be used running and playing. The month of March is a time when we look forward to the spring season, of new things that grow and again bring the new life that has been dormant for so long. The children will be helping to plant seeds and then watching how new plants can grow from these little seeds. It is also a reminder for us who love God how that little seed of faith can grow in us and bring forth fruit that is pleasing to God.

This is also the time of the year that we ask for anyone that has a desire to come to our Preschool as a volunteer during the spring and summer months to let us know of your plans so we can make the necessary arrangements for you. We provide a place to stay and most of your meals. If you have been here before, we invite you to come back and renew that fellowship. If you have never been here, it is an experience that you will long remember. This also gives our teachers some much needed vacation time to be with their families.

This school year has been one that has brought many new situations to us here at the Preschool. Because of the generous support through the sponsorship program, we have been able to help some families that in the past we could not help. For this we thank God and then

all of you who have made this possible. We (the staff of the Preschool) ask for your continued prayers that the work here be a glory to God and that all things be done in good order that will bring praise to our Great God.

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### ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard Louise Hall

Our thanks go out to Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter for the time they spent here officially helping out at the preschool, but in many ways helping out the church as well. Their thoughtful caring ways are felt and appreciated by all here in the Athens church. We welcome them back anytime.

January 14, John and Holly Moore became first-time parents of a little girl. Darby Elizabeth weighed 7 pounds. Grandparents are Bro. Lavoyd and Sis. Doris Moore and Gerald and Carolyn Jones. All are thankful for her safe arrival.

We appreciated having Bro. Earl Steffen teach our Adult Sunday School on January 21 when he and his wife, Sis. Betty, visited here from Bloomington, IL. We also enjoyed some of Mark and Dan Klaus' family here on the 28th of January, but that date marked the last Sunday for Dan to be assembled with us. He has moved back to Illinois and we pray that the Lord will guide and direct Dan wherever he may go. We are always glad to have someone come and worship with us, but it is sad to see them go.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton, IL) were here February 4, and we were thankful that Bro. Ted willingly lent himself to have the service that day. We also had a visiting minister here on February 18. Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) preached the Word to us when he

and his wife, Sis. Marjorie, were traveling through our area.

We are thankful to all who can and will schedule their trips so they can be here with us on a Sunday or Wednesday night. This month we had visitors from Rockville, CT; Peoria, Princeville and Washington, IL; Morris, MN; and Mansfield, OH. We look forward each Sunday to see if there are any visitors and where they are from. We are thankful for the fellowship our churches have one with another.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Lavoyd Moore and his family as his cancer continues to spread. Since the writing last month, he has been in and out of the hospital and is in again. The doctors say they can do nothing more for him and we would just ask that prayers could go up to our Father in Heaven that he would have some relief from the constant pain. His wife, Sis. Doris, and his family have expressed again and again their thankfulness for the support given to them during this time. We appreciate our church family and especially during times like this when we can lift each other up, is when we realize what a treasure we have.

We are looking forward to our Annual Tennessee Fellowship Area Singing during Memorial Day Weekend. The singing is scheduled for May 26-27 and if you would like more information or would like to let us know you are coming, please contact Bro. Don Sauder (615) 373-8928; e-mail Don.Sauder@juno.com or Bro. Tim Reinhard (931) 424-5838; e-mail treinhard@juno.com. We look forward to enjoying the weekend with all who can attend.

## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live."  
*Isaiah 55:3*

On January 28, Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy) was installed as our new minister. We pray God's blessings on them as they serve the Lord.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum welcomed a new daughter, Rebecca Claire, on January 22. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein. Great-grandparents are Floren and Mary Ella Klopfenstein. Her siblings are Koby, Isaac and Annika.

Bro. Don and Sis. Cathy Emch became first-time grandparents when Haylee Renee was born on January 29 to Brian and Aimee Emch. We pray for God's guidance for our first-time parents.

On January 28 we heard Sis. Angie Klopfenstein's engagement to Bro. Mike Ringger of Bluffton North, IN. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein and Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger. May the Lord guide them as they plan their summer wedding.

Twice in February, Arizona received rain, hail and snow (33 miles from Phoenix received several inches).

Sis. Shirley Blunier passed away February 9 after a lengthy time in the hospital and nursing home. Visitation and a memorial service were held at a mortuary. Burial was in Roanoke, IL. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Gaylord Blunier.

Our prayers are with our Elders as they confer in Bloomington, IL,

on February 14-16.

Many joined in the activities at the World Relief Meetings.

Our Jr. and Sr. Bible classes journeyed to Tucson for fellowship and fun on February 17-18. Thank you to the folks in Tucson and our Phoenix teachers who were in charge. God's love goes on and on.

"Be ye kind, one to another."

## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

After waiting several months, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary Koehl and son, Bro. Terry, moved into their new home in Prescott. Sis. Jane Hodges and son, Doug, have also moved from their home of 17 years and are now living in Prescott Valley.

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

*II Cor. 13:11*

We bid farewell to Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marj Gerst (Taylor, MO) after having them with us for a month and with Bro. Arnie ministering to us from the pulpit. We will miss them and pray God will bless them richly for their love and service to us.

In addition to Bro. Arnie, the visiting ministers the last month included Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich, and Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ). May God richly bless each of them for their willingness to minister to us.

## ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

I'm happy to report that we have had several visiting ministers this



past month. Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix), and Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and James Emch (Phoenix) all visited us over the last few weeks. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

The Tucson church hosted three visiting Sunday Schools over President's Day weekend. We were privileged to host the Bible Classes from Altadena, Phoenix and San Diego for a weekend of fun and fellowship. The weather was beautiful as we spent time renewing old friendships and making some new ones as well. We all enjoyed some wonderful sunshine, fellowship and food together and many wonderful memories were made along the way. Thanks be to our Heavenly Father for allowing us such special times set aside to enjoy these blessings. Many thanks also to everyone who worked so hard to make this weekend possible.

We are having some strange weather this winter and it's been a nice change for us. We are used to many, many days of straight sunshine interrupted by an occasional partly cloudy day here and there. January and February have kept us guessing mingling sunny days with snowy days and lots of cloudy, rainy days mixed in. Yes, I said snowy; we've actually had several days with big fluffy white snowflakes that you didn't have to squint to see! Lots of rain and cool, windy days will give us something to remember fondly come July! Our apologies to the winter visitors; forgive us for enjoying our break from that unrelenting sunshine!

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

**Jim Klotzle**

Greetings from Altadena!

As followers of Christ, we come

under persistent attack from the evil one. One of our enemy's favorite tactics is to turn our fellow men against us. This can be seen in places of education, in the workplace or in politics. It seems that a negative and even hostile attitude prevails against the work of Christ. Peter shows what we should do, encouraging us not to give way, but to resist.

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

*I Peter 5:8-9*

The Altadena Bible Class, along with the Phoenix and San Diego Bible Classes, visited Tucson, AZ, this past month. The topic for the weekend was "All that Matters" with the focus being on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We extend our sincere thanks to the Tucson congregation and Bible Class for hosting the weekend.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) visited our congregation to assist in reading the Memorandum. We are grateful for his support and words of encouragement.

Sis. Lisa Steiner has made her residence here in California recently, and we welcome her back to our congregation.

Our prayers were with the Elder Body as they met in Conference at Bloomington, IL. We pray that God will guide them as they considered matters of importance for our church.

## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

**Nathan Reutter**

We bring you greetings in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We hope you all had a blessed month serving our Lord in the ways He has led you.

This month we had three visiting ministers come and worship with us. They were the following: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Tim Gerber and his wife and family (Mansfield, OH).

Bros. Mark and Ed were here to provide the Memorandum. We are very thankful for their reminders of how to keep our faith strong and preserved in these wicked and deceitful times. May God grant us all grace to keep our precious church the undefiled virgin bride of Christ.

"Which when they had read, they (we) rejoiced for the consolation."

*Acts 15:31*

Bro. Tim was here to fulfill Mansfield's turn in our visiting minister rotation. We are thankful for his willingness to help our Bro. Mike Ursu in the ministry.

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

*John 3:34*

We are very pleased to announce that we have a new convert, Zolton Toth. He is the husband of our beloved and newly baptized Sis. Maria Toth. We pray that he might fully surrender to God, and make a complete confession of sin and restitution.

"But if from thence thou shalt

seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou shalt seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice (for the Lord thy God is a merciful God); he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them."

*Deut. 4:29-31*

We also had a singing at Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher's house this month. We always appreciate their constant hospitality.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High..."

*Psalms 92:1*

We trust that the Lord will be with you in the coming month and shower His blessings upon you.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER**

#### **Mike and Heather Katanic**

We welcome the Gonglach family: Bob, Anne, Ema, Robert, Chloe and Peter; and Ruth Pfieffer and her son, Brian, and his wife, Becky, as they have started worshipping with us.

We also are rejoicing with Don Katanic as he was added to the fold and we were blessed to sit and listen to his testimony. We are encouraged as we watch God bless our little congregation. Visiting us and assisting Bro. Tom with the testimony were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We also listened to the reading of the Memorandum that weekend.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Pam Braun

welcome Megan Renee into their home. Welcoming the baby home are big sisters, Cecelia and Amanda.

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### **CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE**

#### **Cherie Galat**

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven over the repentance of Jonathan Goric (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou). May God give Jonathan the guidance and direction to walk the narrow way of life with our Saviour.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

*Psalms 127:3*

Naomi Lynn was born January 28 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl. She joins big brothers, Joshua and Zachary. Grandparents are Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl and Bro. Roger and Sis. Joan Moser. Bro. Jay and Sis. Amber Fehr welcomed their son, Michael Dane, who was born on January 3. He joins brother, Jared, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Cliff and Sis. Harriet Farney. May these two dear families teach the ways of the Lord to their children.

It truly is a blessing to have visiting brethren to serve us on the pulpit. May He continue to use Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) in His vineyard.

Our prayer is that God will heal according to His will those of our loved ones who have been hospitalized or sick recently: Bro. Corbin Bahler (Sis. Virginia), Sis. Aline Ballasy (Bro. Ernest), Bertha Farney, Sis. Emma Herzig and Sis. Lois Schulz (Bro. Ken). We all benefit when we pray for one another.

"When a Christian dies, Precious

is the prize!" (Hymns of Zion #248). May God console the family of Sis. Clara Lanz who passed from this life Friday, February 9. She leaves her sister, Sis. Gert, and brother, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Anna), and other family members.

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON**

#### **Wendy Fetter**

After President Bush took the oath of the office, he did as is customary for the President of the United States. He drove down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. Along the way, he encountered demonstrators who jeered, taunted, ranted, and even threw things at his car. Through all of this, President Bush kept an unwavering smile on his face and a kindness about him that spoke of the man that he professes to be. As I watched all of this take place, I thought of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, during His last few days on this earth. How He was mocked, beaten, spat upon, and ridiculed by those who sought to kill him. Yet, He remained unwavering in His kindness and love for others. He forgave them for all they had done to Him. Let us pray for the leaders of our country that they may remain steadfast to the Biblical principles which we hold so dear and govern this country in a way that is pleasing to God.

We want to thank Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Larry Wenniger (Latty, OH) for ministering unto us. We appreciate every effort made by these brothers and their wives and families to come and be a part of our fellowship. We treasure our moments that we spend with visitors from our other congregations.

If you are planning to make Washington, D.C. a stopover for vacation or business, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 if you need any assistance and to let us know how many to expect for our services on Sunday. If you would like to get together for Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

Our church 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 a.m., worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15 p.m.

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**FLORIDA  
FT. LAUDERDALE  
Gretchen Webb**

Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) read the Memorandum on January 27. We thank them for their service and pray that God will bless them. A church supper was held the following day.

Ft. Lauderdale hosted a Florida Brothers Hymn Sing on Sunday, February 11. Over 50 brothers and their families came to sing together, representing almost 20 churches. It was a blessing to see and hear them sing together. A dinner and time for fellowship was held following the singing.

We wish to thank the following brothers for sharing the Word with us the past month. They are: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bros. Vic Beer (Ft. Myers, FL), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL). We appreciate each one lending their time

and talents to us. We pray that God will bless them.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FT. MYERS  
Dorothy Beer**

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), and Bros. John Stoller (Sis. Patricia, Leo, IN), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton, IN), Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL) and Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). We thank and appreciate each one for sharing God's Word with us.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Ben Blough (Sis. Maria) of our congregation in the passing away of his mother, Sis. Anna Blough, of Rittman, OH. Also, our sympathy goes to the family of Clarence Peters who passed away in Ft. Myers on February 13. He attended our church regularly for many years, and he will be greatly missed by all.

Our prayers are with Sis. Vyra Stoller (Bro. Don) of Gridley, IL, who is hospitalized in Ft. Myers. We miss and pray for Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller who have not been able to worship with us for several months.

Our annual singing at Barkley Square was enjoyed and well attended on February 9.

We thank Ft. Lauderdale church for hosting the men's singing group on February 11. About 50 from our church attended and enjoyed their loving hospitality and fellowship.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Carol Koehl**

We sincerely appreciate the many ministers who visited Sarasota this past month. They are Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL).

Submitting to surgery were Bro. Dave Eisenmann and Sis. Millie Bigger. We are thankful to have Sis. Hermine Miller (Gridley, IL) worshipping with us again. We continue to pray for Sis. Hermine and Sis. Millie's recovery.

Several of our winter brethren have experienced sorrow recently as they laid loved ones to rest. Our love and sympathy go to Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Latty, OH) in the loss of her father; to Bro. Sid Leman (Forrest, IL) in the passing of his sister; to Sis. Doris Knapp (Cissna Park, IL) in the death of her brother-in-law; and to Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Lucille Feller (Chicago, IL). Sis. Lucille spent her winters in Sarasota until just a couple years ago.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA  
Keith and Carol Kaufman**

Finding peace with God and man, Erica Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) has experienced the marvelous power of God in her life. She continues to need our prayers as she is away at college and isn't able to be home very often.

We are very thankful that Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francerville, IN) was able to come to read and share the Memorandum with us. Our other visiting ministers this month was Bros. David Zehr (Gridley, IL) and Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL). Thank you, dear brothers, for speaking the truth loud and clear. May the Lord richly bless you and your wives for coming and sharing with us.

Our annual business meeting was held this month. We are so thankful for each one who helps with the physical aspects of the church. Bro. John Brewer will be our new reporter. We were reminded of how much our brethren everywhere have been helpful with donations. Thank you so much for your generosity. We really appreciate it. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness.

We covet your prayers. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: praye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:5)

We are so thankful that Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser have been able to move closer to church. Their new address is: 81 Ridley Rd., Palmetto, GA 30268-1504. Their phone number is (770) 463-4788.

We want to extend a hearty welcome to all who can come to Atlanta! We look forward to the fellowship; not only for us, but for our children also. We are happy to plan an evening of fellowship when you come.

Sunday services begin at 10:15 and 12:30. Song service is held the second Wednesday and Bible Study the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are in the area, please plan to worship with us. We really appreciate it. 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: Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701 or Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335.

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Sheila McCoy**

**Doreen Moser**

Warning: Exposure to the SON may prevent burning.

Henceforth, we are grateful for our ministers for exposing us to God's Word. Our visiting ministers this month were retired Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL).

"...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away..." (Jonah 1:21). We offer our sympathy to Sis. Michelle Knobloch (Bro. Brent) in the death of her father, Lowell Hayenga, Oregon, IL.

Bro. Benjamin Hodel did a topical Bible study for our congregation on "Faith". One point to remember: "We're saved by grace through faith alone, but faith that saves is never alone." We are certainly thankful for our many brothers who are willing to do these Bible studies.

Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) was our minister at our monthly Bible study in Madison, WI. Our topic was Jonah. The thought that stood out the most to me is that it is God's Word that convicts the heart, not the preacher. Jonah certainly was not the kind of preacher we'd want for our congregation. He wasn't willing to preach nor did he even want those people to repent. Yet in spite of Jonah, the city of Nineveh repented. We thank you, Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte, for teaching us and also for your long drive. We appreciate

those who came with you also.

On Saturday, February 10, our congregation was able to enjoy a wonderful Valentine dinner. It is an annual event that we sure anticipate and a time to remember "love of all gifts is the greatest."

We bid farewell to our dearest friend, Betty Lindwall. They will be moving to Minneapolis, MN. We wish her and her family God's blessings.

We are so thankful to have Bro. Ryan Harris in our fellowship. Employment in our area allows him to be a part of our congregation once again.

We had a blessed weekend February 17-18. We were able to listen to the testimony for our convert, Alice Thompson (Bob), witness her baptism and welcome her as our sister in Christ.

We want to thank our many volunteers for their willingness to come and offer their help as we build our new church. Our progress has been encouraging. The painting and suspended ceilings are nearly completed. Next, we will be staining and varnishing the woodwork and cabinets. We are hoping to be completed with our church in May. Please contact Bro. Clint Heinold at 262-695-8108 or heinold@prodigy.net if you'd like to volunteer.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Dana Knapp Shawn Masters

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

*Proverbs 11:14*

Our congregation truly felt a blessing in hosting the mid-winter

Elder Conference February 13-16. As we lift them up in our prayers, we pray they will be directed by God's Spirit and blessed for their labors on our behalf.

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers we had with us this month. They were Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ); and Bros. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN).

On January 21, we witnessed the baptisms of our Bro. Eric Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Seth Heimer (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue). We were truly lifted up by their testimonies of faith and pray they will continue to be used in God's service.

The engagement of Bro. Mike Bates (Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane, Roanoke) to Sis. Keri Meister (Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhonda, Peoria) of Peoria was announced on January 21. May they continue to draw near to God and to each other in this time of engagement.

Our Bible Class held a formal dinner on January 27 to raise money for their mission trip this summer. It was a wonderful evening of great good, fellowship, and beautiful singing by the Bible Class. Thanks to each one for all their efforts in this evening.

We continue to lift Bro. Bill Denick (Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Helen Bauer up in prayer as both have been ill this past month. We have also been praying for Sis. Carol Sauder as she has moved to a new home.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

#### **Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

We are thankful Joanna Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) has chosen to seek the Lord in repentance.

Our prayers are with her as she strives to put off the old man and become converted.

It was a blessing to have the Memorandum read to us this past month. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) was with us for this. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Ed Knecht (Portland, OR) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

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### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### **Samuel and Pamela Furrer**

Looking back over mid-January to mid-February, it seems that we've had a cold month with not too much happening. Visitors have been few in number, and many people from our church have been out with winter-time illness. I think we're all looking forward to the spring season with a little more warmth and color in our natural environment and a little more health in our congregation. Despite the cold weather and such, a record 37 people, mostly U of I and Parkland College students, turned out to do World Relief work on a Thursday evening. More than 300 birthing kits for Haiti, 60 sewing kits, 200 crayon kits, and 100 hair kits for Mexico were assembled. The eventual recipients of these kits will likely never know where the kits were made, what the temperature outside was that evening, or what care went into the making. However, we do hope that their lives are made more healthy and more enjoyable through the use of the kits.

In addition to our regular Wednesday evening services, we have occasional Bible studies and monthly hymn sings. A Friday evening Bible study on "worship" was held at the church. Three topics, including preparation for worship, at-

titude during worship, and making worship a lifestyle, were examined by participants. At our hymn sing, a group from the Bloomington-Normal church, Heart to Heart, shared with us a program of their songs. Their message and melodies were a blessing from their hearts to ours. We thank them for coming over to sing for us.

Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) visited on a Sunday and shared the Word with us. We thank him for his contribution to our learning more about God.

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

#### **Jill Rager**

Safe in the arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast,  
There by His love o're shaded,  
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

*Hymns of Zion #218*

Growing up I often recall a small group softly singing this hymn in the back of the church at funerals. It brings such a comforting image to mind—the beloved one who has passed from this life resting sweetly in the Saviour's arms. This sweet rest is particularly comforting when the loved one has struggled against the physical body for some time. Such is the case for two families. Sis. Kathryn Schneider (Fairbury, IL), mother of Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Virgil), and our Sis. Lucille Feller, mother of Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Dale), both passed away this month.

Sis. Lucille (and Bro. Earl) came to our Chicago congregation over 30 years ago from Cissna Park to be near their family. She also has a son, Gary, residing at Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge, Morton, IL. Our Chicago church family will miss Sis.

Lucille as she had a special place in our hearts.

Although we know it is difficult to say good-bye to these loved ones, we rejoice that the physical suffering has ended and the eternal rest has begun.

We are grateful for our visiting ministers. Ministering to us were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) who also assisted with the reading of the Conference report.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our gratitude to all who remembered us with deeds of love and prayers as we have bid farewell to our beloved mother and grandmother, Sis. Lucille Feller.

*The Dale Eisenmann family*

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Cheryl Eisenmann**  
**Denise Walder**

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

*Matthew 5:4*

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones this month. Bro. Earl Knapp passed from this life into eternity. We extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Sis. Mary, and his children and their families. Also grieving are his brothers, Bro. Ralph, Bro. Wayne, Charles, his sister, Alma Dreyer, and sister-in-law, Sis. Doris.

An aged sister, Lucille Feller, passed away at the Resthaven Nursing Home in Elgin, IL. Sis. Lucille and her late husband, Earl, formerly of Cissna Park, attended the Chicago church, but were buried in

the cemetery here at Cissna Park. We extend our sympathy to her daughter, Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Dale), and family from Chicago.

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb at the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Kathryn Schneider, of Fairbury.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Geraldine Farney and Wes Knapp. We are thankful to report they are both home and doing well.

We want to thank our Bro. Ken Eisenmann for his topical Bible presentation on the "Winds of Doctrine". Thanks for the timely warnings.

"...how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things."

*Romans 10:15*

We are thankful for the willing service of visiting ministers this month. May God bless Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN), and Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Joe Braker (Morton, IL), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and retired Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL).

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Glenna Rinkenberger**

"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came

a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

On January 21, we witnessed the baptism of Sis. Becky and Sis. Julie Zimmerman. We rejoice with their family and welcome them into the family of God. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob in this joyous work.

We were blessed with many of God's servants. Among their inspiring sermons, these questions were asked in song from our Zion's Harp #146:

How shall it be when now the  
soul, unfettered,  
Goes soaring upward in unhin-  
dered flight,  
Drawn on by love to Him whose  
light has scattered  
The darkness which hid heaven  
from our sight?  
When from the eye of faith the  
veil of dullness,  
As mist before the morning sun  
doth fall,  
And we the Son of God in all His  
fullness  
Behold upon His throne, the  
Lord of All?

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL). We appreciate each one so much.

"For he had healed many; inso-  
much that they pressed upon him for  
to touch him, as many as had

plagues.”

*Mark 3:10*

Bro. Allen Schrock (Sis. Carol) and Kelsey Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail) were surgery patients. May the healing power of God be upon them.

“Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily, I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren or sisters or father or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

*Matthew 19:27-29*

Our congregation was thankful and gladdened to hear of the peace that has been found in the lives of John and Jacki Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and Kate Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol). Our constant prayer is that more will come and taste and see.

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Kay Kellenberger**

The Elgin congregation held a farewell singing for the family of Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona Strahm on February 4. They will be assembling with the Bern, KS, congregation. We offer our thanks and appreciation for Bro. Ed’s faithful service ministering to the hearts of the Elgin congregation. We will also miss Bro. Eric Humbracht as he follows the Lord’s leading, spending six weeks

in Ixtlan, Mexico. We are members one of another...therefore we will feel the emptiness as our loved ones have parted.

When we asunder part,  
It gives us inward pain;  
But we shall still be joined in  
heart,  
And hope to meet again.

*Hymns of Zion #156, vs. 4*

When we experience sorrows, the Lord is always faithful to bring us blessings. We rejoice with Grant and Jan Schrock as they welcome a new son into their family. Cody David was born on November 14. His grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Nola Schrock and Gerald and Joanne Ogden. We also congratulate Mike and April Swanson as they begin their family. Alexander Paul was born January 25. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and Paul and Polly Swanson. May they seek God’s faithful guidance as they raise their children.

Our prayers are with the many brethren who have been hospitalized: Bro. Dick Klopfenstein, Sis. Laura Getz, Bro. Howie Schifferer, Bro. Don Stettner, Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Sis. Debbie Sauder. May they feel God’s healing power as they recover. Our prayers have also been with Sis. Julia Graf during her time of sickness.

We are saddened with the loss of our precious friends. May our prayers uplift their families as they have lost a dear loved one. Celestina Schifferer passed away on January 23. She was the mother of Bro. Howie Schifferer. Ann Farney passed away on January 29. May her family also feel our prayers in the loss of their mother.

We are abundantly fed with

God’s Holy Word. We appreciate the service of our faithful visiting ministers: Bros. John Stoller (Leo, IN), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL). May they feel the sincere prayers of the brethren.

We rejoice in the engagement of Bro. Darren Schambach (Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma) and Sis. Krystin Kellenberger (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia) as they build their relationship on Christ as they will be united in June.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my birthday with cards, gifts and phone calls. It was very much appreciated. God bless one and all.

*Sincerely,*

*Bro. Charles Schambach*

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

On January 28, the engagement of Bro. Christopher Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary) and Sis. Elizabeth Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) of Goodfield was announced. Our prayers are certainly with them as they take this step in faith.

Bro. Rodney and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid have been blessed with a baby boy, Luke Douglas, born February 11. His older siblings are Rebecca, Sarah, Jed and Naomi. His grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy Blunier were also blessed with a new baby. Little Kate Olivia was born on February 11. Welcoming her home are Amy, Kelly, Andrew, Dana and Angie. Her grandparents are Bro.

Sam and Sis. Liz Blunier and Sis. Elna Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

We were privileged to host ACYF on Sunday evenings, February 4th and 11th. Many thanks to our Bible Class students for singing the beautiful hymns to us. May God bless each one and may it bring forth the pleasing fruit.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We do thank them and their wives for visiting us.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to two families who lost loved ones recently. Bro. Roy Hangartner (Sis. Norma) bid farewell to his brother, Ben Hangartner; and to Sis. Chris Leman (Bro. Kent) whose father, Bro. Ray Schmidgall (Minneapolis, MN), passed away. He died February 15. May God comfort them.

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing of birds is come..."

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

Just as the winter season is about to end, we look forward to spring. Likewise, as each season ends, we always look forward to the new one. How thankful we are that our Father in Heaven has given us these beautiful change of seasons.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

*Psalms 19:1*

"I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."

*Psalms 9:2*

## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Sally Fehr  
Joann Zehr**

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

*Romans 6:4*

Buried with Christ in baptism on February 18 were our new brothers, Alex Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) and Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn). We appreciated Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who shared the weekend with us. The newness of life in Christ has already brought peace and joy to these two young men. May they continue to grow in the faith, being "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:7)

"Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently."

*Psalms 119:4*

It was a joy and privilege to come together with our Forrest brethren with the reading of the Memorandum on January 23. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in delivering the letter. Again we were encouraged in the ways of holiness and keeping of the precepts of the Word. "And I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts." (Psalm 119:45)

Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) visited us also in the past month. May the Lord bless all these faithful

brothers who labored in His service.

Jason Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn) and Jill Shumaker (Jeff and Janie Shumaker of Lewistown) have announced their engagement and upcoming marriage. Also making marriage plans are Clint Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) and Jenny Masuda (Kenneth and Beatrice Masuda of Pearl City, Hawaii).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and their family in the loss of Sis. Arlene's mother, Emma Werner, of Silverton, OR.

Hospital patients this month included Bro. Ralph Bahler (Sis. Jeanette) and Fannie Steffen. Sis. Janelle Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen) submitted to surgery. May the healing power of the Lord be with them.

### *Marks of a Spiritual Man...*

1. Desires to carry his cross willingly.
2. Desires and tries to see everything from God's point of view.
3. Desires to advance cause of Christ even at personal loss to self.
4. Is willing to decrease so others can increase.
5. Would rather be useful than famous.
6. Desires to be holy rather than happy.
7. Makes eternal judgments rather than time judgments.
8. Desires to die right rather than to live wrong.

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

Gathering together with our Fairbury brethren in Fairbury, we



were exhorted to a closer walk with Christ, in the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), along with our home Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker, for their untiring service in leading our congregations.

After a long snowy winter, signs of spring bring forth hope of new life. Budding a new life in Christ, we are thankful Rebekah Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) has seen the need to repent. We encourage her to make a full surrender of her old life and blossom with the nourishment from God.

As a tree brings forth its blossoms, unless there is fruit to follow, it is of no avail. Bringing forth their testimony of faith were Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki Mueller, Sis. Katie Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) and Bro. Martin Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) and were baptized January 21. May the fruit of their lives ripen till the day of harvest.

Sowing the seeds from God's Word, we thank Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and ministering Bros. Glen Braker and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Gary Anliker and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Sid Kaufmann, Ken Eisenmann and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Steve Martin and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) for visiting us.

Creating a new family unit through the Lord, Bro. Mike Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne) and Sis. Marsha Bachtold (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) exchanged wedding vows on February 4. May they con-

tinue to seek God's will in their lives.

Joining hands in Holy Matrimony, Sis. Trisha Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy) and Bro. Kyle Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen, Silverton, OR) begin a new life as husband and wife. As they establish a new home and worship with our brethren in Silverton, OR, may they feel the Lord's nearness and the special way He provides.

Choosing February 17 as their wedding day were Ryan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette) and Melissa Kidd (Jim and Audrey Hetherington, Forrest). May they seek the Lord's guidance as they establish their home in Forrest.

Seeking God's will in their lives, Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) make known their engagement. May they continue to trust in the Lord as they make their wedding plans.

As these couples are beginning their lives together, Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub have been blessed with 65 years together. May God continue to bless them.

Although her years were many, having fruit ripe for harvest in service of the Lord, our Sis. Kathryn Schneider has gone to her eternal rest. May God comfort her children, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN), Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Virgil, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Duane (Sis. Janny); grandchildren; and siblings, Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Sid Leman and Bro. Eli (Sis. Bertie) Leman.

Also, we want to remember Sis. Neola (Bro. Byron) Nussbaum in our prayers as her brother, Bro. Ronald Wackerle (Bay City, MI), passed away.

May God grant healing and restoration to Bro. Glen (Sis. Mildred)

Zimmerman, Bro. Ben (Sis. Irene) Traub, and Bro. Elmer (Sis. Emma) Ifft as they have spent time in the hospital.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We, the family of Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, wish to express our deepest appreciation for all the kind deeds, flowers, food, encouraging phone calls, gifts of love and especially your prayers. To everyone who helped in any way during our loved one's illness and passing, our heartfelt thanks to all. May God bless each one.

#### *The Clarence Kachelmuss family*

We wish to thank each of you for the cards and gifts we received for our 65th wedding anniversary. God has blessed us with many years. Also, thank you for remembering us while we were hospitalized for our hip fractures. May God bless you for your love and kindness.

#### *Bro. Ben and Sis. Irene Traub*

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

How thankful we were to hear that four souls have found peace with God. Marti Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Meika Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne), Sarah Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy) and Jordan Tanner (Joe Tanner and Jan Rogers). It is so uplifting to see Christ's light shining on their faces.

We have several babies to report this month. Three girls were born. Cassidy Nicole was welcomed home by Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post. Jason and Jenny Royer welcome home Hannah Irene. Bro. Ross, Sis. Kitty and Kinsey Herrmann have Ambria Lyn. Welcoming a baby boy, Wade Andrew, is Doug, Lynn, Cole and

Kaitlyn Wiegand. How thankful we are that God has blessed us with more healthy babies.

Sis. Liz Hohulin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Chris Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary, Eureka, IL) were announced to be married. How thankful we are that God provides for our every need. Our prayers will be with them as they prepare for a wedding and a life together.

Also engaged are Jerry Hinrichsen (Bro. Charles and Sis. Brenda) and Erica Knapp (Larry and Janice). We pray that God will bless them also as they make plans to be joined as one.

Our prayers are with Bro. Doug and Sis. Myrna Schwenk and their family. Bro. Doug moved to Restmor. We pray that they can feel God's comfort and strength.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Steve Baner and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We thank them for giving of themselves for us.

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### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Perry A. Klopfenstein

It is always good to hear testimonies of faith and conversion. The mercy of God shows forth as He works in the hearts of those who humble themselves and turn to Him and His ways.

When a soul repents and becomes humble, a godly innocence is often displayed. A new convert remarked (about her new Christian life) she didn't realize the "upkeep" it took to serve God. She was referring to the needed daily habits of reading, praying and denying of the flesh.

Another seeking soul commented that the ways of godliness serve as a "buffer" to keep us from temptation and potential sin.

Four souls were taken into the

flock on the weekend of January 28. They were Sisters Amy and Lisa Kiefer and Bros. Brandon Witzig and Mike Knapp.

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was here for the occasion and we offer sincere thanks. A visiting minister that weekend was Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

A daughter, Vivian Camille, was born to Bro. Thad and Sis. Molly Walter. She has a brother, Avery, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig and Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter (Fairbury, IL). Great-grandparents are Sis. Louise Witzig (Morton, IL), Sis. Helen Walter (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton, IL).

Bro. Larry Kiefer had heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic. He is home and is recovering. We wish our dear brother a full recovery.

Sis. Cassie Meiss was injured in a recreational accident and was hospitalized. She is healing well and we thank God.

Sis. Vyra Stoller (Bro. Don) is seriously ill in Florida. We pray God will heal her according to His will.

We offer our sympathies to Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf over the passing of her father, Leland Heck, of Roanoke who passed away on January 31.

Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) was here on the evening of February 21 to help read the Memorandum.

We thank those whom God has placed over us in faith. As the Scriptures are read, and then interpreted, it remains for us to apply the Word as specifically defined. This will allow for likemindedness to take place and a consistent witness of holiness to be demonstrated to the world.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Phyllis Farney Cheryl Wuthrich

To echo the Apostle Paul's familiar greeting, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

The baptisms and testimonies of Sis. Sarah Rassi and Bro. Oscar Weisser were held on February 10-11. It is a blessing to see that salvation is available for all no matter what their ages. Sis. Sarah is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi. Bro. Oscar's wife is Sis. Norma. Our prayer is that they will continue to go forward walking in the Lord's will.

Clarence Peters of Ft. Myers, FL, formerly of Morton, was laid to rest February 19. The services and burial were held in Morton. May the Lord comfort his son, Greg (Sara); his daughters, Becky (Bruce) Nafziger and Rachel Peters (Cecil); and his 6 grandchildren.

Bro. Adam Spangler was announced to be married to Sis. Amy Bates of Roanoke, IL. Bro. Adam's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn. Sis. Amy is the daughter of Sis. Diane and Bro. Steve Bates of Roanoke. We wish them the Lord's direction and blessings in their life together.

We enjoyed the annual Pork Chop Dinner hosted by the young group on February 18. The young people served us well. We enjoyed the time of fellowship and singing that followed.

On January 20, the Invite a Friend singing was held at our Fellowship Hall. It was a chance to invite loved ones and spend an evening in fellowship and singing praises to our Lord. This event is looked forward to every year at this time.

We sincerely thank the visiting ministers who were in Morton this

past month. They were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Scott Schaefer (South Bend, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL).

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Peter and Mabel Weber

Pancakes were the first type of bread of ancient Hebrews, who spread the batter of pounded grain and water on hot stone griddles. Pueblo Indians made the first American pancakes and Dutch and German immigrants introduced them officially in the 16th century. On January 20, the Bible Class served pancakes with sausages and applesauce at the annual Pancake Supper to raise funds for a trip to Jamaica over the Easter break. They thank all who contributed to making and/or consuming them in support of their project.

January 21, 2001: Today we have a new president. If we could have the opportunity to visit him this morning, how might we have prepared our hearts last night? What thoughts might we have had of what to say or what to hear? We do not have this opportunity, but can counsel with an old friend...our Heavenly Father, Whom we have come to worship, Who is always available, never turns us down, the appointments we want can always be made, we don't need to be important, can go to Him without clearance. Have you come to Church with anticipation, or because it is a form? Does God really have our hearts today, and do we reflect Him? or could we miss Heaven by 18" — the distance from our head to our heart? Thomas expressed feelings we all experience. We must realize we cannot escape eternal death but through Jesus, Who can raise

the dead to life, as He did Lazarus. We must be involved in learning and serving as one body, have faith to believe, be of good cheer and occupy/work (Bro. Ken Hoerr).

"Hear; for I will speak of excellent things" (Proverbs 8:6). How is your faith today? Do you blame God for trials and tribulations? If we call upon God in all situations, there is nothing He cannot take care of for us. Life here is but a moment compared to eternity. Do you hope for a comfortable life, or spend eternity in Heaven? We must believe from the bottom of our heart that there is a God and continually be fortified and reminded that our life on earth is not continuing. The things we see are temporal; we must be concerned with things we cannot see and have faith, believe and be totally surrendered to the will of God and willing to accept what He has promised us. If we insist on having it our way, He may give it to us and we must accept the consequences. Be sure your offering to God contains the blood of Jesus, just like Abel's sacrifice contained blood, which pleased God. Go to the Word, do what's right scripturally, stay close to God so generations which follow us will also be blessed (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 2/4).

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16). Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) gave us a clear message on February 7 for our family night service concerning "What the Bible says about drugs, tobacco and alcohol." Drugs never solve problems, they cause them; damage relationships, result in legal consequences, interfere with performance, death. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Drugs don't solve

problems, God does. We are to take care of our bodies and bring glory to God through them. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Rev. 21:7). Nicotine addiction begins after smoking just a few cigarettes and is the gateway to drugs. It makes great people average and average people dumb, with a don't-care attitude, and is a great danger to let salvation pass us by. Addiction is a minute-by-minute problem and has the potential to wreck lives and our ship of faith. Does I Tim. 5:23 promote drinking? This verse talks about medicinal purposes as "wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). The works of the flesh (drunkenness) shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:21). What shall we do to overcome these problems? Seek help from your families, your Church family, look to God to be an overcomer with His help, seek counseling, be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Children need to receive clearly stated (not mixed) messages of what is right and wrong. We must practice what we preach, be a compassionate listener, teach Jesus as an everyday duty. Who will you choose? God or drugs? What's your goal in life? "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). Thanks, Bro. Ted, for your well-documented, timely warnings on this troublesome subject.

We extend our sincere best wishes to Sis. Kari Meister and Bro. Mike Bates (Bloomington, IL) on their engagement on January 21 and anticipated marriage on May 13, as well as to their parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhonda Meister and Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates of Roanoke, IL.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli observed their 50th wedding anniversary on February 11 in their family circle and we congratulate them and wish them many more happy and healthy years of togetherness.

We express our sympathy to the family of Sis. Marie Kieser (80) who went to be with the Lord on January 17. Our condolences also to Fred Rieker and his family; his step-mother, Mrs. Kathryn Rieker, passed away on January 16. Bro. Fred Koehl is presently at Proctor Hospital and our prayers are with him for the Lord's healing mercies.

We need a single mind-set and focus. A lot of people are confused because they don't know the scriptures well enough. Are you waiting for someone else to fill the void in your heart? Is there someone else coming to fill it? "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37). He wants nobody to be lost (Bro. Tim Roecker, 2/11).

We thank Bro. David Marquart and the Taylor, MO, Bible Class for their visit on February 11. When the barometer of life tells us we are guilty, recognize it and believe He is able to forgive, bringing your whole heart to the altar of a merciful God. Who is the guardian at your door to keep the unknown out? May we take the fruit of the Spirit with us as we leave this edifice, and as we pass the graveyard on our way home, realize what is eternal. Heaven is ascertainable if we follow the plan. May we carry the banner high and be strong in the Spirit. "Of making many books there is no end" (Eccles. 12:12)...today we have been taught out of His Word.

## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Mary Ehnle Crystal Streitmatter

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

*Psalm 46:1*

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Esther Kieser (Bro. George) and Sis. Leila Elsasser. Our prayers are with them as they recover.

A little bundle from Heaven, Kendra Janet, was born on January 29 to Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach. We rejoice with them in the birth of their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

On February 11, we welcomed Bro. Andy Martin into the fold as a brother in Christ. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) came to assist in this important work. Parents of Bro. Andy are Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Martin. Other visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL), and Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) spoke to us at our all church Bible Study on the topic of "The Seven Laws of Harvest". We appreciate their willingness to share the gospel with us, and we enjoy the fellowship of visitors.

"And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

Our hearts were encouraged to hear of the repentance of Trent

Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay). We offer our prayers on his behalf as he has begun to turn from his past life and serve the Lord. Trent is living and working in the Leo, IN, area presently.

We are thankful that God has granted 50 blessed years of marriage to our Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach. The following is a note of thanks from them: "Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for their love expressed to us on our 50th wedding anniversary, and to our children for hosting a dinner. May God bless each one of you!"

There was one who was willing to  
die in my stead,  
That a soul so unworthy might  
live;  
And the path to the cross He was  
willing to tread,  
All the sins of my life to forgive.  
They are nailed to the cross,  
They are nailed to the cross,  
O how much He was willing to  
bear!  
With what anguish and loss Je-  
sus went to the cross!  
But He carried my sins with Him  
there.

*Gospel Hymns #783*

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone in every way each of you helped me out. First of all, your prayers and I'm so thankful God has answered prayer for my healing. So many kind deeds were done for me from August to February that I can't name them all but can only say God knows each kind deed and He planned a dinner for us each night. It makes you realize what a strong church family we have and it's very humbling to receive for so many months. God richly bless each of you and I love and appreciate everyone from the bottom

of my heart.

In His love,  
*Sis. Jeanette Graham (Bro. Richard)*

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### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Linda Hodel  
 Boni Stoller**

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

*Proverbs 22:6*

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Andrea Harris at the birth of their precious baby girl. Sydney Rose was born January 23. She has a big sister and brother, Samantha and Noah, who love her very much. Her grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufman (Morton, IL), Sis. Linda Harris (Roanoke) and Mike Harris (Wilmington, Del). We pray God will grant much wisdom to Todd and Andrea as they raise their family.

Surely there is great joy among the angels in Heaven for our new converts. We wish abundant grace to Bob and Marilyn Ott, their daughter, Heidi, and to Tyler Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie). It lifts all our spirits when loved ones choose to follow our precious Lord.

Family sings were held January 21 and February 4. It is such a peaceful way to spend a Sunday evening, singing praises and listening to praises sung to our God. On the 21st, the men's choir sang for us, and on the 4th, our Prairie Choristers shared their talents with us. Thanks so much to both of these groups for all the time and effort you put forth.

“For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night...in the

morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down and withereth... For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; We spend our years as a tale that is told.”

*Psalms 90:4,5,6,9*

How quickly time marches on and our lives, no matter how brief or long, famous or unknown, are soon but a “tale that is told”. We can only hope and pray that the tale of our lives is a good and faithful one.

Sis. Shirley Blunier passed away at Phoenix, AZ, February 9. Her funeral was here in Roanoke, Tuesday, February 13. We pray God will comfort her husband, Bro. Gaylord, her son, Chuck Fletcher of Ark., and her stepchildren, Michael Blunier, Rebecca Duffield and Jennifer Schupbach.

Those of our church family who have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Ann Leman, Sis. Doris Hodel (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Shirley Leman (Bro. Steve). We pray God will reach down and touch them with His healing hand and that soon they can assemble with us again.

We are happy for two dear couples who have announced their engagements. Cisne Knepp and Pete Schaffer, both of Chicago, are planning to be married May 26. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp and Lorraine Schaffer (Phoenix, AZ).

On February 18, Sis. Amy Bates was announced to Bro. Adam Spangler of Morton. Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn Spangler are their parents. We pray both of these couples will look to God to be the head of their homes and pray for His blessings for them.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We take this opportunity to thank all who remembered our 50th anniversary. We appreciated it very much. God bless you all.

*Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marylou Martin*

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me on my 90th birthday with cards, gifts, luncheons and verbal well wishes. It was greatly appreciated. May God richly bless each one of you.

*Sis. Margaret Beer*

I again have many reasons to express my deep appreciation of all the kindness shown to me in many ways at the time of my surgery; at the time of my birthday; and again at Christmas. I am also very thankful for a gift of \$25 from someone whose name was misplaced. Please accept this late thank you. May God richly bless you all.

*Sis. Norene Herbst*

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### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi  
 LaVonne Wagenbach**

When we asunder part,  
 It gives us inward pain;  
 But we shall still be joined in  
 heart,

And hope to meet again.

*Hymns of Zion #156*

With this song on our lips, we bid farewell to our Sis. Berniece Joos, who announced her move to the Leo, IN, congregation a short while ago. She plans to live with her daughter, Sis. Cheri (Bro. Bill) Blunier. We will miss her presence in Tremont but bid her God's blessings in Leo.

This month we were visited by two ministering brethren. We thank

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) for assisting in the reading of the Memorandum and bringing forth the Word of God. Also laboring in our midst was Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) on the topic of service vs. self.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Laurie (Bro. Chad) Keever at the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Marie Schafer, of Peoria, IL. We can be comforted knowing that death is not eternal when the soul of a loved one is surrendered to the Lord.

On January 30, a son, Caleb Michael, was born to Julie Beutel. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel.

First-time grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post. Cassidy Nicole was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post (Goodfield, IL) on February 7. Grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman (Goodfield, IL), are also rejoicing at the arrival of their newest granddaughter.

We also want to remember those who have had ailments in the flesh this month. Among those that were hospitalized include Bro. Bob (Sis. Elizabeth) Sauder, Bro. Walt (Sis. Vera) Aberle, and Sis. June (Bro. Curt) Zuercher. May we look to the Lord for healing. "...for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:26)

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many prayers, visits, food and gifts given on our behalf during Walt's recent knee surgery. We appreciate your love and kindness to us. A card and it's gift were accidentally separated and we don't know who to thank for it. Please know we are truly sincere in our thankfulness to you and God for our many blessings. May God be your rich Rewarder.

In Christian love,  
*Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle*

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Susan Ruppert**  
**Denise Romersberger**

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

*Psalm 91:4*

What comes to mind when you hear the word fortress? I picture a castle. Built of solid stone, high on a hill with guard towers. A castle is a picture of strength on the outside and refuge on the inside.

God is a fortress. We can draw strength from Him and take refuge in Him. Yet in Psalm 91, God is not described as a strong, formidable castle. He is described as a chicken! The picture is that of a mother hen gathering her chicks under the protection of her wings. It is not irreverent to picture God in this way. It is comforting. We do not have a cold stone fortress that we must run to so we can be safe. We have a warm and loving fortress who comes to us right in the middle of our struggles and wanderings.

This is the way it is with God. He comes to us in His Word, the Bible and through His Son Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. Are you too weak to run to God? Take comfort, for He comes to you. He gives you refuge under the shadow of "His wing".

Bro. Fred and Sis. Dianne Wyss are the thankful parents of another boy, Tate Richard Wyss, born February 8. Brothers, Troy and Trent, welcomed him home. We are grateful to God for a safe delivery and welcome Tate to our midst.

This month we were privileged to

have the following guest ministers in our congregation to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. It is always a joy to know that the Word of God is brought forth in its truth and purity. They were Bros. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) and Richard Plattner (Peoria, IL). Thank you, Brothers, for your efforts.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Beth Aschliman**  
**Tonia Isch**

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

*Matthew 3:16-17*

In like manner, pleasing God and following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ were ten precious souls this month. On January 20-21, Krystal Schwartz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb), Daniel Dubach (Bro. Ken, Jodi Holloway), Alex Neuenchwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean), Tyson Frauhiger and Tanya Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann) gave their testimonies and were baptized. In our second group on February 10-11 were Alyssa Kipfer (Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy), Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy), Zachary Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon) and Braden Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan). We rejoice with these dear souls as they follow our Lord.

We also rejoice with our five new converts: Sabrina Caldwell (Bro.

Floyd and Sis. Sarah), John Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny), Shawn Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val), Jenna Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon) and Deone Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Kim). They will be in our prayers as they start their new life in Christ.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) and Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Bro. Denny), Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph) and Sis. Lucille Reinhard.

Our church congregation was saddened by the death of Sis. Stacy Fiechter as a result of an automobile accident. She was only sixteen years old and our hearts go out to her dear family, Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny and their children, Bro. Klint, Bro. Quinn, Jamy, and Seth. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Fiechter and Bro. Lester and Sis. Rosemary Gerber. We will continue to pray for Sis. Stacy's family in the future as she will be greatly missed. It is times like these that focus us more on Heaven and the reunion that will be with those that have gone on before and our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*Romans 8:38-39*

## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Ann Meyer Rhonda Maller

*But the fruit of the spirit is...*

Love: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."  
(John 13:35)

Joy: "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10b)

Peace: "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3)

Longsuffering: "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness." (Colossians 1:11)

Gentleness: "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing meekness unto all men." (Titus 3:2)

Goodness: "For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth."  
(Ephesians 5:9)

Faith: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)" (Hebrews 10:23)

Meekness: "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (I Peter 3:4)

Temperance: "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." (Titus 2:2)

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to your virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to tem-

perance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

*II Peter 1:5-8*

Our hearts rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schladenhauffen and their daughter, Mandy, who has come to the Lord in repentance, surrendering her life to His will. We pray for Mandy's continued growth in the Spirit. May each of our lives be an example, rather than a hindrance, to her new found faith.

Bro. John Maggart (Sis. Becky) laid his father safely to rest in the arms of Jesus on January 19. Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. John and his family. We are thankful for God's promise of a heavenly reunion.

We encourage everyone to not forget our beloved brothers and sisters who are shut-in and often suffer physical distresses. We especially pray for Sis. Essie Isch (Christian Care) who is gravely ill, and for Bro. Max Steffen who is recovering from surgery. We are thankful that Sis. Gladys Fiechter is once again well enough to worship with us on Sundays.

Our youth can also suffer illness and we offer our prayers on behalf of Stephanie Gerber (Bro. Brent and Sis. Ann) who was hospitalized. James Drayer, 18 months, had eye surgery. We trust the Lord that it is successful. His parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather.

"My beloved is mine and I am his:"

*Solomon 2:16*

Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Michael, who resides in Phoenix, to Sis. Angie Klopfenstein.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz are also looking forward to a wedding. Their daughter, Heather, has announced her engagement to Tyler Sonnigsen. May God bless both couples and guide their steps as they make plans for their special day.

Several of our brothers and sisters participated in the meat packing project sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee. Every February, two days are spent canning many pounds of turkey to be shipped around the world to those in need. Whether you sent a pie, helped in the kitchen, cut or stirred meat, hauled cans, etc., we know your efforts will be blessed. Four thousand of the cans will be shipped out of our local BDC building with our food shipments to Romania. MCC will ship the rest to places in Central and South America, and across the ocean.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:40*

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Lily Pelsy

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

*Psalms 18:2*

May God provide comfort to Bro. Chris Welker. His sister, Gisela Roth, passed away.

The comfort of the Lord be upon

Judy Gutwein (Gordon) in the loss of her brother, David Phebus.

We rejoice with Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Leman in the birth of their daughter, Marin Sue, on January 22. Happy playmates are Sydney and Darrin. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Linda Leman, Ken and Denise Bailey and Rick Holliday.

God's healing power has been upon three loved ones during their hospitalizations. They were Paul Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam), Sarah Johns (Bro. Earl and Sis. Stephanie) and Sis. Elsie Yaggie.

Let us be thankful for all of our ministers. Those visiting whom we wish to thank were Bros. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Lester Huber (Lexington, KY).

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

I wish to thank my loving neighbors, friends, and relatives for their telephone calls, kind letters, cards, and food brought to me at the time of my dear sister's death. A special thanks to Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker. God bless all.

*Sis. Minerva Wuethrich*

I was very thankful and humbled for the prayers, love, and kindness shown me while I was in the hospital and since returning home. Also, for the good food brought in, cards, phone calls and flowers sent to me. It was appreciated very much. May God bless each one of you for your love.

*Humbly,*

*Sis. Helen Eshleman*

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### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Sue Levy Gail Bradford

We rejoice whenever anyone repents and begins their walk with God. The joy is perhaps greater

when a dear soul makes this life-saving decision when they are young. We were privileged to hear the testimony of Bro. Makito Inoue who was recently baptized in his home church in Tokyo, Japan. The influence of godly parents became apparent as he shared how he made his decision.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN) and Duane Farney (Croghan- Naumburg, NY). Visiting also were Bros. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Francesville, IN), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) and Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ). Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) spoke about God's mercy at Bro. John Mayer's funeral service.

Our congregation prayerfully awaits the results of recent voting for another brother to serve as minister. We should uphold them in prayer—it is support they frequently request! It is our reasonable service.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

*Romans 12:1*

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### INDIANA, LACROSSE Jeremy and Natalie Freed

Memorandum was conducted this month with the help of Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS). We appreciate he and his wife's consideration in traveling many miles to share the Gospel. May we take



heed to obey the exhortations that will protect us on our journey to Heaven. Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) also kindly preached to us the Word.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

*Psalm 127:3*

We wish Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie Rocke God's nearness as they nurture their precious newborn, Virginia Rose, who was born prematurely and is in intensive care. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank.

We also rejoice with Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) in the recent birth of their daughter, Allie Ann. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman (Forrest, IL).

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

Bro. Luke Frank and Sis. Crystal Ramsier announced their engagement and we wish them God's blessings. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank.

Several in our congregation have suffered illness this month and are in need of prayers. May God grant strength and comfort to Bro. Aaron Heinold and Sis. Lucille Nuest who were hospitalized. Recovering from injury are Sis. Jan Nuest and Sis. Carolyn Levy.

### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We received many good teachings from the Lord through His servants. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and his family, Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his family visited us. Our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz brought a thought-provoking message on Ezek. 34 and Eph. 6, following his attendance at the winter Elders' Conference in Bloomington, IL. He thanked the congregation for their prayers as he felt the power of the Spirit during the meetings. Bro. Brace Wieland followed with the same thought in the afternoon for our complete (100%) surrender to the Lord.

“Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am...And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.”

*Psalm 39:4,7*

We are praying that the Lord's supporting hand will hold up many who are feeling the infirmity of the flesh. Sis. Thelma Schlatter is recuperating at home; her daughter and son-in-law, Colleen and Arnie Moser, from South Carolina have come to stay with her this month. Sis. Marie (Bro. David) Bertsch is recovering at home from back surgery and has a lot of pain. Bro. Jack Bollier suffered bruises and broken ribs in a fall, and is recuperating at home. Bro. Pete Maxfield is doing well following his surgery; as he cannot lift, his wife, Sis. Helen, is at The Cedars Retirement Home. She is failing and needs much assistance. Bro. John Stoller is experiencing continual back pain as he carefully goes about his daily routine.

“For unto you it is given in the be-

half of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.”

*Phil. 1:29*

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Thelma Schlatter in the passing of her sister-in-law, Rhoda Schlatter, age 98, who peacefully went to her rest at The Cedars on February 19. Rhoda's family of three sons and a daughter are remembered in prayer.

We do not know what a day will bring.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

*Romans 12:1-2*

Even as the flowers blossom in the spring, cheering our hearts and thoughts, may God's Word sprout in our hearts to give us true joy.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

—John Sammis

### INDIANA, MILFORD Pam Beer Stacey Feller

“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

*Psalm 118:24*

The longer days here are beginning to be evident as the cycle of seasons makes it way back towards

green grass, blue skies, and daffodils! We rejoice in each day God grants us, but this time of year seems to put a new bounce in our step. Thanks be to God for new life on the horizon!

Rustin Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat) recently had surgery and we are glad he enjoys full health again. Also hospitalized after a winter fall was Tillie Kasbaum. Our prayers are with her as she now resides in a nursing home after living independently throughout her life.

We rejoiced to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) February 17-18. We thank the guest ministers who came and helped with the joyful occasion: Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), and Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). We wish Bro. Troy abundant grace and peace in his new walk of life.

The same weekend, we were happy to hear that our convert, Kristi Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy), feels the "peace that passeth all understanding" and anticipates baptism.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost."

*Romans 15:13*

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler**

**Rochelle Ward**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider as they mourn the loss of Bro. Ken's mother. And yet we know they are thankful that she has gone to her reward.

"Holding fast the faithful word as

he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

*Titus 1:9*

Our prayers go out on behalf of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus as they willfully seek God's direction in their lives. Bro. Dan was approved for Eldership at the winter Elder Conference and at the time of this printing, Lord willing, will have been ordained at a service on March 4. As a church, we wish to embrace Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna with our full support and love. May they feel the nearness of God and know that His plan is perfect.

Ashton Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) was announced for peace and our love and prayers are with her as she continues on her spiritual journey.

### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to those who remembered us with cards and prayers on our 40th wedding anniversary. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. We would like to express appreciation for the sincere condolences at the death of Ken's mother. And also a special thank you to all who have shared concern and love regarding Loretta's health. May the Lord bless you all.

*Ken and Loretta Schneider*

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Darel and Janet Walker**

We rejoice with Ben Bucher (Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie) as he has made the choice to turn his heart to God in repentance. It is encouraging to see more souls committing their lives to serve our Lord and Saviour.

We wish to thank our Elder Bro.

Dale and Sis. Judy Eisenmann for worshipping with us in January and for serving our church.

We were blessed February 4 with a group of visitors from the Peoria church. We wish to thank Bros. Tim Roecker and David Obergfel for bringing God's message to us. Their families and several other friends from Peoria joined us for a potluck after church. Our congregation really enjoys it when we have visitors.

We also wish to thank Bro. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) for worshipping with us also in February. We are often short-handed, but God always blesses us with ministers from neighboring churches with hearts willing to serve and teach us. We wish to especially thank the LaCrosse church for sending ministers, often on short notice, when our ministers are out of town.

Congratulations to Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher who celebrated 40 years of Holy Matrimony on February 5.

If you are traveling in the Chicago area, please worship with us. Our church is located 2 miles south of Valparaiso on Route 49. Sunday services begin at 10:15 a.m.

### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for all of the prayers, cards, flowers, and kind expressions of sympathy we received at the passing of Janet's mother, Sis. Wilma Lehman, of Eureka, IL. May God bless each of you for your kindness.

*Darel and Sis. Janet Walker*

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Geoff and Angie Ginzel**

"But Jesus said, Suffer little chil-

dren, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

*Matthew 19:13*

This month little Marin Lemman received a joyful welcome into the world by her parents, Bro. Randy and Sis. Mara Lemman, on January 22. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Sydney, and her big brother, Darrin.

With encouraging words and prayerful support, the Elder body has agreed to continue our church services in West Lafayette. We will soon start meeting every Sunday; however, the exact details have yet to be determined.

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), Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Wendell and Sis. Marcella Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Neal and Sis. Chris Widmer (Wolcott, 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.

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### **INDIANA, WOLCOTT**

**Erica Wagenbach**

**Mary Beth Lehman**

We are always grateful to our brothers for preaching the Word of Life. Our visiting minister this past

month was Bro. Scott Schaefer (South Bend, IN).

As our Elder brothers have met together this month, we pray the Lord will continue to bless them for their faithful service on our behalf.

We thank Sis. Becky Lehman for being Wolcott's Silver Lining correspondent for the past couple of years. May God bless her for her labors.

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### **IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Karla Gerst**

**Brenda Schulz**

This past month we have been blessed with several visiting ministers. Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) was with us on a Sunday, and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) came down for a Wednesday night. We thank all of them for their sincere efforts. May God bless them.

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### **IOWA, ELGIN**

**Gloria Frieden**

**Heidi Butikofer**

How often in life do we enjoy our blessings yet take them so for granted that we are almost oblivious to their existence? Then sometimes God, in His wisdom, removes the blessing from us for a season so we might become more appreciative. As I write this article, I'm enduring the loss of my sense of smell and taste, but I trust they will soon return and that I will (hopefully) not take the blessings of my five senses for granted again.

Bro. Elmer Butikofer is in the hospital and we trust he can feel God's presence with him and His healing hand upon him.

Another couple has made their engagement known. Peg Moore

(Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl) and Steve Moyle (Les and Mary) are planning their wedding on June 23. May God be with them as they plan their wedding, and may His presence be felt as they continue their earthly pilgrimage together.

*Notice:* As of April 1, 2001, the area code on our telephone numbers will change from 319 to 563 in Elgin, IA.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**

**Willa Clark**

Our thanks to visiting Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) for their faithfulness in bringing us God's Word in clearness and truth.

Rachel Smith is again able to worship with us for morning services. We thank God for her continuing improvement since fracturing her back in a fall in late December.

Mary Webber Balazs, the sisters of our Bro. Phil Webber, passed away recently. Her parents were Bro. Philip and Sis. Emma (Zollinger) Webber of Akron, OH. She is survived by her husband, Gabriel; two sons; and Bro. Phil and his family. Our hearts go out to Bro. Phil and his family in this loss.

The winter continues with much snow and ice, and colder than usual temperatures, but no matter what the weather outside, an encouraging word from a fellow Christian warms the soul like a ray of spring sunshine.

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY**

**Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We wish to thank all of our visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). Our spir-

its are fed and hearts lifted as these brothers or our own Bro. Joe Gerst rely on the Holy Spirit to bring us God's Word.

In a recent sermon the minister marveled at the love of Jesus, who in His last pain-filled hours thought not of Himself, but of the thieves on the other crosses, His mother, His followers, and even of the very soldiers who were nailing Him on the Cross!

*Blessed Redeemer*

Up Calv'ry's mountain, one  
dreadful morn,  
Walked Christ my Saviour, weary  
and worn;  
Facing for sinners death on the  
cross,  
That He might save them from  
endless loss.

"Father, forgive them!" thus did  
He pray,  
E'en while His life blood flowed  
fast away;  
Praying for sinners while in such  
woe—  
No one but Jesus ever loved so.

O how I love Him, Saviour and  
Friend!  
How can my praises ever find  
end!  
Thru years unnumbered on  
heaven's shore,  
My tongue shall praise Him for-  
evermore.

Blessed Redeemer, precious Re-  
deemer!  
Seems now I see Him on Cal-  
vary's tree,  
Wounded and bleeding,  
For sinners pleading—  
Blind and unheeding—  
Dying for me!

**IOWA, LESTER  
Dawn Metzger  
Dawn Knobloch**

The month of January found us gathering to enjoy the wedding ceremonies of two couples. On Sunday the 21st, Bro. Ryan Frank (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Heidi Bajema were joined together. Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) conducted this special service. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi are the children of Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank and Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema. It is sad to have Sis. Heidi leave us, however, we trust she will be happy in her new home in Oakville. Other visiting ministers for the weekend were Bros. Jon Schmidgall and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Paul and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana Hartter became one in the Lord on January 28. Parents of this happy couple are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Tedd and Sis. Diane Larson. Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) shared the Word of Life with us and gave many good teachings for us to strive for.

"But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."

*Genesis 24:4*

The story of Isaac and Rebekah is one of great faith. We still see the benefits and blessings of seeking a helpmate through faith. Bro. Mychal Van Whye (Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Dawn Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon, Morris, MN) chose February 11 for their wedding day in Morris. Many from our congregation were able to share this day with them. We welcome Sis.

Dawn to Lester as they establish their home here.

As we heard of the death of Sis. Dorothy Durkee (Morris, MN), we extend our sympathy to her grandson, Bro. Kevin Wulf, and her sister in our congregation, Sis. Alice Wulf, and her family. We also wish to remember Charlie and Linda Metzger and their family as her father, Thomas Hanson, passed from this lifetime into eternity.

Sis. Emma Gerber recently had same day surgery on her hand. We hope this will be successful for her.

Most importantly, we want to remember our Elders in prayer as they gather for the mid-winter Conference in Bloomington, IL. "Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." (Acts 27:31). Spiritually, as believers, we need to abide in our ship of faith to have a hope of Heaven.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Ella Metzger would like to thank everyone for the food, flowers, memorials, thoughts and prayers extended to us following her death. May God richly bless each of you!

*Ernst Metzger and family*

**IOWA, OAKVILLE  
Melody Steiner  
Debra Wagenbach**

We rejoice with Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) as his engagement to Sis. Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean) of Lester, IA, was made known to our congregation. They are planning an April wedding. Likewise, we rejoice with Bro. Curt Schmidgall (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) on his marriage to Sis. Lorenia Sibaja of Ixtlan, Mexico. May God bless and keep these dear

couples as they walk from day to day and establish their Christian homes.

We were so thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assist Elder Bro. Ed with reading the Memorandum. As we listened to our dear shepherds warn and encourage us, our hearts were warmed and our faith strengthened that the Lord still reveals His truth through faithful and devout men. May we continue to pray for our dear Elders and ministers that the faith of our fathers will prevail.

Our dear Sis. Betty Baker has been relieved of her earthly afflictions and is at peace with Jesus. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her surviving sisters, Sis. Liberty Gerst (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Martha Buehler. May God be near them and comfort them in the lonely days ahead.

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### IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father..."

*John 14:21*

We were uplifted and encouraged as Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) shared the reading of the Memorandum with us. It was a blessed weekend and we thank these brothers and their wives for making the effort to be with us.

Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) also brought forth the Word of Life to us. May God bless them for their labors.

### IOWA, WEST BEND

#### Berniece Banwart Lori Skoglund

On a recent weekend, Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Patricia, Congerville, IL) brought forth the Word and we were encouraged to faithfulness. Acts Chapter 5 was read. Are WE giving our all to the Lord or do WE hold back some for the world? Then on the first weekend in February, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was here to assist our Elder and deacon in the reading of the Memorandum. May we ever appreciate all the efforts of our loving Elders as they watch for our souls.

This past month Bro. Lyle Rick (Sis. Irene) was hospitalized and has since returned to the Care Center. Also, Sis. Kathy Fehr (Elder Bro. Wayne) was a surgical patient recently. We are thankful both are slowly recovering and we know how much they appreciate the prayers and support of the congregation.

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

*John 14:27*

We rejoice that Ben and Krissa Skoglund (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) turned to the Lord in repentance and at this time are looking forward to baptism.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time because the days are evil."

*Ephesians 5:15-16*

May we all be mindful of the fact that the best preparation for tomorrow is the wise use of today!

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### JAPAN, SHIODA

#### Ayako Inoue

We send our greetings from Shioda, Japan, again this month.

This month we had a lot of snow, especially on many of the weekends, so the gatherings were small on a couple of Sundays. But still, we all have the warm feelings of love and faith in our hearts.

We had a few new friends that started to come to our congregation and we are grateful to worship together in our small group. We hope they can feel the love of our Saviour and continue to come. I Samuel 3 was read on February 18 and the message was, "If we also feel God's call toward us, we should answer it as young Samuel did." We also had our monthly singing practice on the 18th and we found out that we were improving in our "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" — singing in different parts (soprano, alto, etc.). We will still keep on practicing!

Our beloved brother Toshio Uchida (Uchida-san) experienced another short hospital stay because of pneumonia. We ask the Lord for His healing hand upon him and his family.

The Shioda Church recently set up a home page on the internet. We hope many people will visit it and get to know our church. (It is written in the Japanese language so it is mainly for the people in Japan, but we would love to have anyone visit it. The address is <http://homepage2.nifty.com/acci/index>. We would like to thank Bro. Akihiro Ito and the brothers in the Tokyo congregation for their efforts and advice in making it.

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

### Jana Klaus

After a very cold winter for Tokyo with more snow than usual, today we experienced weather that felt like Spring and it felt good. Perhaps some of us are now experiencing "spring fever"! This month has been a slower month with not too much to report, but we are thankful to hear that the winter Elder Conference went well. Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and his wife, Sis. Marie, were able to attend. They also attended a very special event at our church in Indianapolis as their son, Bro. Makoto Inoue, who was recently baptized here and is attending school at Purdue University, gave his testimony in English for brethren and family there. They enjoyed the sweet fellowship with everyone there and are thankful for all who have been a help and encouragement to Bro. Makoto.

Our Sis. Shizuko Urushino recently became a first-time grandmother as her oldest son and his wife have a new baby boy, born January 17. He had to spend time in the hospital, but is doing better and is at home now. Congratulations and God's blessings to Sis. Urushino (and her family) as she enters a new and precious phase in her life.

We had another Building Project meeting on February 11 and the plans are slowly unfolding for tearing down the present house next to the church and making a parking lot on the first floor and Sunday School rooms, lunch and fellowship rooms and bathrooms on the second floor. We are grateful to see how the Lord has led thus far in the project and continue to prayerfully seek His will and timing in all of our plans. We plan to have another meeting in March.

A thought to end with: "Slow and

steady wins the race." (from the popular children's story of the tortoise and the hare)

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## KANSAS, BERN

### Lori Baumgartner Sally Strahm

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

*Luke 15:7*

Our flock in Bern is also rejoicing with the angels in Heaven and with our converts, Elwin and Mary Strahm, who have found grace to repent and seek their Lord and Saviour.

Sharing the Word with us this month was Bro. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA). We appreciate his willingness to proclaim God's Holy Word in truth and purity.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila). May he feel the healing power of the Lord.

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

*Eccles. 3:1-2*

Our sincere thoughts and prayers have been with the family of Sara Popkess, who passed away January 30, following a lengthy illness of cancer. She is survived by her parents, Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm; her husband, Ed; and sons, Hogan and Hunter (Topeka, KS). Also surviving are siblings, Marcia Rottinghaus (Ted), Seneca, KS; Ted Strahm and Becky Ahlquist (Matt), Shawnee Mission, KS; Sis. Martha Strahm and Bethany Strahm. Surviving grandparents are Bro. Emil

Strahm and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

We also express our deepest sympathy to the family of Dana Tegtmeier (Terry) of Bern who passed away February 3. She was the daughter of the late Bro. Alvin and Sis. Mildred Strahm. Surviving siblings include Elwin (Mary) Strahm, Bro. Ron (Cindy) Strahm (Kansas City, MO) and Barbara (Gene) Beethe (Topeka, KS).

May both of these families be comforted in the days ahead, knowing God will provide their every need.

On January 27, we gathered with the Sabetha congregation to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for the many warnings and exhortations that our dear Elders bring forth. May we take heed to these warnings as we should not only be hearers of God's Word but doers also.

At the time of this writing, our dear Elder brothers will be gathering together in Bloomington, IL, for the mid-winter Conference. As we have duty to pray for our Elders as they guide their flocks, may we be prayerful on their behalf.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to each one for your expressions of love, sympathy and prayers during the illness and death of our daughter and sister, Sara. Your notes of encouragement, visits, support, food and memorials meant so very much to us. May God richly bless and reward you all.

*Wilfred and Verona Strahm and family*

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## **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Joleen Sinn**

We are rejoicing with Sis. Marie Zaugg as she has moved from Medical Lodge to her home. May God continue to give her body strength so she can stay at home.

We want to thank our visiting brothers for this month. Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA) spent a weekend with us as did Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera Frieden (Lamar, MO). May God bless them richly for sharing His Word with us.

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

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was here this month to perform the wonderful event of bringing another soul into the fold. Sis. Clara Miller was baptized and what a blessing to greet a new sister in the Lord.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alice Tanner celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. Friends and family joined together for a wonderful reception for this dear couple. May the Lord continue to keep and guide them.

On February 11, we held our annual meeting. Many positions were refilled and we want to thank those who are giving their time and commitment for these offices. The Sunday School teaching positions were also up for re-election. Let us never forget to pray for them who teach and guide our youth. We pray that they all will look to the Lord for guidance.

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

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan), Sis. Nadine Kraft (Bro. Lloyd) and Bro.

Eldon Metzger (Sis. Dorene). Our prayers are that God might grant healing according to His will.

Three in our assembly have lost dear ones this month (all three passed away at our Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, KS). Our sympathy is with Sis. Eileen Bahr (Bro. Rudy) and her family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Celestina Schifferer. She died January 23 at the age of 97. Her funeral was in Elgin, IA.

Funeral services were held on Friday, February 9, for Sis. Mary Raaf (93). She lived in the area and was a member of the Lamont-Gridley church for many years before moving to Sabetha. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Hannah Grimm in the passing of her sister.

Also, we extend sympathy to Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd) on the death of her sister, Sis. Evelyn Robinson (85). We are thankful Sis. Evelyn saw the need to repent and was baptized during the past year.

The weekend of February 17-18 our small congregation was blessed with a large group of single brothers and sisters from several of the Kansas and Missouri congregations. Thanks to ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) for sharing God's Word with us.

Our thoughts and prayers were with the Elder brothers as they assembled in Bloomington, IL, for the mid-winter Conference.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I just want to thank you loved ones for all the cards, phone calls and love you gave me on my 96th birthday. May God who has blessed me all these years, bless all you loved ones.

*Bro. Samuel Anliker*

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

We were thankful to have with us Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and John Lehman and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) for the reading of the Conference Memorandum.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter. Their granddaughter, Sara Popkess, passed away in Topeka, KS, on January 30 after a lengthy battle with brain cancer. We know God's timing isn't always what we think it should be and find ourselves questioning "Why?" when there is a young family left behind.

Sis. Marie Banwart, formerly of Lamar, MO, passed away in our nursing home on February 2. Our sympathy is extended to her surviving brothers.

Sis. Mary Aberle has moved from her apartment to the nursing home. May God give her strength for each day.

Our prayers are with our Elders during their winter Conference.

Arm us with the stern decision of Elijah, in these days when men, led by superstition, to idols new altars raise. Let us shun the mere profession common in our days and land, witnessing a good profession, even if alone we stand.

*Zion's Harp #175*

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## **KANSAS STATE** **UNIVERSITY** **Tamra Kaeb**

We thank Thee, precious Saviour dear,

That we are not left weary,  
as poor neglected orphans here

on lonely ways so dreary.  
 'Mid people strange, in foreign  
 land  
 and where our speech has no de-  
 mand,  
 as foolish ones regarded.  
 Nay, not as orphans stand we  
 here,  
 To us, O Lord, at all times near,  
 Thy presence is accorded.  
*Zion's Harp #204*

Classes are back in full swing as many students are studying for and taking their first exams for the Spring semester, As we begin our daily routine each morning, it is a comfort to know that God will be just a whisper away throughout the busy hours.

We welcome everyone who came back after Christmas break. One from among us has left, following God's leading on a different path of life. Sis. Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa, Sabetha) and Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy, Bern) announced their engagement the weekend before classes resumed. We rejoice with them and wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare for their wedding on March 18.

Over the past month, we have been blessed with hearing God's Word from our nearby ministering brothers. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) began this semester's mid-week services, and on February 7, Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) shared with us. We were also thankful to have Bro. Ben Wysong visit us for a topical Bible study on Jesus' parables. May God bless them for their service. We welcome all who are able to worship with us on Wednesday nights. The rest of our services will be held on March 28 and April 24.

## KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Last month I reported the intended baptism of Shawanda Reimschisel and Communion services for the weekend of February 10-11. I should have included the words, "Lord willing". Instead, we, along with a large part of the mid-west, endured another ice and snow storm. As a result, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz could not keep his commitment. We look forward to rescheduling.

Also, two weeks prior to that, the ice was so bad that church services were canceled for the second time this season. During that episode, many in the area were without electricity and much damage was done to trees. The icy limbs were beautiful when the sunshine touched them. Sunshine, like God's love, can touch everyone. I have a calendar which has a short verse for each day. This one by Gertrude Eligas seems appropriate for times of confinement.

Take each day as you find it,  
 If things go wrong, don't mind it  
 For each day leaves behind it  
 A chance to start anew.

I am happy to report that Betty Barth was able to have her surgery in late January. After several weeks in rehabilitation, she was able to return to her home. Again, prayers were answered.

## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

"I called on the Lord in distress; the  
 Lord answered me..."

*Psalms 118:5*

Forgive us, Lord, when we're

surprised

By answers to our prayer;  
 Increase our faith and teach us  
 how  
 To trust Thy loving care.  
 —Sper

The early Christians prayed for Peter to be released from prison and then were "astonished" when God answered them (Acts 12:16). We respond that way too, but we shouldn't be surprised when God answers our prayers. Remember, His power is great and His resources are endless.

As one said, "The most powerful position on earth is kneeling before the Lord of the universe!"

The weekend of January 17-18 we had a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. We appreciated Francesville, IN, coming this weekend. Bro. Chris Wuethrich was our visiting minister. His family and parents, Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich, and also Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy Wuethrich came with him. Also on January 28-29 we enjoyed a singing on Saturday evening with Latty, OH. This weekend ministering Bro. John Laukhauf was here. A group of young people, along with several couples, accompanied him. We always enjoy these special times of fellowship.

We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN), John Laukhauf (Latty, OH), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) this past month bring us the Word. May the Lord richly bless them for coming the distance to share with us.

We always appreciate visitors and extend a welcome to anyone. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.



## MEXICO, IXTLAN Kirby Reutter

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply."

*Genesis 1:28*

We rejoice with our friends, Efrain and Ana Cabrera, who were blessed with precious little David Cabrera on Sunday, February 11. Maternal grandparents are Marcelino and Sis. Leticia Campos. Paternal grandparents are converts Salvador and Guadalupe Cabrera.

"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth."

*Acts 18:1*

On February 10, Bro. Eric Humbracht departed from his home congregation in Elgin, IL, and came to his new congregation in Ixtlan where he will be staying indefinitely. We certainly welcome him into our church and pray that the Lord will prosper his efforts.

### *Meet Bro. Jose Roque*

I first came to know of Christ during the twelve years I spent in the States. I was married at the time, but my wife spent most of those years back in Mexico. After five years in the US, I was fed up with my life of sin. At about this time a couple began to explain to me the Bible. At first I really didn't understand a thing that they were saying, but at this point I was so sick of my life that I was willing to listen to anything, even if I didn't understand it. After our first talk the couple invited me to church and promised that they would pick me up. I was so anxious for something to fill the tremendous void in my life that the wait for

Sunday seemed to lengthen the days. Finally when Sunday arrived, I woke up earlier than usual to get myself ready. I was so impatient for the service that I decided I couldn't wait for the couple, and so I set off on my own to find the church. When I finally found the building, I was warmly welcomed but I didn't feel comfortable participating in the service. In fact, I thought the people were crazy, but I didn't know how to find a graceful exit. (I Cor. 14:23). Although this church did not lead me to Christ, I believe I first felt the call of the Lord here. A tremendous weight practically drove me to my knees, almost involuntarily. But I couldn't pray. I just wept. I couldn't get up, I couldn't even open my eyes. Finally I pleaded with the Lord to work in my life as He would see fit, since I saw myself completely incapable of changing on my own. The Lord heard me and began to work in my heart, but I continued to have horrible dreams. The church baptized me, even though I still didn't understand anything about the Bible. After some time had passed I returned to Mexico. I was really worried that I wouldn't be able to find the Christian faith in my own land. But when I came back, I found that the Lord had already provided; there was already a church there waiting for me. One day I passed by the house of our minister, where he and his wife were in the yard working. They stopped to visit with me and invited me to church. As I began to attend the services, I started to see that I still lacked the true fruits of conversion and saw the need to seek a deeper repentance. The more I read the Word of God, the more the Spirit convicted me to change. My wife was able to witness the Lord's work in my heart. She, too, saw the need for a Saviour in her life, and to-

gether we sought out the Lord in true repentance. We were baptized on November 21, 1999.

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO Kristen Plattner Sandy Schutte

"And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint;"

*Luke 18:1*

A wealthy woman phoned the manager of a restaurant and asked, "Have you found a diamond pendant? I think I lost it in your building last night." The manager replied, "No, we haven't found it, but we'll look. Please hold the line." During a quick search, the valuable diamond was located. When the manager returned to the phone, however, the woman was no longer on the line. She had hung up, she never called again, and the expensive jewelry went unclaimed.

We would fault that woman for her impatience and lack of persistence, but we sometimes act just like that when we pray. And in doing so, we give up something much more precious than diamonds. We lose the opportunity to have God help us with our problems, meet our needs or lead us to do His will. Often we hurriedly make our requests but fail to "hold the line" or call back. We need the determination of the widow in Luke 18. She petitioned the unjust judge so often that he finally answered her appeal. Jesus made this comparison: If an unrighteous judge responds to perseverance, how much more readily will our loving Father answer our prayers? If your request is in keeping with God's will, keep praying and don't fail to "hold the line".

Pray on! Pray on! Cease not to pray,  
and should the answer tarry,  
wait;  
Thy God will come, will surely come,  
And He can never come too late.  
—*Chisholm*

We were blessed this month when Elder Bro. Ron Messner and his wife, Sis. Pam, joined us for communion. We would like to thank them for traveling from their Washington, IL, home to be with us.

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**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Rhonda Knochel**  
**Peggy Jackson**

We were thrilled to have two visiting ministers in Bay City this month. They were: Bros. Howard Plattner and his wife, Sis. Kristen (Alto, MI), and Bro. Hartzell Kaisner and his wife, Sis. Mary (Detroit, MI). We sincerely thank these two brothers for their labor of love on our behalf and pray that God will continue to bless them in their ministries.

We rejoice with Jenay Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) as she professes peace with God and man. What a wonderful time it is for each convert when they know that everything has been taken care of and that God Himself rewards their obedience with peace. We pray that Jenay will continue to experience the nearness of the Lord as she completes her repentance and looks forward to her baptism.

We had several members spend time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Jerry Wieland (Sis. Lois), Sis. Emily Rechsteiner, Bro. Greg Munsel (Sis. Lynette), and Bro. Earl Ramseyer (Sis. Mary). We pray

that God's healing hand will be upon each one as they continue to recover. We also pray that they will be encouraged and lifted up through the support of the church.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Margret Ruegsegger and their family in the passing of Sis. Margret's brother. May they feel the nearness of the Lord during this time of loss and be strengthened through His Word.

Our congregation was saddened by the loss of Bro. Ron Wackerle. Bro. Ron was such an encouragement to our congregation. There were many times when he wasn't feeling well, but he still made it to church when services were being held. What a testimony! Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family. We pray that they will feel God's comfort and nearness in the days ahead.

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

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Bonnie Bedolla**  
**Crystal Ramsier**

Our choir traveled to Washington, IL, the weekend of January 20-21. God provided wonderful fellowship with the Washington congregation and clear weather for traveling. The weekend was a real blessing for each one who went.

Bro. Lucas Frank and Sis. Crystal Ramsier have faith to believe that God has called them to serve Him together and their engagement was announced to the congregation on February 11. We are thankful for God's direction in their lives and wish them His blessings during their engagement. Bro. Lucas' parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Sis. Crystal's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie

Ramsier (Smithville, OH).

We rejoiced to hear that Chloe Krieger (Glenn and Lisa) has been given grace to begin her repentance. We are thankful that Chloe has decided to make God's purpose for her the highest priority in her life. May she feel God's guidance and nearness as she builds her spiritual foundation.

Sis. Maria Sabados spent time in the hospital this month. We hope and pray that God will continue to touch her with His healing hand.

We held our annual business meeting on January 29. A variety of positions were filled, including ushers, parking lot attendants, church dinner committee representatives, trustees, Silver Lining reporters and World Relief representatives. We appreciate the efforts of everyone who finished their term and we give our prayerful support to those who were given new responsibilities.

*Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express our thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, gifts of food and flowers and so many deeds of kindness shown to our family during Bro. Floyd's illness and death.

God's blessings to all,  
*Sis. Perseda Wieland and family*

*In Loving Memory*

God saw that he was tired  
And a cure was not to be.  
So He put His arms around him  
And whispered, "Come with me."

With tearful eyes we watched  
him  
And saw him fade away.  
Although we loved him dearly,  
We could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,  
His loving hands to rest;

God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.

A million times we thought of you,  
A million times we cried.  
If love alone could have saved you,  
You never would have died.

In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still.  
In our hearts you hold a special place  
No one can ever fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone,  
For a part of us went with you,  
That day God took you Home.  
—the family of Bro. Floyd Wieland

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Diane Stewart**

What a joy a newborn brings!  
Rose Elizabeth was born February 1 to Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill. At home to warmly welcome her are siblings, Meg, Ben, Claire and Joseph. Delighted grandparents are Sis. Barbara Dill (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Delores Zehr (Fairbury, IL).

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."  
*Psalm 116:15*

With both joy and sorrow, we bid farewell to Bro. Ray (Barney) Schmidgall, who died February 15. His dear wife, Sis. Millie, his children, grandchildren, sisters, brothers and all who knew him were touched by his life. Bro. Barney loved the Lord, his family and every-

one he met. He was a dear brother and church pillar, always willing to help wherever he could. He battled with sickness his last few years and for that, what a blessing the Lord called him Home where Bro. Barney longed to go. May God comfort his family.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Dianne Kellenberger  
Cheryl Messner**

On January 26, Bro. Joe and Sis. Hazel Moser were thrilled to become first-time grandparents when Paul and Renae Moser were blessed with a precious daughter, Lindsey Nicole. May God grant them Heavenly wisdom as they raise their little girl.

Hospital patients have been Bro. John Schaefer, Leah Steiner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jill) and Preston Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn). We are thankful for God's healing touch.

Two couples have announced their engagements recently. May God be with Joe Koehl and Angie Hacker as they make their wedding plans. Parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Koehl and Don and Janet Hacker. David Schmidgall and Alison Minke are planning a June wedding. We pray that they will seek God's direction now and always. Parents are Doug and Pat Schmidgall, Sis. Bev Minke of Hancock and Len Minke of Montevideo, MN.

Bro. Mychal Van Wyhe of Lester, IA, and Sis. Dawn Koehl became one in the Lord on February 11. We pray that the Lord's love and joy will ever abide in their hearts and home. Parents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe (Lester, IA).

A beloved sister-in-faith, Sis. Dorothy Durkee, passed from this life on February 6. We will all miss

her, but we are relieved that her suffering is over and that she can now abide in the presence of her Lord forevermore. She is survived by three daughters, Jane Durkee, Sis. Judy (Bro. Dennis) Wulf, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Doug) Wulf; one son, Dan; 12 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; two sisters, Sis. Alice (Bro. Jacob) Wulf, Sis. Corrine (Bro. Richard) Schmidgall; and one brother, Bro. Carl (Sis. Norene) Moser.

"...likewise, joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..."  
*Luke 15:7*

We rejoice with our new converts, Mark and Lori Mattson, who have found grace unto repentance. Grateful parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi. We're always praying that many more will enter into this plan of salvation and find peace for their souls.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). We are grateful to these brothers for bringing us God's truths.

*Notes of Thanks:*

My heartfelt thanks for all the birthday cards, flowers, gifts and telephone calls I received for my 80th birthday. It was a very special and memorable day.

*Sis. Mabel Schmidgall*

We want to thank everyone for the outpouring of gifts, cards, thoughts and prayers offered since Preston's illness. We truly couldn't have made it through without God's grace and your prayers. We feel very blessed to have brothers, sisters and friends to lean on in the trials of life. We ask for continued prayers as

Preston goes through treatment. May God richly bless each and every one. Thank you!

In Christ's love,  
*Doug and Dawn Moser*

The Dorothy Durkee family would like to thank each one who remembered our Mom and sister with cards for her 80th birthday and during her illness. We were comforted by all the support given to us at the time of her death. Whether it was a meal, encouragement, your visits, prayers, phone calls, flowers or memorials, each deed of kindness was much appreciated.

*Jane Durkee  
Dan Durkee and Justin  
Doug and Joyce Wulfand family  
Dennis and Judy Wulfand family  
Richard and Corrine Schmidgall  
Carl and Norene Moser  
Jake and Alice Wulf*

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Carol Ann Messner  
Marilyn Messner**

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."

*Hebrews 12:1*

Thankfulness we have for the Elder brethren who were able to meet for their mid-winter Conference. We should consider their foresight to see danger in lives of believers as parents do for their children who do not know the pitfalls of life which lie ahead of them.

We were also thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Wayne

Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Donald Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN), here.

"...knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

*Romans 5:3-5*

Sis. Rebecca Schaefer was blessed with visitors from central Illinois and Atilla Sos from Varsarhely, Hungary. We are so privileged to share Christian fellowship from around the world.

Hospital patients was Sis. Julia Messner. Zoe Schmidt (baby daughter of Bro. Derick and Sis. Ruth) has been on the sick list, too. We pray for God's healing touch in both of their lives.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Komari Neal**

In Kansas City, our Sunday School has recently grown by two more little souls. Blake Meyer (Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle) and Collin Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan) both turned four in the last month and have started attending Sunday School. The start of Sunday School is such an exciting time for children as well as the teachers and parents. It is a joy to see how these young souls love Jesus. Their hearts are tender and receptive to the love of Jesus and they accept His love without a doubt. It is no wonder that Jesus told His disciples,

"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever

shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

*Mark 10:14-15*

Our prayers have been with Sis. Anna Lou Aberle as she was hospitalized during the past month. She is now continuing to recuperate in her apartment at the AC Village in Sabetha.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA). We thank Bro. Duane for his labors while visiting with us.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristi Huber  
Kristen Braker**

We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and ministering Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) among us this month. We trust God will bless them for proclaiming His Word.

Rachelle Ruth Luthi was born to Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa on February 5. Melinda, Courtney and Lane welcomed her home. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Nancy (and late Danny) Neher.

Bro. Charles Marti (Sis. Alice) underwent surgery this month. We are thankful he is recovering.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Sis. Marie Banwart (Sabetha, KS) who has recently passed away. Surviving her are three brothers, Bro. Art (Lamar), Bro. Raymond (Ft. Scott, KS) and Lloyd (Springfield, MO). We trust the Lord will bless Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) for his labors in this funeral service.

We also pray the Lord will comfort Bro. Larry Schmidgall (Sis.

Marcy) and his family in the passing of his father, Bro. Raymond, of Minneapolis, MN.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Rachel Schrock

We were privileged this past month with the presence of our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his beloved wife, Sis. Dona (Taylor, MO). In an after-church fellowship gathering, they shared with us glimpses of their recent trip to India. It is always amazing how those who are not as well off financially as we Americans often seem to be so much happier that way. Another point that Bro. Roy made helped us see the difference in our cultures. Some of the Indian people have been to the United States, he said, and have commented on our "fancy houses and cars". Culturally, he pointed out, they have difficulty understanding directives to give up some of their fancies such as they physical adornment. It puts a different perspective on the things that we in America take for granted every day when we view our lives through the eyes of an India native.

Even though this discussion exhorted us to beware of the effects of materialism, we realize that some of our "fancies" provide blessings. Cars, for instance, bring many visitors to our area. We have been blessed this past month with many visitors including ministering Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL). We were also graced with the presence of Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) on a Wednesday evening. May God bless all of these brothers for being willing to lend of themselves in His service.

As springtime is upon us, may we

all be willing to lend of ourselves to help those who may not be able to get out and mow their lawn, etc. Surely God smiles down from Heaven when He sees His children willingly helping those who are less fortunate in whatever way they can.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Peg Haerr

We are happy to welcome two new precious babies! Emily Breann Knapp arrived on January 23. Her parents are Kevin and Mindy and her older brothers are Devin and Colin. Grandparents are Joann Franklin and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Knapp.

Seth Pflum is excited about his new baby sister, Mallory Jean, who was born on February 10. Her parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami Pflum. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum and Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm, all of the Taylor congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those recently hospitalized: Marsha Riney (Steve), Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb), Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis) and Mindy Knapp (Kevin).

We pray for God's presence at the mid-winter Conference of our Elder Brothers.

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### NEW YORK

#### CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

#### Anna Mellnitz

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear,

then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

*Colossians 3:1-4*

The mid-winter Elder Conference was held February 14-16 in Bloomington, IL.

Saturday, February 17, we had 12 visiting young brothers from Rockville, and two other brothers and sisters and their children. We had a covered dish meal on Saturday evening and a singing.

We are having World Relief on Friday afternoon, February 23, and a covered dish meal in the evening and more World Relief work.

On January 31, Sis. Julia Karcher (Urban) was stricken and was hospitalized and at this writing is in the Lewis County Extended Care. May God be with all our loved ones who need our prayers. Sis. Karen Farney's (Bro. Duane) father had a mild heart attack but now is home and recovering.

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### OHIO, AKRON

#### Joyce Gasser

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in various church offices and duties and thank those retiring, and welcome those coming on. Those retiring are Sis. Carolyn Miller on the kitchen committee, Bro. Eric Graf as a trustee, Bro. Doug Milosevic as an usher, and Bro. Roger Gal, Sis. Rosanne Graf and Sis. Nan Steidl as Sunday School teachers.

The ones coming in are: Sis. Eszti Zsoldos on the kitchen committee, Bro. Mark Graf as a trustee, and Bros. Ben Henico and Rudy Wiegand as ushers. Sunday School teachers are Sis. Carol Indermuhle, Sis. Rachel Steidl, Bro. Wayne Klotzle, Bro. Ned Spangler, and Bro. Tibor Zsoldos. Bro. Mike Palitto is on the Board of Directors of the World Re-

relief Distribution Center that has recently been built in the Rittman-Smithville area. Bro. Mike is also our Gateway Woods representative. Some duties are defined by positions described, but there are many kind deeds that are done for which we are thankful. As mentioned in I Corinthians 12:28, there are "helps" which are very much appreciated.

Our guest minister January 28 was Bro. Victor Bauman (Smithville, OH). We appreciated his ministry.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS

#### Anita Steiner

On February 2, we had a World Relief night. It humbles us when we realize how much we have and how little other people have.

We had our Invite-A-Friend weekend on February 10-11. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our visitors for making it a blessed weekend of fellowship and singing. We appreciate Bro. Steve Pamer's (Akron, OH) willingness in sharing God's Word with us. May God bless Bro. Steve for his efforts.

Also sharing God's Word with us this past month was Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). May God continue to bless our ministering brothers.

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### OHIO, JUNCTION

#### Cindy Schlatter

February 3-4 was a blessed weekend as we welcomed three precious souls into the fold. Those that gave their testimonies and were baptized into the death of our Lord Jesus were Bro. Chad Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen), Bro. Matthew Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie). We so appreciated having Elder

Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) with us this weekend to assist and also ministering Bros. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Todd Stoller and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless each one for their labors of love.

It was a rich blessing to have visiting ministering brothers on several other weekends also. We trust God will richly reward Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Glenn Riggerbach (Smithville, OH) for their work in His service.

Several positions were filled during our annual business meeting. Bro. Russ Manz (Sis. Vera), church trustee; Bro. Ray Schlatter (Sis. Corrine), Gateway Woods Representative; Bro. Chris Manz (Sis. Erica), usher; Sis. Sharon Gherian (Bro. Paul), kitchen committee; and Sis. Henrietta Gerber, World Relief Committee. Thank you to those that previously held these positions and we pray that those who were selected will feel our prayers and support as they take on these responsibilities.

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### OHIO, LATTY

#### Heidi Hackenjoss Kathy Sinn

How thankful we are that Cris Hopkins (Sis. Amy) has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with him as he follows after our dear Saviour.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn welcome home Sadie Elizabeth. Zachary and Daniel enjoy having a new sister to play with. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Bluffton, IN).

Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Rager have reached their 60th wedding an-

niversary. It is a blessing from the Lord that they could be together for so long. May the Lord grant them more years together.

Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this past month. Sis. Marilyn Kipfer (Bro. Ephraim) laid to rest her dear father, Harry Peters (Auburn, IN). Bob Williamson (Sis. Janet) also lost his father, Joe Williamson (Paulding, OH).

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### OHIO, MANSFIELD

#### John and Marci Pfeiffer

On January 19, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo were blessed with a baby boy, Douglas William. Douglas' brother and sister are Nathan Jr. and Heidi. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota, FL).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen Ramsier (Bro. Wally) as her brother-in-law, Bro. John Mayer (Sis. Edith), of Indianapolis, IN, passed away. We also remember our friend, Tony Eichof, in the death of his sister, Theresa Eichof Bishop Charles. May God comfort these families.

Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) wishes to turn her back on the world and follow Him. We rejoice and wish her God's grace during her repentance.

We think of our Elder brethren as they meet for the Elder Conference in Bloomington, IL.

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### OHIO, RITTMAN

#### Beth Beery Cheryl Hartzler

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

*Luke 15:7*

What a blessing it is to see souls come in humble repentance. We rejoice with Scott Hartzler (Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen), Joe Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, Sardis, OH), Michelle Steiner (Michael) and Melanie Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail, Smithville, OH) as they have felt that need to unload their burden of sin and walk with the Lord. Just as our converts look to God for guidance and direction, may it be that each one of us seek to be diligent and submissive in our own walk.

Our congregation was encouraged in our walk on January 27, when we heard the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful to our Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for visiting us and bringing forth those words. We were reminded in many ways how to continue to uphold our precious faith.

On Sunday, January 28, the engagements of two couples were announced to our church. Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith, Smithville) to Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Joel Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) to Sis. Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane). May God bless these two couples as they plan for their wedding and most importantly for their marriage.

God has blessed Bro. Tony and Sis. Cherie Stoller with a little girl. Alayna Rose was born on February 11. Welcoming her little sister is Bailey. Grandparents are Jeff and Elsie Maibach and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette Stoller.

"...and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing."

*Luke 9:11*

Just as people were healed when Jesus walked upon this earth, we can see God helps those that have need of healing today. Several in our congregation have been in the hospital this past month. Sis. Linda Hartzler (Bro. David), Joe Zollinger, Sis. Kathy Ryan (Bro. Jeff) and Samantha (Nathan and Bonnie Bauman). We are thankful to see God's healing hand upon them.

We need to remember those in prayer who have lost loved ones. Sis. Anna Blough passed away on January 23. Surviving are her children, Bro. Elmer (Smithville), Dorothy Carter, Joseph, Ben, Terry; and a sister, Sis. Esther Saurer. Berdean Shiffer passed away on February 8. His wife, Fredona, and children, Fred (Nancy) Shiffer and Pamela (Walter) Haynes, survive. May these families feel God's nearness during this time. May we each one be prepared for when our time on this earth is over and we stand before our God.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

In January we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Alan Indermuhle was chosen for Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Robert Figel for trustee, Bro. Alan Blough for usher, and Sis. Paula Figel for kitchen committee. We pray for wisdom and guidance for our new officers and thank those who have fulfilled their terms.

Bro. Alan Blough (Sis. Renee), Sis. Cyndi Figel (Bro. Andrew) and Sis. Angie Figel (Bro. Robert) have suffered the loss of their grandmother, Sis. Anna Blough (Rittman, OH). We extend our sympathy to these dear ones in faith, knowing

that they can be comforted by the fact that their Grandma was a child of God.

Bro. William and Sis. Miriam Brake are thankful for the safe arrival of their new grandson, Douglas William Sabo. Douglas's parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Mansfield, OH).

Jesus, take this heart of mine;  
Make it pure, and wholly Thine;  
Thou hast bled and died for me,  
I will henceforth live for Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #176*

Joe Zollinger (Rittman, OH) has given his heart to Jesus in repentance. We rejoice with Joe and his parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger. May God bless and guide Joe as he strives to live for Him.

We wish to extend our love and a warm welcome to Dave and Valerie Fisher and their children, Kelly and Daniel. God bless you as you make your home in the Sardis area. Valerie's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

We have reasons to rejoice in Smithville that more souls are seeking God's will in their lives through repentance. We wish God's rich grace and peace to converts, April Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane), Melanie Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gale) and Cody and Kara Stoller. Cody and Kara's parents are Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman.

Another blessing we observe is the Lord's hand in leading souls together into a lifetime union. The Lord has seen needs and answered prayers in two recent engagement

announcements. Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith) and Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL) have felt the Lord's direction and are planning an April wedding. On February 11, the engagement of Bro. Lucas Frank (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Crystal Ramsier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie) was made known to us. Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal live in the Detroit area. May the Lord grant a strong faith and His guidance as they prepare for life's second most important step.

Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily Greenbank recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless them with His Spirit of love and peace.

On January 10, John and Jennifer Brewer were blessed with the arrival of Phillip Jay. He was welcomed by Brandee, Olivia, Carter and Caralyn at home, and grandparents, Bro. Norman and Sis. Audrey Beery.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to several in our congregation who have been hospitalized for illness or surgery. Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean) and Bro. Herbert Bauman (Sis. Berniece) are recovering from surgery. Sis. Laura Oppliger, Bro. George Schuster (Sis. Carol), Tony Ramsier (Curt and Heather), Tim Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) and Shania Neiman (Doug and Melaney) have been confined by illness. May each one feel the help of the Great Physician.

We gathered together at Rittman on January 27 to be instructed and exhorted by the Memorandum. Our thanks go to Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for sharing the responsibility with Bro. Merle Hartzler and our own Bro. Andy Stoller.

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 great name's adoration.  
*Zion's Harp #160*

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Rebecca Beard**  
**Edie Fetter**

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

*II Timothy 2:15*

We were encouraged to faithfulness in our daily lives through the reading of the Memorandum. We thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for his labors.

We are thankful that Sis. Dee Beard (Bro. Ed) has been able to assemble with us again after an illness. Also, Sis. Clara Beard was a recent surgical patient. May they both continue to gain strength.

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**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Louisa Gallup**

My apologies for the fact that I failed to mention in the previous article that Sis. Golda Ditch had a fall and had broken one of her legs. She was hospitalized briefly, but has been home again for some time now where she is recovering and doing well. We do thank the Lord for His healing touch and wish Sis. Golda well.

The past month has been a quiet one. This winter has been fairly mild

so far and blooms have actually been spotted here and there. Though the usual seasonal illnesses have made their rounds, every one recovered and we are looking forward to spring.

As always, we thank and appreciate our visitors who made the effort to worship and fellowship with us. Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) visited us one Sunday recently and shared the Word with us, for which we are thankful. We encourage people to come our way. We always enjoy visitors.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**RosaLee Kuenzi**

Life is probably not much different here in Oregon than in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Connecticut or wherever you happen to be on the face of this wide earth. People are born, people die. People marry and are given in marriage. People suffer through sickness, surgery, loneliness, grief and stress. Without the knowledge of the truth of the Gospel, it could all seem pretty grim at times. But, praise and thanks be to our Lord and Saviour, that we can have peace and joy and blessed fellowship now, in this life, and much more in all eternity! In this past month we have shared a vast range of feelings and experiences with the dear ones of our congregation.

In the latter part of January, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carol Wackerle underwent the very serious surgery of Bro. Greg's kidney being transferred to Sis. Carol. Thankfully, both are doing very well and wish the following statement to be included: "We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the brethren and friends who have remembered us so lovingly with cards, phone calls and especially the many prayers



during our recent transplant surgery. We are humbled by God's mercy and the outpouring of love we have felt. May God richly bless each one. In Christian love, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carol".

On February 6, our dear Bro. Paul Dettwyler passed away at the age of 85. Bro. Paul leaves two sisters, Sis. Esther Dettwyler and Helen Schmidgall, and one brother, Alfred Dettwyler, all of Silverton. A brother, Henry Dettwyler, preceded him in death. He will also be missed by his large family of nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, many friends and neighbors and his brothers and sisters in the Lord. He and Sis. Esther were often the first ones at church on Sunday morning where he would place his wheelchair in line to enthusiastically greet each one of the church as they arrived.

More than two dozen from here traveled to Forrest, IL, for the February 11 wedding of Bro. Kyle Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Tricia Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy). We welcome Sis. Tricia to the Silverton church and pray that God will bless them as they establish their Christian home together. A reception is planned for them in Oregon on February 24.

Making his welcome appearance at the Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi home was Bryon Harvey. He was born on February 9 and joins siblings, Nicole, Lorraine, Logan, Janelle, and Leanne. We can imagine that his brother, Logan, was quite pleased to have another "man" in the family. Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Chuck and Connie Mueller (Forrest, IL). These little ones bring so much joy to the family.

## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

### Nathan and Mary Elizabeth Gasser

This month we held our annual business meeting and appointed several new brothers and sisters to duties in our congregation. We were reminded that we all have duties to perform, and as we thank those who labor in specific roles, we also remember all those who've helped build and grow our precious church over the years. May we all strive to work diligently in our Father's business here below.

We were blessed this month to spend a Wednesday evening with Elder Bro. Akito Inoue from Tokyo, Japan. As an added surprise, we arrived at church that evening to find our building without power or lights! Gathered in the lunchroom under backup lighting, we heard Bro. Inoue discuss some of the difficulties the Jewish people faced in breaking with their traditions, and how those compare with the difficulties faced by Japanese people who were raised with Eastern traditions of idol and ancestor worship. While Satan's tactics may change through the years, and from country to country and person to person, his goal is the same—to separate us from God. Let us remember the terrible obstacles faced and overcome by our forefathers who preserved our faith for us, and let us lean upon God and trust Him and He will deliver us as He delivered them.

## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

God is so good to us, His children. We are so thankful for the willing ministering brothers whom He has brought into our midst to share His Word. Recently, we were privileged

to hear the Word of encouragement and admonition brought forth by Bros. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL). God has also blessed us richly with much fellowship recently. We have enjoyed the fellowship of visitors from Chicago, Cissna Park, and Eureka, IL; Leo, IN; Sabetha, KS; and Bay City, MI.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We now have a visiting minister scheduled for most every Sunday. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Athens, AL (Mar. 18); Bloomington, IL (Mar. 25); Burlington, IA (Apr. 1); Bradford, IL (Apr. 8); and Bern, KS (Apr. 22). 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

Ministers who have visited us and shared the Word in the past month were Bros. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Frederick Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL), Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL). We appreciate the continued support we receive from our brethren and trust God will bless them for their efforts.

The Central Texas schedule of worship services and churches send-

ing ministers for the month of April include: the 1st (Latty, OH), 8th (Kansas City, MO), 22nd (Junction, OH) and 29th (Smithville, OH).

Our prayers continue to be with our Bro. Bill Zeltwanger in that he may recover quickly from recent surgery and be able to assemble with us soon.

We continue to meet for services 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.

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.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
**Mary Plattner**  
**Joyce Nohl**

Each little flower that opens,  
 Each little bird that sings,

He made their glowing colors,  
 He made their tiny wings.

*Hymns of Zion #207*

The flowers are blooming and the birds are singing here in south Texas. Springtime is a season of renewal and hope. We rejoice at God's creation and the promise of new life.

On the evening of January 20, we assembled together to hear the Memorandum read. We appreciate the efforts of the Elder Body in communicating these important messages to us.

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

*I Cor. 11:24*

On January 28, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and our deacon, Bro. Leland Plattner, shared this holy sacrament with us. This is a time to remember the price our Saviour paid for each one of us, and a time to examine ourselves and renew our Christian vows.

On February 4, we elected Bro. Norman Frank as trustee and Bro. Joe and Sis. Betty Pamer for the dinner committee. We thank Bro. Melvin Gerber who fulfilled a term

as trustee and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy who served on the dinner committee and wish God's grace to those who will begin their terms.

Our annual church cleaning was held on February 12. May each one be blessed that participated in prayer and labour.

Our hospital patients this month have been Bro. Amos Funk and his wife, Sis. Loretta Funk. They are both home once again and we wish them full recovery. Their grandson, Mark, is staying with them while Sis. Loretta regains her health.

We are always grateful to the brothers who come and share God's Holy Word with us. This past month our visiting ministers have been Bros. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL).

We were also blessed to have retired ministers, Bros. Marvin Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy, Eureka, IL), Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna, Bradford, IL), Earl Kilgus (Sis. Arlene, Remington, IN) and Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), visit us. It is so uplifting to fellowship together from far and near, young and old.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

were proved and came before the church, my father-in-law thought our church would have a long list of requirements and things they would sign and agree to. He was rather surprised that we didn't have this.

If we are governed by love and charity, like it says that charity covers a multitude of sins or failings, then our union and community and fellowship can be very sweet and we can have a beautiful harmony. There are those even today who are familiar with them and make a great ado of one day of worship and they esteem every day alike. This is perhaps the wisest, though the Lord's Day we do want to come to church.

We had a brother out there in Portland who lived in Iowa when he grew up and he was very zealous. On the Lord's Day, he would not farm. He had a neighbor that accused him of being self-righteous. Anyway, his neighbor farmed on Sunday and I guess they got a lot of moisture in the soybeans and he was docked on his price. But our dear brother from Portland, who is no longer with us as he has gone home to be with the Lord, he got a full price for his crop because he harvested on other days than Sunday. But anyway, we all have to discern for ourselves what we allow, even on a Sunday. Is it right to go out and pull weeds in the garden or shall we spend time visiting the sick, which is certainly more profitable?

We have to be very charitable with one another and look at ourselves even as Jesus taught about

being critical of seeing a fine piece of a particle of dust in your brother's eye and try to remove it when you have a beam in your own eye. So let us learn to examine ourselves and make sure that we are on course and we are in the will of God.

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Romans 14:7. We don't know what an influence we are to our families and to our neighborhood and where we work. Let us hope that we are a good influence and a good light. There are, you might say, effects of the life we live, things that we have done, even as others who have gone before us whose lives we remember with great appreciation who lived unto the Lord and lived full lives for our Saviour.

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord:" Romans 14:8. I heard one time an old believer was asked how he felt about life. He was nearing the end and he said, "To put it this way, if I live, the Lord is with me, and if I die, I will be with Him." So let us do all things knowing that there is a story being written of our lives. Some people write autobiographies. There is a hand writing every day recording our deeds and our lives. Some day we will face again our earthly life that we have lived here, and we will be judged, as we have already read here that we must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This is repeated elsewhere, in the Corinthians as well.

I believe Daniel Webster was

once asked what was the most profound thought that ever entered his mind. He said, "It is the personal accountability to God." So we, at the very end, will be judged by God and He knows all things. He knows our hearts and He understands our thoughts afar off, we read in the Scripture. He beholds our down sitting, our uprising and there is not anything hid from Him. So it behooves us to govern ourselves with His grace, walk humbly and nobly, and faithful on that straight and narrow path.

"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." Romans 14:9. We can read in John His most wonderful prayer when He prayed for His disciples. He prayed that they would be with Him where He is at. Even throughout His Scriptures, He spoke of His glory. He desires us to be with Him and He prepares and works in our hearts and lives. It is a glorious hope that we have that we shall see Him as He is and we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. This is what we have to look forward to the day that we stand before Him.

Think of Joseph. We know he went through so much being falsely accused and spending years in fetters. They hurt his feet in fetters in prison. Yet he kept a cheerful countenance and believed that God was with him. The day came when that all changed. He was ushered out of the dungeon, was dressed, he shaved and was dressed in presentable cloth-

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

ing and he was advanced to the second kingdom. So it would be for you and I as we live here on earth and long for that eternal home.

Someday we will be summoned to meet the Lord in the air and we will be changed. Our atmosphere and our environment and everything we have shall be glorified. It will be a wonderful transition. We think of the butterflies that emerge from a cocoon. We think then of the glorious life of the believer. Here we get old, we have frailty of the flesh and we cannot reverse the effects of the coming age. The earth will pass and the day will come when we shall be young forever and we shall be with those dear ones of ours who we so often think of that we so dearly love.

So we have much exhortation here against judging our brother or sister. We are encouraged only to judge ourselves. If we judge ourselves, we will not be judged with the world. We should use a very close scrutiny of ourselves. In each day, we can ask ourselves, "Was this necessary or what good was this?" Our Dad had an interesting phrase or expression he used to use. He used to have a question, "What does this profit spiritually?" I remember (this is kind of a side issue) my father-in-law, mother-in-law and my folks went to eastern Oregon one time and went digging for gem stones. My father asked my father-in-law, "What does this profit spiritually?" My father-in-law told him that if you see God's handiwork and you ex-

tract a beautiful stone from the ground, it is good exercise, and he went on. We can examine our lives and ask ourselves this question, "What does it profit spiritually?"

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." Romans 14:11. This is wonderful for the believer because we love it when we can pray and feel the presence of God wherever we are at. We can feel His strengthening hand and His blessings. But think also of the sinner who does not bow in prayer now. The unbelievers who refuse and reject Him, but in eternity and in hell, they will bow and acknowledge but it will be too late.

So if you and I who are believers; it is a wonderful privilege that we can bow. We can read that the great men and women of God prayed much. The Lord prayed all night. I wonder why. Perhaps many reasons. He enjoyed fellowship with the Father. Evidently He did this also for an example for you and I that we would pray without ceasing, the apostle stated. Think of the apostle when he was with the elders in Ephesus and Miletus and either at this or another occasion (my memory isn't the best), he prayed there on the beach and they wept over him as he told them they would see his face no more.

So prayer is so essential and I think the true believer lives in a continual state of prayer throughout the day. We are thanking the Lord for His protection, for the food He provides us, for the

health He gives us so we can go about our daily chores. It is a wonderful relationship, is it not? Even as we read in Proverbs that we should not envy the unbelievers but be in the fear of the Lord all the day long. This isn't really a difficult life nor is it a drab life. It is like Brother Froelich writes that we are exhorted to be meek, but that doesn't mean we have to hang our heads. Truly, the believer's lot is one of the most blessed state, is it not? We have the Lord with us.

The Lord told His disciples as He departed this life that He would be with them always, even unto the end of the world. No wonder the translation states that He will be with them uniformly, perpetually and on every occasion. It is a wonderful thought. They went into distant lands, but first they stayed to be strengthened and fortified in their faith. They read the Scriptures and prayed in Jerusalem and later they went further, some went as far as to India and undoubtedly they recalled the wonderful words of their Saviour that He would be with them always. So we are blessed, are we not, that we have His presence and that we have His assurance that He will not fail us or leave us?

"I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself" Romans 14:14. Here he is speaking about meat again, and Peter had to learn this lesson in a spiritual sense when he went to Cornelius, "What God hath cleansed, not to call unclean." The Jews had a real

problem there because they wouldn't eat with the Gentiles. Peter disassembled and Paul had to rebuke him for this.

They had to come back, you might say, to the teachings of the Lord and even remember His example. He told them not to go but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and to not go to the Gentiles, but later He himself showed such love for the Gentiles: the Centurion, who was the servant near death; the Syrophenician woman, and He healed her daughter; and the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well who by most standards would perhaps not have shown any interest in, but the Lord is interested in a soul.

There is a dying soul in each one of us and of every human. It is not His will that any should perish, as we read, but that all should come unto repentance. For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink. Here we always have to put things in the right place and right order and if we do this, then we will not miss the mark. That is where we can do like the Galatians, we can fail of our high and heavenly calling. The Galatians were taught by the Judaizers that to be extra holy, they should keep the law. Paul had to speak very sternly to them that this was not edifying and it was not for their eternal well-being. The Lord brought about a different order, a different plan but He did not deviate from much of the law. The Ten Commandments were reiterated and reintroduced by Christ except the keeping of the Sabbath. I

think every other commandment was reemphasized by Christ.

So if the Lord will guide us and steer us in our lives of faith that we can look to one another for examples, and I am sure if we do this, we will be able to live a peaceable life and a very beneficial life and we can please the Lord and we can also please our brother and sister. In fact, we are exhorted that we should please our brother and sister for their own edification. There might be some things we might feel that we can do, but maybe a brother or sister feel maybe we should avoid this and not be involved in these certain pursuits and pastimes. Then if we have the mind of Christ, we will not willfully or carelessly offend our brother or sister. Then, too, we should not be easily offended at others. If we see a fault in a brother or sister, we should pray for that brother or sister. Prayer changes things. If we follow the Bible's course here, life can be pleasant and we can all be faithful and more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

This meat here again was a big issue in that day. They had meat that they offered to sacrifice to idols and later was sold in the market places. This was a very difficult issue also to handle and in one place, Paul said, "Ask no questions for conscious sake." In other words, if you were bidden to eat at that time, don't ask where the source of the meat came from. I remember Brother John Klotzle and other brothers were in India and I guess over there, they eat

various rodents. I think they were served rodents. Brother Carl Kinsinger was a little reluctant to eat and finally Brother John said, "Let's just pray and eat." I think they thought of the Scriptures. Many times we are subject to different incidents and issues and matters in life, but the Bible provides the answers. If we walk close to the Lord, He will provide the way that we can handle the situation.

He states here, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Romans 14:21. Perhaps our church had problems through the years since many of our forefathers came from Europe. The water over there is not too safe to drink, so many of them drink wine. They carried the same practice here and they made wine and they drank it. Sometimes they went too far perhaps and drank to excess. I don't think this is quite the problem today as it was years ago. Anyway, it is good if we can forego any practice or any eating habit or drinking habit if it would offend our brother or sister, because we want to help one another, encourage and edify one another.

The Apostle Paul followed the law very carefully even though he knew it did not serve to justification. But when they brought the accusations against him, they couldn't come up with much, could they, except that he turned the world upside down? He didn't want to offend his brother and he

*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

did not want to cause anyone to lose their way through life. So the attitude the Apostle Paul had was certainly commendable and one that we can follow as well. Certainly, I think we have a wonderful heritage and a wonderful brotherhood. We can avoid a lot of these difficulties if we just consider how our brother and sister look at things and live accordingly.

"Hast thou faith?" Romans 14:22. Maybe we might have something on our mind that maybe we are doing for the Lord, and perhaps we think it is fine. Then maybe we should keep it to ourselves. But then the Scripture here that follows it is so beneficial, "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." Romans 14:22. So we can stand with a clear conscience and govern our lives in such a matter that looking over our deeds or conduct if we can live with that without condemning it, then happy are we.

"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith." Romans 14:23. So anything that is questionable, we should perhaps leave it aside for it gives us so many wonderful pursuits, spiritual pursuits that we can do and live for the Lord. I know in years past we used to have those who would leave our faith because they said they wanted to do more for the Lord. It usually didn't end up that way. Now we have so many avenues for one's zeal. We have collections from time to time. We

have work teams and there is so much that can occupy our lives that we don't have to tread upon these questionable things and occupy ourselves with these things that are not profitable to soul and spirit.

Certainly the Lord will direct each of our lives as there is much we can do for Him. We can pray. We can write letters when people are sick and we can visit them. There is so much we can do for the Lord. It is kind of like the Garden of Eden. There must have been many beautiful trees with wonderful fruit, but only one was forbidden. Why didn't they stay away from that part of the Garden and enjoy that which could be done? We, too, have so many positive things that we can do in our lives.

Brother Froelich writes again to a brother so beautifully. I wish

**ATTENTION...  
All CAMP PICKET  
Veterans  
20th Bi-annual  
Reunion**

**June 30, 2001  
Peoria, IL**

If you haven't received notification in the mail, or you know of someone who hasn't received notification, please contact:

**Wayne Wieland  
11900 N Windcrest Ct  
Dunlap, IL 61525  
(309) 243-5802**

I could quote it, but he states something like this: Even though we almost die, yet it is not punitive to God that we die, but in this lifetime, we have many opportunities to do good. He said that we should make good use of our time even as we do of our money. Then he wrote so self effacingly, he said, "Even I weak and insignificant poor man, even He, God, could do something good." What a wonderful attitude. May we have the same.



**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](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com) . For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net) .*

Country	Project	Start Date	Location	Coordinator	Project Type	Count	Completion %
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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Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		

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### **Gateway Woods Auction**

Saturday, August 18, 2001

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three times yearly.



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219-627-2159. Applications need  
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## MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

### CONSTRUCTION

#### RIO BRAVO - ICCD

*(International Christian Center  
for the Deaf)*

**March 24-31**

Team Leader -

Bro. Mike Fiechter

219-597-7330

**June 16-23**

Contact Bro. Joe Maller

219-565-3211

#### JUAREZ PROJECT

**March 24-31**

Team Leader - Bro. Jeff Leman

219-565-3815

### MEDICAL TEAMS 2001

#### JUAREZ or COPPER CANYON

**August 29 - Sept. 5**

Contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann

309-385-1082

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN CHILD SPONSORSHIP OFFICE

*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.*

## ANNUAL TENNESSEE FELLOWSHIP AREA SINGING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2001

All are welcome to attend the annual singing at the Tennessee Fellowship Area on May 26-27. There will be a beneficiary auction again this year and we thank each one for their participation last year. For more information about the weekend, please contact Bro. Don Sauder at (615) 373-8929 or e-mail Don.Sauder@juno.com or contact Bro. Tim Reinhard at (931) 424-5838 or e-mail treinhard@juno.com. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of fellowship, praise and worship.



## 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 continues the series on the development of the church in Europe. These are remarks by Henry Michel of Switzerland who spoke on church history in 1947.*

### **Froehlich Family**

And now we are coming nearer, and we are coming to the nineteenth century. There was a revival in many places, and one of the results of this revival is this wonderful and dear crowd that we have before us. That is the wonderful story that I want to tell! Understand me rightly, I don't want to praise people; I don't want to make people higher than they are, but we do have a lot of respect for these people who were persecuted through their whole life, who were full of zeal and full of the Spirit of God, leaving the comfort of their homes and going the way of self-denial, bringing the good Gospel and the tidings of peace to the people.

I have to mention a name that is perhaps going to be mentioned a few times, that of Samuel Froehlich. This was a French family. Their name was DeJoyeux which is a French word meaning "The joyful". These people were living in France up to the persecution of 1648. On this date, the Catholic church decided that everyone that is not Catholic should either be killed or leave the country right away. In one night, the terrible Bartholemew night, 40,000 were killed, murdered in a terrible way. In the name of the "holiness" of the church, of the "universal church", the only church through which, as they pretended, people could go to heaven. Many escaped, and one of the families that escaped was this family of DeJoyeux. They went to Switzerland and settled there in a part of the country that speaks the Swiss German. They changed their name from DeJoyeux to

Froehlich which means "joyful" in German.

This joyful family had a tradition, that one of the family had to be a preacher. He had to do something for the Lord. It was not a question whether he likes it or not, if he is fit for this mission or not, he just has to be a preacher, and Samuel Froehlich was the one who had to be a preacher. He did not believe. He did not like it. He was not interested. That did not matter. He had to be a preacher.

He went to school. He went to college. He went to the theological school of Zurich and in his diary he says, "When I came to the theological school, I had just a little bit of faith, but this little bit of faith, I lost there completely." When he was graduated from theological school, he was an atheist. He would rather be blaspheming against God than to be praising Him. He was in a terrible state of unbelief, but nevertheless, he was graduated a preacher, ready to be ordained.

### **Repentance**

The Lord was watching this boy and He made him sick. He had a terrible sickness of the lungs, a sickness that was the reason for his early death. It was the reason why later on he was sick practically two months every year and never recovered completely. He was in such a miserable condition that every doctor had no hope whatsoever. And in his terror of death, he was asked, "Now how will you present yourself before the Lord in the resurrection of the dead? With your graduation paper? With your diploma? And your hatred against God?"

He came into a terrible condition, he was not only very sick, but his soul found neither rest nor peace, and was full of "yearning, sadness and anxiety."

He found out that he was the poorest among the poor, and he came slowly but truly into repentance, crying days and nights for the wickedness of his soul, and he went through weeks and weeks of crying to the Lord that He would help him.

Everybody wanted to help him for the sickness of his body, but there was no one, not a single one who could be of any help for his soul; and he suffered more than can be told. In this misery of his repentance, suddenly he looked to the Bible, the Book he had been studying for years, criticizing it and trying to find what was right and what was wrong; and when he had finished his study, there was nothing right in the Bible anymore, but everything was wrong.

He took this Book as much as he could in his weakness, and he found the revelation of Jesus. He found the reason why Jesus died; that Jesus died for him and for his sins. Joyfully, he accepted salvation by grace and stretched his two hands towards his Saviour, and he found a wonderful peace in his heart. As soon as his soul was saved and rescued, the body started to recover and instead of dying as they thought he would, he recovered, not completely, but anyway he was in fairly good health.

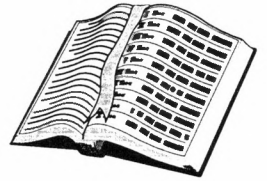
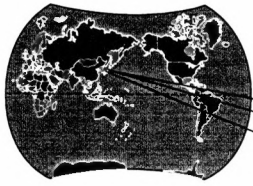
*By: Perry Klopfenstein  
Gridley, IL*

### **Next Issue:**

*A continuance of Bro. Froehlich's activities*

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean



## 希望の光

### “Self-Discipline”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The only time church discipline is necessary is when self-discipline fails. Therefore, we should teach and embrace self-discipline more.

The Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 9:27, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection.” The first part of this sentence means that he kept his body under control. The second part means that he made his body obey him. If we do the same, we will be able to refuse everything that is not good or wholesome, and we will be able to do everything that is good and wholesome.

A body is not all there is to a human being. More importantly, we are a spirit and we also have a soul. Both the soul and spirit are non-material; you can't touch them with your finger. However, I understand that the soul has more to do with our personality while the spirit has more to do with our God-consciousness. Our bodies return to dust but our spirit and soul live on. Our bodies are just a temporary dwelling place for our spirit

and soul.

Our bodies should not dominate our spirit and soul; rather, our spirit and soul should dominate our bodies. Therefore, if we say, “My body feels like doing this so I'm going to do it,” we are operating or functioning on the wrong basis. The determining factor is what is right or wrong, edifying or not edifying, according to God's Word. Our bodies must be our servants, not our masters. Self-discipline is to have our bodies under the control of our spirit, and, in the case of children of God, our spirits under the control of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, which work together.

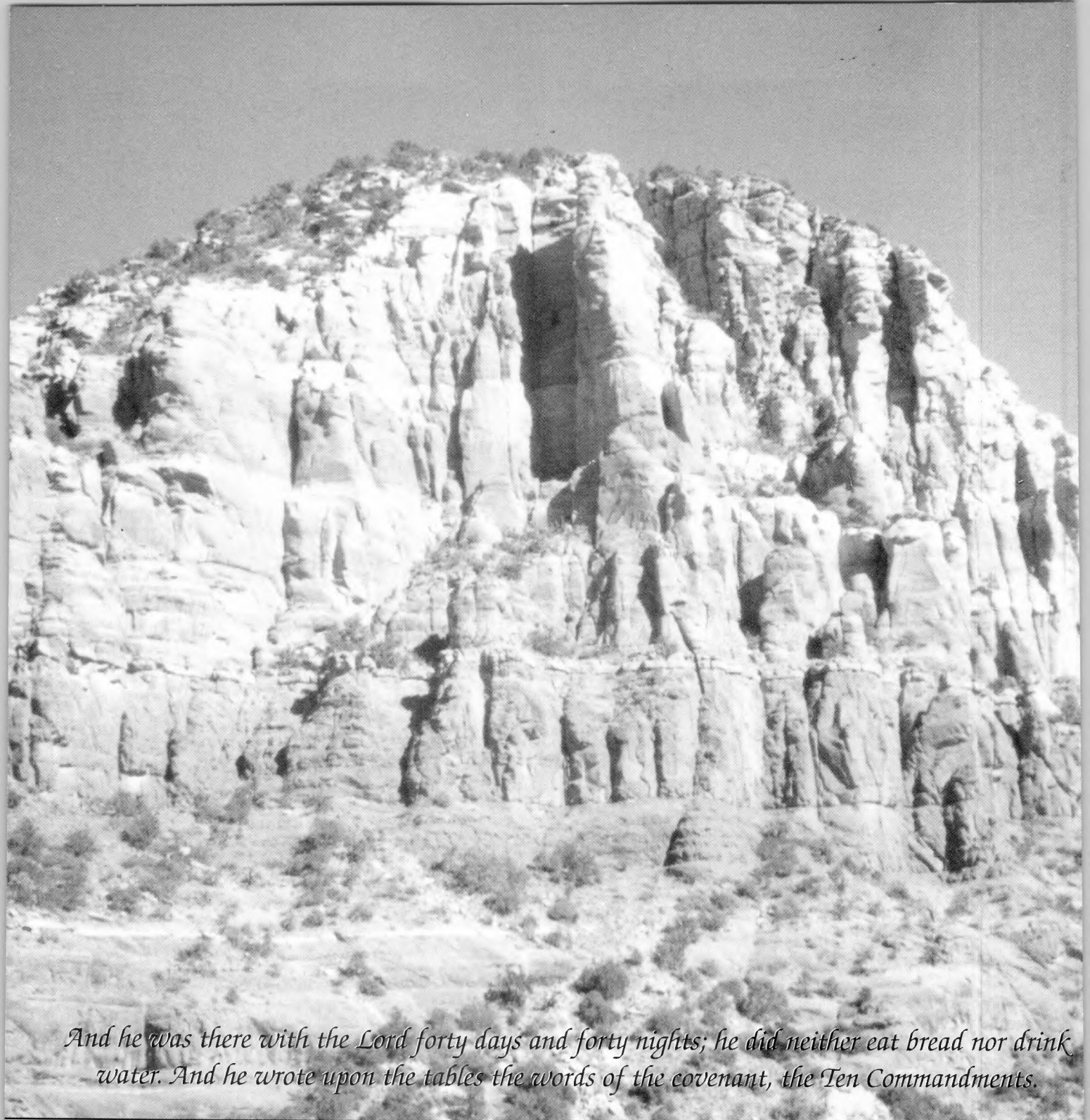
Scripture which requires self-discipline to fulfill is found in I John 2:15. “Love not the world.” Here the word “world” does not mean the beautiful things of nature which we all love, but those things which make for a carnal life instead of a spiritual life. Even the most spiritually minded child of God will have carnal inclinations

so long as he is in the body, but it is imperative that we each have enough self-discipline to keep those inclinations from taking over and dominating us, body, soul and spirit.

Self-discipline is necessary, not only to keep us from going the wrong way and doing the wrong things, but it is necessary for us to go the right way and to do the right things. As much as possible, we should do those things which are good for our spiritual well-being as well as avoid those things which are bad for our spiritual well-being. As much as possible, we should eat those things which are good for our bodies and avoid those things which are not good for our bodies, the temple of the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 6:19, “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?”

The only time church discipline is necessary is when self-discipline fails. Let's encourage each other to keep our self-discipline healthy and working for the Spiritual life.

## 希望の光



*And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.*

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