



The Silver Lining

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

April 2001

"FOLLOW GOD'S GOOD EXAMPLES"

Sermon by Bro. Arnold Gerst, Taylor, MO

Isaiah 35 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-22

When we consider the children of Israel and how it is recorded in this Word that they are an example unto us, not as an example as to follow, but as an example as not to follow. It is really astounding if we want to use the analogy or if we want to consider the preciseness of God's Word.

When we see all those that fell in the wilderness on their way to the promised land, it should be a warning unto our hearts and unto our minds that if this is an example, then are we following it? Are we following in the mistakes and in the errors they made? Are we using the lives that were in the world so many years ago in that great travel of a great people from the land of bondage to the land of freedom and to the land of promise?

We know that Israel was God's earthly people of promise. We also know that His children now that have faith in Him and have faith in Christ Jesus are His spiritual children. Since He uses here the examples, as an example unto us, then we have to look upon their physical and earthly life and take these spiritual connotations or example out of it and apply it unto ourselves. This is where we are at a point that we must fear; not fear God for He is merciful and all powerful but fear ourselves because of our own inherit weaknesses that we have.

When we think of all those that went and left the land of Egypt, they had a counting and not listing women or children nor of the (I think it was) tribe of Levi, there was right at seven hundred thousand people that left Egypt. We could easily see that if everyone was counted, there would have been over a million people. How many of those who were twenty years old or older when they left that land of wretchedness to a land of promise by a caring God crossed the River Jordan as a nation? How many? Two. It doesn't take

much of a mathematician to figure the percentage of those that started out.

As we read together, those that were blessed equally, even those that were baptized—spiritually baptized—as they crossed the Red Sea and did eat the same spiritual meat, they were all able to eat manna. They did all drink the same spiritual drink, even the water from the clefts in the rock. They were admonished and led by God's appointed leaders.

Yet, as It says here, "But with many of them God was not well pleased." I Corinthians 10:5a. So then we have to analyze our own life. Is God well pleased with us? Are we so soon to complain? Are we so soon to desire to go back to the wretched elements from which we pleaded with God to remove us? Lest we forget. Because if this is an

example for us, how is our life going to use these examples? Not to perpetuate the failings of the human flesh, of the human desires, but as a way to strengthen us and to direct us to that Spiritual Rock, to that Spiritual Manna, that we can be drawn to the faithfulness of the mighty few.

Do we have faith in God? Or are we so much even as the examples that we have read about, that had as their followers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the sons of the man of promise? They held that pedigree before their eyes and it became as the focal point of their lives.

But when they were in stress and when they were in the heat of the wilderness and when they were in the desert places, they forgot the faithfulness of God. They forgot that God heard their prayers when they were harshly treated by the task masters. They forgot that they were still being led by the same God that heard their concerns and their cares and delivered them. Would not this same merciful, kind and benevolent God help them in their hour of need?

How faithful are we?

There are times in our lives when our world seems to disintegrate before us. We look inwardly instead of looking outwardly to our God. We try to see what we did wrong, rather than looking to a God that knows all things and asking Him for guidance, and asking Him for the content-

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2001

The Gift of God is Eternal Life

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Ro. 6:23).

Just as wages are earned payments received for those things we have done, gifts, however, are something that are freely given or bestowed upon someone by another with no pretense of being earned or deserved by the recipient. Although gifts are sometimes given in appreciation for what one has done, the giver of the gift does not owe it to the recipient, nor can the recipient demand that a gift be given. Gifts usually are given out of love.

God has chosen to give His people an opportunity to receive eternal life with Him. Although obedience to God is required to receive eternal life, the gift is so great that we simply cannot earn it.

The gift of eternal life is based upon God's love for His people and their willingness to receive it. "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). A related verse that expands upon this concept makes it clear that salvation is not something we can attain by our goodness nor by our power. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ep. 2:8).

We can understand from these verses that, while faith is required, the gift of eternal life is bestowed upon the faithful because God loves us and wants us to be freed from Satan's deception.

Gifts have a price. The price, which may be money, time or sacrifice, is borne by the giver. What price did God pay that made it possible for Him to give us eternal life? The price was the life of His Son.

God's love for His people is so intense that there was no price that was too great for Him to pay. We may ask ourselves, if God's love for us was so great, why did He send His Son instead of coming Himself? It is undoubtedly easier for a parent to understand the answer to this question than for someone who does not have

children.

If we had a very dangerous mission that had to be completed, and if we knew that the individual who completed the mission would suffer extreme torture and a slow agonizing death, which would be easier for a parent to do - go accomplish the mission and suffer the consequences ourselves or send our child and observe first hand the torture and agony that our child would suffer? There is no doubt that it took greater love by God to send His Son than it would have taken for Him to come and pay the price.

When Abraham was put to the ultimate test of faith at the time he was required to offer his son Isaac, it is not difficult to believe that it would have been far easier for him to give his life than to give the life of his son.

Several things occurred during this ordeal that made Abraham's task even more difficult. God reminded Abraham that Isaac was "...thine only son whom thou lovest..." (Gen. 22:2).

On the journey to the land of Moriah, Isaac asked a question of his father that must have increased the weight of Abraham's burden. Isaac said "...Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (Gen. 22:7) Abraham had only his faith in God that a lamb would be provided to help him through that ordeal.

Abraham's faith was rewarded but not until he reached the ultimate point in his trial. But God was not spared of the agony of watching his Son pay the price. He was not given a reprieve at the last instant. His Son had to die. There is no doubt that the price that was paid was greater than if the Father Himself had gone to the cross.

Since the gift of eternal life was freely given by a loving Father who was willing to pay the most extreme price that any giver of gifts could pay, does that mean that we have no responsibility for our salvation? Certainly not. The receiver of a gift should have the desire to show appreciation for the gift and that the price

paid by the giver of the gift was not wasted.

How can we show appreciation to God for so great a gift? Again we can find answers in the scripture.

When Paul and Silas were imprisoned for preaching the gospel, a great earthquake opened the prison doors and loosed their bands. The prison keeper was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. When told that the prisoners were all there, trembling before Paul and Silas he said "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,..." (Acts 16:30-31).

What does belief require? We must have faith in the blood of Jesus Christ "...which is shed for many" (Lk. 22:20) and be willing to obey His commandments. Although time and space do not allow a full review of the plan of salvation, we can list a few fundamentals.

Christ said "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3); "Except ye be converted, and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 18:3); and "...if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt. 6:15). Finally, confirming the lawyer's statement Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself" (Lk. 10:27).

Surely it is not asking too much to expect God's people to appreciate the gift of eternal life enough that we will be willing to submit to God's commandments and to the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was willing to pay the price for our sins. Our Heavenly Father was willing to give us His Son, the most precious gift that could be given. We cannot earn our salvation but we can be thankful that God's gift is available to all who will accept it by following the teachings in the Bible.



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

Work Teams are Blessings in Jamaica

World Relief has been sending volunteer work teams to Jamaica since 1992. That first year a grand total of 42 volunteers visited two of the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD) campuses. Just nine years later, our brotherhood is one of the most active supporters of CCCD's work in Jamaica. This year, World Relief plans to send between 400 and



Apartment at Jamiaca Deaf Village

500 volunteers to the four CCCD campuses in Jamaica! We praise God for how He has used these work teams to help support the Jamaican deaf, while edifying our brotherhood and bringing glory to His name.

Working with the deaf in Jamaica

When you visit this "land of woods and springs" the pure beauty of God's creation strikes you. You are met with fantastic landscapes, friendly people, and a colorful culture!

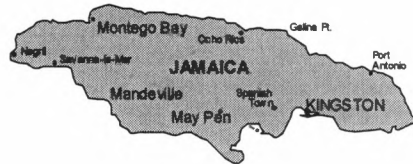
However, unlike in the US, the Jamaican culture is not friendly towards those with a disability or handicap of any kind. People with disabilities are shunned and considered "outcasts." Such is the lot for the approximately 2,500 deaf children on the small Caribbean island. Thankfully, God has provided the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf to help minister to these dear children in their need.

CCCD

Established in 1958, CCCD provides schools and training centers to offer the basics in academics and vocational skills in order to mold and build Christian character. Their basic aim is to lead deaf students to repentance and a personal relationship in Jesus Christ. CCCD currently has three school campuses and one deaf village on the island of Jamaica. World Relief volunteers have had an active part in the construction and establishment of each of these CCCD locations. World Relief is thankful to have such an inspirational organization to work with in Jamaica!

The experience

Have you ever wondered what our brethren do when they participate in a work project in Jamaica? You probably know that the teams are made up of quite a diverse group: young and old, male and female, brethren and friends, skilled and unskilled, and far and near! This diversity is likewise then reflected in the type of work done. The work ranges from heavy physical labor (pouring concrete, digging foundations by hand, carpentry, etc.) to interior projects such as painting, plumbing, electrical, and more!



There's always something for everyone to do—all it takes is a willing attitude that says, "They can't make it tough enough for me to complain!" So now you can see why the hard working volunteers always enjoy the evening and extracurricular activities! Many teams are able to visit neighboring

schools, orphanages, infirmaries, and even some local tourist attractions. These visits are always very rewarding and inspirational to everyone.

Work team schedules are printed in this issue

If you are interested in a trip to Jamaica, you can find the 2001 work team schedule in this issue of the Silver Lining. To sign up for a team, or receive further information, please contact the respective team leader or Bro. Kevin Sauder.

Material Aid to Jamaica

World Relief's work in Jamaica is not limited to the volunteer work projects, of course. We are thankful to be able to use your support to help provide material assistance to several worthwhile organizations. The



Newly completed medical building at Montego Bay campus

following listing briefly describes the type of organizations World Relief supports in Jamaica:

- ♦ Hospitals, infirmaries and nursing homes (medical supplies and equipment, soap, medical kits)
- ♦ Granville Place of Safety – a young women's shelter (supplies, financial support)
- ♦ Community Schools (school kits, supplies, office equipment)

World Relief currently sends two containers of material aid to Jamaica each year.



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

Bringing the Gospel to Mexico Journal of a trip to Ixtlan

After a 3 hour and 40 minute flight from Chicago, we were met at the airport in Guadalajara and drove toward Ixtlan, which is 2 hours east. We stopped after about an hour at a town called LaBarca to have a Bible Study in a home with several who had come from Ixtlan. The family in this home has shown interest in the Bible and has been coming to church in Ixtlan. After about an hour, we continued our trip to Ixtlan.

That evening we walked about town to meet several of the church members and were able to see where they lived. Later we went to pick up some onion plants in a nearby town called Yurecuaro. They have planted



Sorting strawberries for market

1,000,000 onion plants (12.5 acres) and 400,000 strawberry plants (11 acres) to help provide employment for our church people and others in the Ixtlan community. Strawberries are harvested each day (except for Sundays) for about 8 months of the year. This requires much time and organizational skill. The strawberries were delicious.

Saturday morning we got up early to go to Morelia, a city 2 hours east of Ixtlan where they currently hold services every other week with 3 members and 2 converts that live

there. We were on the road with a vanload of believers by 8:15 AM and arrived in Morelia by 10:30. It was an interesting and scenic trip through the mountains. We had services and a singing in the church there and then all went to a park to eat lunch together before we headed home. We arrived home about 4:00 PM. At 5:00 PM the young group was at church for fellowship and a Bible Study.



New dresses sewn by a loving sister

The vision for the church in Mexico is to bring the Gospel message to the lost and unreached multitudes to free them from the bondage of sin and false religion. The desire is to nurture the new believers and help them to mature in their faith. The greatest blessings are the converted lives and reunited families with renewed spiritual focus, which are evident in the church in Ixtlan.

Sunday morning we were up early to go out to several nearby villages and pick up people to bring them to church. For Sunday morning services they gather at 11:00 AM and sing for about 1/2 hour with the children and adults together. Then they have services for adults in the assembly and the children have Sunday school upstairs in 3 different classes. At noon, there is a 15 minute break and then at 12:15 PM, there is an afternoon church

service. After this, everyone goes home to eat and then there is a singing and short Bible reading and meditation in the evening. Whew! What a schedule.

It was a blessing to meet everyone from the church and see the changed lives and their zeal to be obedient. There are about 29 members and around 10 converts. We really felt close to them in just the short while we were there.

Monday morning we walked to the downtown area of Ixtlan to get groceries and other necessary items. Then we visited the fields where they were planting onions and sorting the berries they had picked that morning. In the afternoon, we visited English classes being held for young people and went to some more homes. In the middle of this schedule, there are always people stopping by the house to ask for help with something, visit or read the Bible together.

Tuesday we spent time with Bro. Kirby Ruetter, from Rockville, CT, visiting and translating a topical Bible Study for that night. In the afternoon, we participated in a nutrition class in a nearby village for about 18 people who came to learn. Then back to church at 5:00 PM for evening services.



Guesthouse under construction

Wednesday morning we got on a bus at 8:30 AM in Ixtlan to go back to the Guadalajara airport. We had a blessed time in Ixtlan and it was sad to say good-bye to

everyone. It is evident that God's blessings are upon these labors as they unselfishly bring the Gospel message to those under the oppression of sin. Thank you for your prayers and support of this work. May God richly bless you.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Spring is on its way! We are looking forward to flowers and green grass again. The residents of our group homes are planning mini-vacations for the summer. It is exciting to have these extended outings to look forward to. There is also anticipation of playing basketball, volleyball, croquet, riding bicycles, enjoying the swings and many other outside recreations.

Activities this past month for residents of Timber Ridge included the Illinois High School Association Experience where they had fun doing different things with basketballs and playing some games. Some went to the Peoria Civic Center to watch Lippizzaner stallions perform. A local pancake and sausage event was attended by many of our residents with some tickets that had been donated.

It is always exciting to find out what God has planned for us next. We can look forward to the spring and summer, knowing that He knows what it will bring and will be there to provide for us. If anyone has an interest in sharing in the lives of the people that live in these homes, you would be welcome to call to find out how you could be a volunteer. May we always be ready to share God's love and bring honor and praise to Him in what we do.

MAY birthdays at TIMBER RIDGE are: Yvonne Arbuckle (1), Judy McRoy (2), Sam Grimm (2), Terry Stoller (6), Steve Slagel (13), Allison Given (14), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser (22), Chip Terhorst (22), Garth Boyer (26), Marjorie Feller (30). At 650 DETROIT: Jackie Barton (26).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bill Eisenmann

Greetings of love from all of us at Gateway Woods. We so look forward to the coming of spring with all of its warmth, new life and hope for tomorrow. Each year as the earth awakens from its quiet time of winter, we are reminded again of the fulfillment of God's promises and the assurance it gives us that His Word is true and everlasting.

As we consider the children that reside here on campus and in our various foster homes, we understand the parallel of the coming of Spring to the awakening of new life with their hearts. Many of these children come to us never having previously heard the Word of God. Their hearts have been in the dormant stages of winter for a long time. Some of them will stay in the dormant stage after they leave here. Others will show a tiny sprout such as we see peeking from the ground in the early days of Spring. Others will leave us an emerging bud, but not yet having brought forth a blossom. That blossom will either develop at a later date as the children return home and then continue forth in life or it will shrivel back up, leaving the heart once again dormant. It is our sincere prayer that we remain true in planting the seed of God's Word and let Him melt the "permafrost" of the children's hearts that fruit can be brought forth in due season. What a blessing it is for us to witness the transformation (through whatever stage we see it) and glorify our God for His endless mercy and promises.

We welcome Jessica S. to the Meister House. This brings our

population on campus to 20, 13 of which utilize our Gateway Wood's school. The maximum number of children we can have on campus is 21, so we are very thankful to God that He has brought to us the appropriate residents that have virtually filled our program to capacity.

We continue to have a current opening for an Alternate Houseparent couple. Also, we have several teaching positions opening up this fall when the new school year begins. Please pray for God to fill these positions with the people He has chosen.

We certainly want to thank all of you for your support, either through prayers, finances, volunteering your time or various other ways. We are dependent on you for us to provide our services to the children and families in need. May God bless you all in the coming month and throughout all eternity.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Tom Schrenk

Springtime has been very slow in coming to the south this year, and we are very thankful for the few warm days that we had during the month of March. We have been blessed to have a full roster of children and parents that are very helpful to our Preschool. God has also been faithful in sending several young people to help us with some of the duties that go along with keeping the Preschool in good repair and also helping with the children. This past month we had volunteers come from the following churches: Bluffton, Francesville and Remington, IN; Latty, OH; Goodfield and Roanoke, IL. We send a special thank you to these

brothers, sisters and friends.

The month of March we learned about animals and to end our study we took a trip to a farm where the children could see and touch many different animals and birds. This is a time that the kids always look forward to and the teachers are glad when its over. We look forward to the days and weeks ahead as we work with the children in learning more about Jesus and how He suffered and went to the cross to pay the price for sin that we could not pay.

We of the Preschool staff again thank all of you who have offered prayers for the Preschool. We often feel the effect of those prayers as we strive to work and teach these children the things that will be so helpful to them as they get older and begin to be exposed to the evils of the world. We also thank all of our sponsors who so willingly give to help the financial needs of the Preschool. May God be your Rewarder.

We welcome any inquiries concerning our Preschool. Some may just wonder what we do, others may feel moved to come and spend a little time learning and helping with the children. Please pray for the Preschool and also pray for Bro. Lavoyd and his family as they endure this trying time in their lives.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Joan Reinhard
Louise Hall**

Spring time is here and with it comes a refreshing, uplifting feeling that just invigorates the soul. Our spirits are lightened and we have a spring in our step. Everything looks brighter. We appreciate so much the seasons and the way God has it all planned. Some of the same feeling comes when we pull

into the parking lot at church and see cars from out of state. We can't express enough how much we appreciate it when our brothers and sisters include us in their travel plans and come and worship with us. This last month we had visitors from 13 different churches. What a joy this is for us. Our visitors were from Bloomington, Conger-ville, Eureka, Forrest, Gridley, Morton, Peoria and Roanoke, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Frances-ville, and Leo, IN; Oakville, IA; and Smithville, OH. Many, many thanks to each of you for being with us.

We have had our sorrows this month also. Bro. Don Ross' mother died. She was 87 years old and was in a nursing home. Our sympathies are surely with him during this time. We have also had quite a few who have had some health problems. Bro. Pete Perry, Sis. Dessie Siniard, and Sis. Louise Hall have all been struggling with their health, and there have been others who have not been feeling well, also.

Thank you to all of you for the many prayers that have gone up for our Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore and his family. He has been suffering and in the hospital for months now. His family has surely appreciated all of the support they have been shown during this time, and we ask that you continue to pray for him that his pain will be eased and he won't have to suffer too much. We know all is in the hands of our God, and we just ask that each of us could grow closer to Him and His ways. Thanks, also, for the many prayers for our Athens congregation.

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

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

Proverbs 16:20

The last line above is a great answer to the person who is always asking "why are you always so happy?" (My usual answer is "God loves me!")

Our thanks to the World Relief Committee and helpers for the lovely brunch they served some sixty people February 24. It was especially nice to have many winter visitors. We all enjoyed the choir singing.

Our monthly fellowship dinner and singing was on February 25.

Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Aaron Steffen read the Conference letter to us on March 7.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Linda Yackley, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall, and Bro. Don and Sis. Josie Esterling on the death of their brother, Bro. Ray, who died in Minneapolis, February 16.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Gary Tonner

(Bluffton, IN).

Please continue to pray for baby Dakota Pearl Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather) as she was recently hospitalized.

We were served Communion on March 17 by Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Wendell Gudeman. What love we share as we take the cup. "Be kind one to another."

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the love shown to me during Sis. Shirley's illness and funeral.

Special thanks to our Phoenix and Roanoke ministers and to all who sent food, cards, flowers, phone calls, and every kind deed done.

May God richly reward you for your love, caring and sharing.

Bro. Gaylord Blunier

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

On March 3, April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) and Shane Irvin were united in marriage. We pray for God's blessings on their life together and that with each passing day their love will grow for each other and for the Lord.

Our Bro. Henry Volz has been having health problems and needs our prayers. We miss him assembling with us.

On March 19, we were served Holy Communion by Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix). They also shared with us the Memorandum from the Conference. It was a very blessed day of love and unity.

Our other ministers for the last month were Elder Bro. Aaron

Steffen (Alto, MI), who we were blessed to have for two Sundays as he and his wife, Sis. Loretta, were vacationing in Prescott, and Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and James Emch (Phoenix). Our cup ran over this month with three ministers together one of the Sundays and two ministers one of the other Sundays. God is so good!

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

God richly blessed our pulpit with visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and ministering Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Ken Lawson and Herb Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix) and Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) also served our little church. We want to thank them all for assisting our Bro. Curt Kaufman. May God bless each one.

We recently had two work teams travel through Tucson on their way to Mexico. We enjoyed our fellowship together. Many thanks to everyone in our small congregation for providing all the food, beds and transportation needed to host these young people. A special thanks to our winter visitors for helping out; we couldn't have done it without you! May God richly bless each effort.

We may have seen the last of winter. (Oh, how I'll miss her!) We are having highs in the upper 80's all week with lots of sunshine! A little treat for our remaining winter visitors before they head back to the melting snow. We will miss you all. May God protect you until we meet again.

**CALIFORNIA
ALTADENA
Jim Klotzle**

As we walk out our lives here in faith, we bring to mind the great multitude of witnesses that observe our every step. Following the example of our forefathers, let's leave a heritage of faithfulness passed on through Godly lives. In this way, our daily devotion to the Saviour might lead lost souls to believe and obey. After all of our hopes and dreams have come and gone, God still uses the light that we reflected during our short pilgrimage to further His kingdom.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord."

Isaiah 54:17

We are looking forward to hosting the annual 25 and older singles group this year. Lord willing, it will be a weekend of edification and fellowship on March 24-25 at the Altadena church.

**ONTARIO, KITCHENER
CANADA**

Nathan Reutter

This month was a fairly busy one for our small church in Kitchener. We had two visiting ministers come, a baby boy born, wonderful, sweet fellowship and a chicken pox epidemic. The Lord has seen us through, as always, and we thank Him for His providence.

Our visiting ministers this

month were Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN). We also enjoyed the visit of a single sister from Croghan-Naumburg, NY, who came along with Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen. We always appreciate the visitors we receive. Make plans to come and visit us this summer.

Our baby boy was born to Sis. Justine Pitaru, her seventh son. His name is Timothy George Pitaru. We are very thankful to have yet another child in our midst. It reminds us to keep the faith so that our children might have what we had when we were children.

Our most memorable event of the past month was our chicken pox epidemic. It affected nine of our children and one Sunday School teacher, Sis. Allison Saddler. At this time all have recovered or are mending. We are thankful that our Great Physician has brought healing to all.

We also had a wonderful evening of dinner and singing at our beloved minister's home. We appreciate the hospitality and warmth we feel there. May God bless him and his wife for their services to our church.

May God be with you in the next month and lead you on paths of righteousness. You will be in our prayers and we hope we will be in yours.

COLORADO, DENVER **Mike and Heather Katanic**

How rejuvenating it is each spring to see the birds singing, the grass turning green and the warm sun shining down on our faces. The beauty of springtime can almost be

taken for granted if we don't remember to slow down and enjoy the small things in life and marvel at the creation God has again blessed us with.

This month we were encouraged to have Bro. Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL) bring God's Word of Life to us.

God has blessed us (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic) personally with the birth of our first child, Emily Joy. What a miracle to witness a new life born into this world. Bro. Tom and Sis. Theresa Katanic also welcomed Jed Nicholas into their home. Big brother, Jackson, is excited to have a new playmate. We pray God will continue to guide us as we raise our children to love and know our Lord.

We are looking forward to hearing the testimony of our friends, Bob and Ann Gonglach. It is a blessing to see God leading souls to our church and wish them God's nearness as they seek His direction in their lives.

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Cherie Galat**

"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:16

Precious Nicole Rose was born February 16 to Bro. Keven and Sis. Sara Grasso. Leandra and Lindsey have another sister to love. Grandparents are Anita Grasso and Sis. Maxine Bahler.

We pray that God will heal according to His will our dear Bro. Ernie Ballasy (Sis. Aline) who has been ill. For those who have illnesses or conditions unknown to

us, may He comfort and provide strength for each one.

"The time flies on and death draws nigh..." (Zion's Harp #188). Sis. Louise Ballasy leaves her sons, Bro. Ernie (Sis. Aline) and Bro. Norman (Sis. Lavina), and daughter, Sis. Virginia Bahler (Bro. Corbin), grandchildren and extended family. Bro. Emanuel Babin (Rittman, OH) passed away leaving his daughters, Sis. Marlene Galat (Bro. David, Sr.) and Sis. Beverly Rufener (Bro. Glen, Rittman, OH), son, Bro. Ken (Sis. Jackie, Morton, IL), grandchildren and extended family. Olga Bolton leaves a brother, Fred Limberger, and cousins, Sis. Emma Herzig, Sis. Anna Thompson, Henry Limberger and Walter Limberger. May God comfort Sis. Barbara Hangartner (Bro. Dave) on the passing of her brother, Walter Fluckiger. Some of our loved ones have lost a grandparent: Bruno Janosky (Helen) was the grandfather of Sis. Jayne Bahler (Bro. Lloyd) and also leaves great-grandson, Eric; Dorothea McLaughlin was the grandmother of Linda Webb (Todd). Bertha Kunzli has passed away who was the sister-in-law of Sis. Helen Gottier. Our Sis. Leah Zahner leaves her sisters, Sis. Bertha Trueb, Sis. Barbara Schneider and Sis. Ruth Schneider, step-daughter, Sis. Fredricka Whitman (Bro. Wilfred), stepson, Bill (Rachel), and stepdaughters, Wilma Foley (John) and Sis. Linda Leite (August). Our prayer is that each family circle is comforted in their loss. May we all prepare for the Heavenly Home so that we may hear those words "...Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." (St. Matthew 25:34)

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 WASHINGTON**
Wendy Fetter

A few days ago, I was rushing around. I had picked up my son, and proceeded to hurry home. He was hungry and thirsty and seemed to be constantly wanting my attention. I got short with him and told him "I don't have the time for you right now. Can't you figure out how to do things on your own?" While I was saying this, I saw the look on his face. I felt horrible at how I had treated him, but was too busy to apologize. Later that evening, I received a note from my sister-in-law. I wasn't going to read it, but, for some reason, I felt compelled to read it.

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
 "Oh excuse me please" was my reply.
 He said, "Please excuse me too; I wasn't watching for you."
 We were very polite, this stranger and I.
 We went on our way and we said good-bye.
 But at home a different story is told,
 How we treat our loved ones,
 young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
 My son stood beside me very still.
 When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
 "Move out of the way," I said with a frown.
 He walked away, his little heart broken.
 I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,
 God's still small voice came to me
 and said,
 "While dealing with a stranger,
 common courtesy you use,
 but the children you love, you
 seem to abuse.
 Go and look on the kitchen floor,
 You'll find some flowers there by
 the door.

Those are the flowers he brought
 for you.
 He picked them himself; pink,
 yellow, and blue.
 He stood very quietly not to spoil
 the surprise,
 and you never saw the tears that
 filled his little eyes."
 By this time, I felt very small,
 And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his
 bed;
 "Wake up, little one, wake up," I
 said.
 "Are these the flowers you picked
 for me?"
 He smiled, "I found 'em, out by
 the tree.
 I picked 'em because they're
 pretty like you.
 I knew you'd like 'em, especially
 the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for
 the way I acted today:
 I shouldn't have yelled at you
 that way."
 He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.
 I love you anyway."
 I said, "Son, I love you too,
 and I do like the flowers, espe-
 cially the blue."

I don't know who wrote this poem, but as I read it, I felt the Lord's chastening hand on me. The next morning, I apologized for my harsh words. He said, "I don't re-

member you getting mad at me." I then thought of how many times I hold a grudge or let anger run my life. The Lord never reacts in anger to us. He always puts His loving arms around us and takes the time to listen to our cares and worries. May we always take the time from our busy lives to listen to our children and to let them know that we will always listen to them and care about their thoughts and feelings.

We want to thank the ministers who took time from their busy lives to spend their weekend with us: Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA).

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 (I495) 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

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Elder Bro. Joe Braker and his wife, Sis. Shirley (Morton, IL) for all of

their years of service with the Ft. Lauderdale church. Bro. Joe is retiring as our counseling Elder. We pray that God will richly bless them.

We would also like to welcome Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and his wife, Sis. Dixie (Gridley, IL), as our new counseling Elder. We look forward to getting to know Bro. Earl and his family. Our prayers are with Bro. Earl as he takes on this new responsibility.

Our congregation took part in Holy Communion on March 18. Elder Bros. Joe Braker and Earl Ringger held the service. It is always a blessing to stop and remember what our Lord Jesus has done for us. A church supper was held after the service.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We thank them for their service and pray that God will bless them for their efforts in Ft. Lauderdale.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FT. MYERS
Dorothy Beer**

On Sunday, February 25, Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN) gave a report on Gateway Woods Children's Home. It was especially interesting to hear of all the work, management and responsibilities involved in this very worthwhile cause. They need and would appreciate our prayerful support. Following this, a church supper was enjoyed by all.

On March 2, our church enjoyed an evening of hymn singing and fellowship hosted by Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr at Aqua Iles in LaBelle.

LeAnn Masters (Bro. Bill and

Sis. Mary, Bloomington, IL) was united in marriage to Daniel Luban (Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Luban, El Paso, IL) on March 10. The wedding and reception was held at the Landings in Ft. Myers. We wish them God's blessings.

We were blessed this month with three visiting ministers. They were Bros. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN), Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton North, IN) and Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). We thank them for their loving service to us.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Carol Koehl**

Our annual Sunday School auction, bake sale, and chili lunch was once again a big success, thanks to everyone who gave of their time, talents, and generous support.

We sincerely want to thank our winter residents for hosting a lovely appreciation dinner for us. May God bless you for all your love and kindness.

Bro. Terry Miller recently took a work team to Kingston, Jamaica, to work on construction at Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf.

We were blessed this past month with visiting ministers, Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

Our love and prayers go with Bro. Justin Ooms as he relocates to Detroit, MI.

Sis. Lorene Maibach has experienced some health problems recently and needs our prayers. We also miss Sis. Millie Bigger, who continues her recovery at home.

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Pflederer in the loss of his sister.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."

II Thess. 1:3

Charity: love of humanity; benevolent actions

The first weekend in March a benefit supper was held for those that are giving their time and talents to travel to Jamaica in June to work at the deaf school in Montego Bay. Our cups were filled to overflowing and all felt a blessing. We thank those who gave monetary gifts and those who gave of their time to cook, serve the meal and clean up. May the Lord richly bless all who came, anyone who offered a prayer or just thought of us.

And ye, the church's members,
truly
Are folded in my heart's embrace!
In Christ ye are my brethren
duly,
We share salvation through His
grace,
We drink one cup; we break one
bread;
On Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. John

Lehman (Bern, KS) spent a blessed Saturday evening with us as we partook of Holy Communion on March 10.

With Friends on earth we meet
in gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho't of sad-
ness,
That we must say, "Good-bye".

No parting words shall e'er be
spoken
In yonder home so fair
But songs of joy, and peace, and
gladness,
We'll sing forever there.

We'll never say good-bye in
heav'n,
We'll never say good-bye
For in the land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-bye.
Hymns of Zion #122

It is with sad hearts we will soon bid Bro. Clint and Sis. Stephanie Heinold good-bye as they feel the Lord has moved them to relocate to Morton, IL. They will not be far from us and we hope they visit us often. As a small church, it is hard to lose precious loved ones.

"What sets you apart from the world?" "Can the world tell you are a Christian by your walk?" These questions were the topic of the Bible study held in Madison this month. Bro. Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) was able to be in our midst to share the Word and leave us all with some work to do and things to think about.

Days are filled with sorrow and
care,
Hearts are lonely and drear;
Burdens are lifted at Calvary;

Jesus is very near.

Cast your care on Jesus today,
Leave your worry and fear;
Burdens are lifted at Calvary,
Jesus is very near.

Burdens are lifted at Calvary,
Calvary, Calvary,
Burdens are lifted at Calvary,
Jesus is very near.

May we find time in this Easter Season to remember that Jesus paid for our sins so long ago at Calvary and rose triumphant from the grave on that resurrection morning. A wonderful miracle so long ago and still a miracle today! Is there any thing that the Lord cannot help us with in this day and time? Most of our problems seem quite small when we think of the miracle of raising someone from the dead. Take your problems to Calvary and leave them there.

We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new church. To all of those who have given of their time, thank you, and if there are still those who would like to help, please contact Bro. Clint Heinold at 262-695-8108 or heinold@prodigy.net.

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

Our church family was very blessed this past month. We witnessed the baptisms of Joe Terrini (Madalyn) and Jim Martin (Sis. Edna and the late Bro. Ray Martin, Princeville, IL). Three more souls have answered the call to serve Christ: Delayne and Lori Stickling and Matt Hany (Bro. Rick and Sis.

Carol). It is so encouraging to see the hand of God working in the lives of others.

We had several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Jim Plattner, Walt Herrmann, Erik Givens and Glen Braker (all of Princeville, IL), Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). Bro. Randy spoke on Love vs. Tolerance for our family night Bible study.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch are the thankful grandparents of Wade Thomas. He is the son of Bro. Casey and Sis. Jamie (Gridley, IL). May God richly bless your family.

March 10, LeAnn Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) became the bride of Dan Luban (Dan and Pam, El Paso, IL). We wish you much happiness as you begin your lives as one.

Unfortunately, life holds many difficult and trying times. Barb Knapp had to lay her father, Bro. Earl Knapp (Cissna Park, IL), to rest. May you feel God's comforting arms around you.

We also want to pray for the continued healing for Sis. Catherine Brame and Lacey Nussbaum (Bro. Brent and Sis. Cheryl) as they recover.

Gene and Alice Myer are moving and will be attending the Ft. Myers, FL, church. We wish you God's richest blessings.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

We were thankful to have Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL) with us to minister the Word. May God reward him for his efforts.

We apologize for missing the

birth announcement of Chase Herman Stahl, born October 22 to Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill Stahl. Chase also has a sister, Candace, to help care for him. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Dean Stahl (Kewanee, IL) and Sis. Charlotte Stahl.

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

What do college students do when they have a week of Spring Break? Go home to family? Head for the beach, the sun, and the fun? Well, many do, but there has been a growing trend in the numbers of young students who find fulfillment and reward in going to serve others who are less fortunate. Approximately 28 of our students made that choice and participated in two World Relief work teams to different parts of Mexico. Auga Prieta, just across the border from Tucson, Arizona, was the site where the larger group of about 18 of our students, along with other students from Indiana, California, and Arizona, helped with finishing work on a school. Each day, they crossed the border to work on building a flood wall and doing plumbing, flooring, roofing. Organizing donations, such as the World Relief materials our churches do and then send to Mexico, was another task to be accomplished. These were new experiences for many of our future engineers, teachers, and businesspeople, but they found it immensely rewarding. Learning more about the power of prayer and the rewards of uniting and working together — along with construction skills — were just a few of the things

our students brought back and will carry with them for many years. Juarez, the Mexican city across the border from El Paso, Texas, received a group of about 20 college students, with 10 being from Urbana-Champaign. Others on the trip were from Purdue, Kentucky, Iowa, and other Illinois churches. Building two houses and a cafeteria/soup kitchen building were the projects on which these students participated. Visiting an orphanage and hearing the director share his testimony illustrating how totally dependent they are on prayer and the provisions of God was an especially moving experience for the group. One day was spent enjoying some of the local culture by attending a market and doing a little mountain climbing, but the spiritual growth from spending time together and just realizing the richness of the blessings we have in the U.S. and how much we take for granted will be lasting memories. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate..." (I Timothy 6:17,18)

We are thankful that our winter is now over and spring has arrived. Some late snowfall reminded us that though it was March, it was still officially winter. The renewal that spring brings with the warming temperatures, the fresh-smelling rains, and the greening of grass, leafing of trees, and blooming of plants is truly an awesome reminder of God's power and His plan. Visiting ministers this past

month were Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest IL), Gary Endress (Bradford IL), and Greg Rassi (Chicago IL). Our sincere thanks to these brothers and their families for coming to Champaign and for being servants of the Word.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Jill Rager**

This has been a month of valuable teachings for our congregation. Many of our married couples attended the marriage seminar presented by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We express our gratitude to Bro. Jeff for the three weekends he traveled to teach our married couples.

Bro. Chris Wuethrich presented a topical Bible study about forgiveness. It was such an appropriate topic as we prepare our hearts for the Easter season. Bro. Chris presented the costs of forgiving versus the costs of not forgiving. In the end, both are costly, but we pay the higher price by choosing not to forgive.

Sis. Robin Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Justin Moser (Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol, Rockville, CT) were married on March 18. Bros. Richard Aberle (Altadena, CA), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) were here for the wedding and offered sound teachings from God's Word. We rejoice with Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin and offer warm congratulations and sincere prayers as they begin their walk with Christ as one.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Denise Walder
Cheryl Eisenmann

On Wednesday evening, February 28, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) presented a topical Bible study on Biblical Security. Also, Elder Bros. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) visited us this month. We want to thank each of them for visiting our congregation and for their labors of love.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Emily Eisenmann in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Mabel Miller, of Gridley.

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital recently are Sis. Sylvia Knapp and Brian Fehr (Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer). We pray for them and hope and believe that God will be near them in their time of need.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Glenna Rinkenberger

Verse 4 of #65 in our Zion's Harp reads:
 Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure,
 Jesus, is concealed in thee!
 Grant that this may still the measure
 Of my will and action be,
 Humility there and simplicity reigneth
 And heavenly knowledge and wisdom obtaineth;
 O, if I of Christ have this knowledge divine,
 The fullness of heavenly wisdom is mine.

February 17 we were blessed with heavenly wisdom and humility as our Elder Bro. Bob was assisted by Elder Bro. Art Nohl

(Morris, MN) in the reading of the Memorandum. We were reminded in simple terms how we must live this pilgrim life here below to gain a heavenly home. We appreciate Bro. Art's part in this important reminder.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Gene and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We are thankful for each one that comes and serves on our behalf.

Prayers of healing continue to be with Bro. Allen Schrock (Sis. Carol) who is still at home recovering from back surgery. We also want to remember other loved ones who no longer assemble with us due to chronic health problems and the infirmities of age. May they continue to feel God's nearness even though they no longer gather with us regularly.

We are thankful Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein and their eight children were spared any injury as they suffered a house fire. No one was home at the time. There was considerable heat and smoke damage. But this has been another opportunity for us as a church family to help one another. It's such a blessing to observe the willingness of the brotherhood to lend a hand in time of need.

Tony and Rachel Nohl are the happy parents of Alison Rylee, born March 14. Alexis and Jared welcome her home as well as grandparents, Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein, Melvin and Elaine Hartter and Steve and Val Nohl. May God be their guide as they raise these children, who are each truly a gift from God.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Kay Kellenberger

May we in perfect love be found
 When we Thy table, Lord, surround;
 Keep soul and body purified;
 Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied
 Upon this feast.
 Then come into our midst today;
 Impart Thyself to us, we pray.
 This cup and loaf are proof and sign
 Of this, Thy covenant divine
 In Jesus' blood.

Zion's Harp #200, vs. 3,4

The Elgin congregation was encouraged and chastened at our Communion exhortation. Each of us must examine our spiritual walk. It is our responsibility to walk faithfully keeping our soul and body purified. We look forward to assembling with our brethren for our Communion service on March 17.

Once again, our cup runneth over as God's Word is ministered unto us. We pray that the visiting ministers have felt our prayers and are blessed for their willing service. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Floyd Freiden (Elgin, IA).

Many of our beloved brethren have been hospitalized or recently underwent surgery. May our prayers uplift and encourage Bro. Frank Schock, Bro. Howie Schifferer, Sis. Dorothy Schambach and Sis. Gail Wonneberg as they are faced with their physical struggles. We are encouraged by their walk as they continue to keep their sight on the Lord seeking His

will in their life.

May our prayers also be with Bro. Morrie Willaert. Though we believed he was on the threshold of eternity, we are encouraged as he has seemed to regain a degree of strength. Many brethren were encouraged while visiting Bro. Morrie as he expressed the great faithfulness of our Almighty God.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to many who have recently lost their loved ones. As we reflect on the memories of our loved ones and their faithful walk with the Lord, it encourages us to diligently press forward with the hope of meeting them in Heaven. Our prayers are with Sis. Linda Steffen and her family in the loss of her mother, Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl). Our dear Sis. Lillian Foell (102) of the Elgin congregation passed away on March 13. Our sympathy is extended to her three sons and their families: Howard, Ron and Wes. May the Keith and Ida Kellenberger family feel our prayers in the loss of their grandfather, Bro. Harold Blunier (the late Sis. Sharon Kellenberger's father), of the Roanoke congregation. May we support our Bro. Dick Klopfenstein with prayers in the tragic loss of his sister-in-law, Rosemary Klopfenstein.

"And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; And there shall be no more death, Neither sorrow, nor crying, Neither shall there be any more pain: For the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

We rejoice with our friends, Sarah Moore and Dan Kellenberger, as they have found peace with God.

May we continue to pray and encourage our converts as they build their foundation on the Lord. Their provings and baptisms are set for the weekend of April 7-8.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

Asleep in Jesus! Blessed sleep,
from which none ever wake to
weep!

A calm and undisturbed repose,
unbroken by the last of foes.

Hymns of Zion #111

Our Sis. Martha Grusy closed her eyes in death March 6. We extend our love and sympathy to her husband, Bro. Alf, and to their son, Randy (Connie), and family.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Lewis, Bro. Sam and Hank Blunier on the death of their brother, Bro. Harold Blunier, of Roanoke. May God comfort these loved ones as only He can.

First-time parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. T. Anne Wiegand. Little Anna Mae was born February 28. Her grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL).

We always appreciate and are thankful for visiting ministers. With us the month of March were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bill Gerst (Alto, MI). Likewise, we appreciate and are thankful for our home ministers who minister unto us. May God richly bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) and their family as Jeremy was recently diagnosed

with leukemia. We pray for an extra measure of God's comfort and nearness during this difficult time.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each and every one for your prayers, visits, cards and flowers during my hospital stay and while I was in the nursing home. May God bless you.

Sis. Freda Knepp

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Sally Fehr Joann Zehr

Scott Stoller (Richard and Karen) and Aimee Buhrow (Craig and Margie, West Brooklyn, IL) are engaged and planning an April 21 wedding. We wish them God's blessings.

Bro. Frank Schmidt (Pearl) and Sis. Esther Hay have spent time in the hospital. Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary) has had surgery on his elbow and Bro. Albert Steffen (Sis. Karen) had some knee surgery. May God's healing be felt by all of them.

Two from our congregation have lost grandmothers and we extend our sympathy to them. Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Charles) in the death of Sis. Kathryn Schneider and Bro. Derek Rabe (Sis. Julie) in the death of Margaret Rabe.

We extend a sincere thanks to Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) who spent a Sunday with us. His wife, Sis. Joyce, was from Fairbury.

The Easter season is approaching and how thankful we should be that Jesus died and shed His blood for each of us. It is a wonderful rebirth if we can humble ourselves and turn our lives over to God.

The following poem was submitted by Bro. Tom Steidinger:

Dear Lord,
 When I become discouraged
 Or troubled in my mind,
 Teach me the art of patience
 And help me be more kind.

When I seem to fret or worry
 Why this work load is so great?
 And I get a little anxious
 Hold my hand and whisper wait.

Whisper to my anxious mind
 That this day will soon be past
 And the work I do today
 Only for a time will last.

Help me always have an answer
 For some troubled heart today,
 Reminding them, there is no trial
 That my Father can't take away.

And the most important work
 Of our life here on this earth,
 Is in the heart, to be reborn,
 And to have the second birth.

Then when this troubled day is
 past
 And I close and lock the door,
 I will feel the day was spent
 Working for my Lord once more.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker

"With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave unto them saying, this is my body which

is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:15-20

On March 17, we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. It was a special, but solemn evening. We thank Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker. May we always remember the high price our Saviour paid for our salvation.

Joining hands in Holy Matrimony were Bro. Adrian Bachman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Shawna Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy). May their home be a haven where the Lord will ever abide.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone."

Genesis 2:18

Seeking the Lord's direction, Bro. Ben Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Melissa Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) announce their engagement.

Nathan Eli is welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Jason and Sis. Lynn Dotterer and "big" brother, Luke. Nathan's thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger.

We thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) for visiting us this past month. May God bless them for their willingness to serve us through the

preaching of God's Word.

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Barb Edelman, Bro. Wilbur (Sis. Ruth) Wiegand, Bro. Glen (Sis. Mildred) Zimmerman, and Bro. Ben (Sis. Irene) Traub.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier with the death of his brother, Bro. Harold Blunier (Roanoke, IL). The death of Robert Karcher also brings sadness to the heart of his mother, Sis. Hazel Karcher, and sister, Joy and Maurice Zimmerman. May we continue to keep them in our prayers that God will provide comfort.

Note of Thanks:

A very warm and sincere "thank you" to everyone who remembered us with food, cards, phone calls, prayers and any other acts of kindness shown to us at the time of our dear mother, Sis. Kathryn Schneider's passing. May God bless each kind deed of love.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and family

Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger and family

Bro. Duane and Sis. Janny Schneider and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Heather Hohulin

"The real test of value is how well something holds up under the wear and tear of everyday life. Those who stand up for Christ in spite of their troubles truly have lasting value and will receive great rewards."

—unknown

Again this month we were

blessed with several babies.

Bro. Dana, Sis. Mari and Drew Wiegand welcome home Rylin Edward. Bro. Doug and Sis. Trista Ulrich welcome Addison Mae. Rod, Robyn and Halle Wiegand welcome Tessa Mae. Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge Bauman, along with Luke, Anna, Bethany and Abby, welcome Mary Elizabeth. We are thankful that they have arrived healthy.

We are so pleased to hear the wedding announcement of Bro. Gary Musselman (Bro. Norman and Sis. Eileen) to Sis. Judy Zimmerman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen) of Gridley. May God be with them as they bond together to form a three-fold cord.

Erica Knapp (Larry and Janice) and Jerry Hinrichsen (Bro. Charles and Sis. Brenda) were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

How thankful we are that Ryan Sides has found peace with God. What joy it brings us when others can find that "precious pearl".

We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy) when we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. It was a good reminder that we need to keep our Lord and Saviour number one in our lives every day.

Bro. Eugene Metzger (Sis. Delores) also ministered to us this month. May God bless him for his service to us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Bro. Jaye) as she had surgery and is recovering. We hope she can feel the healing hand of God and the prayers of her brothers and sisters.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We had occasion to make a train trip to Oregon and back. It took two days and two nights. One sees a multitude of people on the train and at the various stops. The people one encounters are of all types, young and old, large and small, neat and unkept, and passive and outgoing. Diversified personalities reflect varying attitudes. Yet God created each one and the very hairs of their head are known to God; and each one is accountable to Him. Each will one day appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Also, very striking to the traveler is the wide expanse of our nation—the vast plains, the huge mountains and the powerful ocean. It's all very beautiful and is the work of God above.

"For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

I Cor. 10:26

On returning from a trip, an often quoted phrase is heard: "There's no place like home." How true that is! Yet, how many will be able to say that at life's end when our eternal destination is sealed?

In addressing this question, let us all work for the glorious cause of Christ that multitudes may hear the Word of God; and that we who believe may make our calling and election sure.

A dear soul was called to her eternal rest. Sis. (Miss) Pauline Witzig, 92, expired on March 25 at the Eureka Home. She is survived by a brother, Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley), and two sisters, Sis. Ruth Meyer (Fairbury) and Sis. Anna Schneider (Peoria).

She worked as a housekeeper in her youth at Peoria; and later as a cook at the Eureka Home.

Sis. Pauline was on the quiet side and personified humility. She was one of the first residents of Sunrise Manor. She was always willing to help out in any way. At funeral meals, she always took care of the ice to be placed in glasses (for water). May her godly example of obedience be carried on by this and coming generations.

Wade Thomas Knobloch was born on March 14. He is the first child of Bro. Casey and Sis. Jamie Knobloch. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch (Bloomington) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp (Taylor, MO). Great-grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein (Gridley), Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Dorothy Bittner (Eureka, IL). May God bless this dear child and his parents.

Mechelle Schlipf and Jeff Brooks were married at the Gridley Fellowship Hall. She is the daughter of Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf. His parents are Arnold and Jane Brooks of Prophetstown, IL. They will reside in Prophetstown. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

Melissa Krug is planning to marry Bill Cloudt. She is the daughter of Sis. Linda Krug (Gridley) and Duane Krug (El Paso). He is the son of Darrell and Pam Brickman (Lexington).

"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

Job 28:28

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Phyllis Farney
Cheryl Wuthrich

It is baby season here in our beloved congregation and we are excited to see this growth within our church. May God grant each of these parents the grace to raise their children in the "fear and admonition of the Lord" for they are our future church.

Doug and Dawn Baer along with their daughters, Felicia and Carley, welcome Case Jacob into their hearts and home. Case was born on February 14. His loving grandparents are Brian and Phyllis Blair and Bro. Chris and Sis. Emmadale Baer.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Witzig received a double blessing with the birth of their twin daughters, Coreena Marie and Julia Rose. The twins were born on February 27. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette Tanner and Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner lovingly welcome their first child, Brianna Marie, who was born March 14. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette Tanner.

As new life begins, it also comes time to bid loved ones good-bye. Gladys Mott was relieved of her earthly pain and suffering. Her funeral was March 13. May the Lord comfort her loved ones. Surviving are her husband, Gilbert; her son, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Beth); her three granddaughters, Sis. Sandy Rassi (Bro. Andrew), Sis. Laura, and Sis. Erin Witzig (Bro. Andy); and two great-grandchildren.

On February 25, Bro. Jeff Steffen and Sis. Cara Hartter

(Bern, KS) were united in marriage in Christ. Bro. Jeff's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Valarie Steffen and Sis. Cara's parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter. We are so happy to have them as a part of our congregation. We pray they will continue to seek God's guidance and direction as they glorify Him in their life together.

We rejoiced in the union of hearts and lives on March 11 as Sis. Rachel Knobloch and Bro. Tim Braker were united in marriage. Sis. Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane Knobloch (Bradford, IL). Bro. Tim is the son of Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker. We pray God's blessing on their lives as they establish a Godly home and move forward to serve Christ together.

We are happy and thankful to welcome Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers who have made Morton their home church. They came to us from the Champaign congregation. We feel very blessed to see our congregation growing whether it be from births, converts or brethren moving to this area.

On March 11, we enjoyed congregational singing at our Family Hymn sing. The blessings were increased by a Roanoke men's group who ministered to us in song. We thank them for coming.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for coming to our Family Worship Service on a Wednesday evening and speaking to us about Prayer. We thank Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann for ministering to us this month. May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all who remembered us on our 50th anniversary with cards, gifts, flowers and especially with your Christian love and prayers. We truly felt blessed.

Bro. John and Sis. Anna May Getz

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Peter and Mabel Weber

We are thankful the Church preaches the only way of salvation and that Jim Carlson, Brittany Feucht, Monica Fritzenmeier and Lou Lanteen have found it so, repented, gave their testimonies of faith on February 24 and were baptized on February 25. A log can't burn alone...we welcome them into our brotherhood and the continuing spiritual education process. Bro. Rick Plattner: We must direct our energies towards God and "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" (Heb. 10:23). We are little children, with the best Father, but have not attained that perfect state and need each other. God gives us the opportunity to realign our thoughts and calls us to obedience. We are not all-set for past, present and future sins, but need to be overcomers. To be a "new creature in Christ" is available today for everyone. What have we done with the cross of Calvary?

We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for his assistance with testimonies, baptisms and ministry. The ministry does not stop at the pulpit; everyone has an obligation. If we die today, where do we go? What is our choice? A wise man learns from his mistakes, a wiser man from the mistakes of others. Anything that gives us trouble is a temptation, "but God will make

with the temptation also a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

The Bible is not a history book, but the Living Word for us today, and we are thankful God provided Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) on March 4 to bring it to us. We are not on our own, but a body of believers who need to be together and have a concern for each other. Jesus is always at our side so we can have a close walk with Him and be thankful, even when things are not going well. We are saved by grace, but judged by works. When the opposition arises, we need to be bold to magnify His name. Paul was prepared to die and go home; are we? (Phil. 1). Haman (Esther 5), with much at his command, was not happy because of pride, and took a sad end. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? (Matt. 18). We must be as little children, trust the Father, be converted and forgiven of our sins, rise up as a child of God to newness of life. God will not spare us from sorrow and death, but keep us if we do His will. Is your name written in gold in the Book of Life? If not, don't put it off any longer. We live in a dangerous situation because we do not know when the death angel will call us. If you are lost today, make yourself available so Jesus can find you.

"Our Covenant with God"...a two-way promise we enter into in baptism. In the Old Covenant, God Himself inscribed His Ten Commandments on tablets, which were housed in the ark. Bezaleel made the ark and the tabernacle (Exodus 31:2-11) and the Israelites were to be God-fearing under this covenant. Hebrews 10 brings us to the

New Covenant of the blood of Jesus, with His flesh as the veil, and He will write His laws into our hearts (16) and the forgiveness of sin will allow us to go to Heaven. In this Covenant, two ends come together and we have the full assurance of faith that we can accomplish what we have promised. We have been cleansed and promised God in the waters of baptism to be true and faithful. "Let us hold fast the profession of faith without wavering" (23). Thanks, Bro. Mike Rieker, for your inspired message at our family night service on March 7.

The Word can, and will, affect us if we let it. Do we experience tremendous highs and lows, like the two on the road to Emmaus? They thought they had the Redeemer in their midst, but He had been crucified! "And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him" (Luke 23:31). They did not expect Him, but is anything too hard for God? Christ entered the room and said: "Are you surprised? this is what I said I would do." He gave a perfect sacrifice to a very imperfect people. Let's not wait until we get desperate, but praise Him today. Thanks, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp (Bloomington, IL) for your visit and ministry on March 11.

In the quietness of a Wednesday evening service (3/14), we were richly blessed by the visit and ministry on Romans 4 by Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). We were created for God's good pleasure and to be with Him in Heaven and must bring Him the very best: our whole heart, and walk in the world, not with the world. God is all-powerful, created all by just speaking the Word and can cause our breath to cease at His choosing, in a moment.

We must believe unto salvation, bring forth fruits of righteousness and have Christ's righteousness around us.

We are thankful Sis. Lillian Koehl could return home after just a few days in the hospital. Clarence Peters (84) passed away at Ft. Myers, FL, on 2/13 and we express our sympathy to his family. Betty Tiffan (81), sister of Bro. Larry Rigggenbach, met her Maker on 2/26 and we convey our condolences to her family.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr and approximately 50 choir members enjoyed a blessed Sunday on 3/11 with the Taylor, MO, congregation and wish to express grateful thanks for their love and hospitality.

The harsh days of winter have faded, the warming sun, lengthening days, reawakening nature raise our serotonin levels, we look forward to a new season..."as the earth bringeth forth her bud" (Is. 61:11). Bro. Froehlich explained that the month of Abib (later called Nisan) began on the first new moon (3/25) after the spring equinox (3/20) and, with the Passion Week, became the most important month in the Church calendar. The Israelites expected to be redeemed in this month by their Messiah (Mica 7:15), but, rejecting Him, their Passover Lamb from Egypt became the Christians' Paschal Lamb through Jesus. "For Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." (I Cor. 5:7).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Mary Ehle
Crystal Streitmatter

Prophecy: "He was oppressed,

and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7

Our congregation was blessed by the presence of visiting ministers within this past month. Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) provided for us spiritual manna through the work of God. Bro. Byron Stoller warned us against false spirits, and encouraged us to prove the spirits in the light of the Word of God. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman helped Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in the reading of the Memorandum letter. They exhorted us in the fear of God and the responsibility of the shepherds with their concern for us. We felt that we captured a glimpse of the responsibilities of an Elder brother and left with a greater appreciation for their labor in our behalf.

Another soul has found the need for repentance. Ben Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) has turned to the Lord in search of salvation. We are thankful that God is still calling and that souls are still answering His call.

We also rejoice with ministering Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin. On February 26, a baby boy was added to their family. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller and paternal grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin. The new baby, Collin Charles, has four other siblings to help him get started in this

world.

At the right time, God calls His loved ones to go to live with Him in their Heavenly Home. We sympathize with Sis. Leah Stahl as her sister, Sis. Martha Stahl, has gone to meet her reward. We are thankful for the examples of those brothers and sisters who remain faithful unto the end of life's journey.

Note of Thanks:

Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller wish to thank all who remembered them with cards and gifts, or otherwise participated in observing their 50th wedding anniversary, and making it a special milestone in their lives. May God bless each of you richly—as only He can do.

Fulfillment: "And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God."

Matthew 26:62-63

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Boni Stoller
Linda Hodel

Asleep in Jesus! Oh how sweet to be
for such slumber meet!
With holy confidence to sing,
That death hath lost its venomed sting.
Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest,
whose waking is supremely blest!
No fear, no woe, Shall dim that hour
that manifests the Saviour's

pow'r.

Asleep in Jesus! far from Thee
Thy kindred and their graves
may be;
But thine is still a blessed sleep,
From which none ever wakes to weep. Amen.

Hymns of Zion #111, vs. 2,3,5

Three dear souls went to sleep in Jesus recently from our congregation. We are comforted they could lay down their earthly battle and partake of that peaceful rest "whose waking is supremely blest!"

Funeral services were held March 3 for Sis. Mae Kae Hodel (late Bro. Vincent), March 8 for Bro. Harold Blunier (late Sis. Emma) and March 9 for Bro. Dave Fischer (late Sis. Frances). We extend our sympathy and prayers to all their family, including those we meet at our Roanoke church. For Sis. Mae Kae: Bros. Howard, Don and Gerald Sauder and Sis. Mary Schwind. For Bro. Harold: his son, Wayne (Sis. Marjorie), and daughter and son-in-law, recent converts, Marilyn and Bob Ott. For Bro. Dave: his daughter, Laurie (Randy) Ferrero. We wait for that blessed time "from which none ever wakes to weep. Amen."

We thank our special visiting minister, Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), this month who was here on February 25 and then provided a Bible study on Psalm 1 on March 9. May God bless you for coming not once, but twice!

Twins, Jacob and Maxwell Hodel, have another brother to play with. Reuben David was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel on February 22. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).

Receiving prayers for being hospitalized recently include: Bro. Slim Hodel, Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Sis. Mabel Bowald. May they feel healing strength from the Master Physician.

We pray God will bless the efforts from our quilting marathon held the week of March 12 and also the Spaghetti Supper the Bible Class students labored for on March 17. It's such a joy to see the church working and laboring together in love, and a blessed time of fellowship.

Note of Thanks:

I want to say "thank you" to each one of you for all your love and prayers on Shirley's behalf during her illness, her passing and her comforting funeral service. Your love and kindness will always be remembered. May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Gaylord Blunier, his families and his brothers and sisters

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

By faith and grace, two more souls have been added to the family of God. With rejoicing we greeted Bro. Marc Grim and Bro. Jason Hoerr after hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) to assist with the testimonies and baptisms. Additional ministering brothers visiting this month include Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Tim Funk and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL). We extend our appreciation for all your

efforts and labors through the Holy Spirit.

The engagement and anticipated marriage of Sis. Christy Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Daryl Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) of Pulaski, IA, were announced. It is always a delight to share in the joy of two souls brought together by God.

This month a marriage took place between Julie Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette) and Chris Cockrell (Mike and Robin Odell) of Pekin. May they look to God for guidance in their marriage together.

News of those hospitalized always causes us to pray. May we remember Bro. Bob (Sis. Dorothy) Wagenbach and Sis. Jeannette (Bro. Fred) Beutel when requesting the touch of God's healing hand through prayer in Christ Jesus.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever were thankful for the safe arrival of their second son. Joel and his parents welcomed home Todd David on February 24. Grandparents are Bro. Claire and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer (Leo, IN). Also rejoicing over the birth of a son are Daniel and Jeanne Wagenbach. Connor James is the grandson of Si and Sis. LaVonne Wagenbach and Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold (Lester, IA).

Correction: First-time parents are Erik and Carla Yamada. Makiah Quinn was born December 28. George and Dawn Yamada of Bloomington and Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane Leuthold are her grandparents.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and prayers for our 50th wedding anniversary on February 25. God bless each one of you.

Ryan and Betty Hild

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Denise Romersberger

Sue Ruppert

"...that ye may know how that I am the Lord."

Exodus 10:2

This is only one of multiple times throughout scripture that this phrase is used. God uses it in different settings, at different times, and to different peoples. Sometimes it is associated with God speaking to His elect, and sometimes with God speaking to the enemies of His elect. But the essence of the message is the same, God is all powerful, the only God, and He demands attention because of who He is. How would our actions change if our focus became one of letting the Lord work through us to show others that He is the great I AM, the Lord of the universe. Do you think that our prayers would be more readily answered if we always prayed that others would know who He is through whatever circumstances we were dealing with? God can and will work through all situations to bring people to the knowledge of Himself. Because God is so immense, we always have more to learn and understand about Him, even if we have served Him for many years. Let our lives be dedicated to learning, and teaching others, more about our Heavenly Father.

Jesse Nathaniel is the new ar-

rival at the Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames' house. He was welcomed into this world on March 15. His grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Delores Kiefer and Phil and Rita Thames and Kay Thames. Children are such a wonderful miracle from God! May God be with you as you grow and mature, and throughout your entire life!

Activities that have kept our congregation busy have included working at the Mennonite Relief Sale and having a Quilt Day for World Relief. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and efforts on behalf of these worthwhile causes. May God bless all of our efforts on behalf of those who do not have the material blessings that we take for granted.

We also were blessed to have the reading of the Memorandum, for which Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) came to assist. Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) joined us for our monthly Bible Study. Thank you for lending yourselves to us in the preaching of God's Word.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tonia Isch
Beth Aschliman

"And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

Psalm 9:10

We rejoice with Kara Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Jim Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Jenny) as they start their walk with the Lord. We wish them God's grace and peace on this awesome journey.

We have had to say good-bye to

many dear people in Bluffton. Sis. Lorena Steffen (Bro. Ramon) has said farewell to her sister, Eleanor Tope (Laddie). She is comforted to know she will see her again in Heaven. Sis. Shelly Ringger (Bro. Ked) lost her father, Glenn Everett, after an extended illness. After much pain and sickness, we feel comforted he can finally rest. Our Bro. Waltar Speheger has gone to be with the Lord on February 19. His dear wife, Sis. Mary, will miss him greatly after 59 years of marriage. Steven Speheger and Mrs. Donnie (Susan) Tinnel will also miss their father. Sis. Beulah Baumgartner has said good-bye to this earthly home. She passed away on February 22 and is safe in the arms of Jesus. Her brothers, Bro. Raymond and Bro. Glen (Phoenix, AZ), and three sisters, Sis. Clara (Bro. Wilmer) Gerber, Sis. Lucinda (Bro. Ralph) Steffen and Sis. Lorene Baumgartner, will greatly miss her.

Cameron and Diane Steiner had a baby girl, Michelle Leann, on December 21. Sharing their baby sister at home are Elieha, Emily and Aaron. We rejoice with this special family and apologize for missing this information. Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry have had joy come into their home with their first son. On February 27, Corbyn Lee was born. We rejoice with them and grandparents, Bro. Denis and Sis. Debbie Fry and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger. Rick and Jen Schwartz also have their first bundle of joy. Spencer Edward was born March 11. We celebrate new life with Rick and Jen and grandparents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz. Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ma-

rie Gilliom are the happy grandparents of Koby Gene. Koby was born on March 16 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Gilliom. Big brother, Connor, is enjoying his new little brother. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger have a new baby girl. Breann Jean was born March 16. Livia and Kaitlyn are excited to have another sister. Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger are thankful for another healthy grandbaby.

Wedding bells have been ringing for Bro. Chad Lantz (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Stephanie Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee). They were married on February 25. On March 4, Sis. Brandy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy) was wed to Bro. Vince Pfister (Al and Becky). We wish them God's rich blessings. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) was here visiting Bluffton for Bro. Chad and Sis. Stephanie's wedding and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) was in Bluffton to celebrate with Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy. We are thankful again and again for God's willing servants.

Sis. Violet Steffen, Sis. Angie Ifer (Bro. Kurt), Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Lucille Reinhard, and Sis. Amelia Heyerly spent time in the hospital this past month and are now healing at home.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Ones,

Greetings in our Lord. We are trusting God will bless all those that prayed for us during Stacy's hospital stay and funeral. The cards, gifts, love and support we are receiving is overwhelming. We

thank you! "And God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..." Rev. 21

Lovingly,

Jim and Jenny

*Klint, Quinn, Jamy and Seth
Fiechter*

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.

Hymns of Zion #124

"Are you Ready?" was the theme for High School/Middle School Weekend for the converted youth from all the Indiana churches. Bluffton North hosted the event on March 17-18. Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) told how God wants young people to prepare for His service while still staying at home. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) encouraged them to be ready for service in the future when they go—on to the plans God has for them. We really appreciated these ministers also inspiring us on Sunday services. May the Lord bless them for encouraging us to be ready for service in God's army.

The engagement of Bro. Jesse Frauhiger and Sis. Janelle Steffen was announced on March 4. His parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger while Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen are the future bride's. May the Lord guide this dear couple as they make their plans for their life together united in Christ.

Sis. Susan Byerly watched on March 3, as her daughter, Gay, was married to Andrew Stoppenhagen. His parents are Berenice and the late Raymond Stoppenhagen. They now reside in Ossian, IN.

Also joined in marriage, on March 10, was Diane Mason's daughter, Kara, to Brian Wright. Their home is in Fishers, IN. We wish God's blessings on these couples as they start their marriages.

Children are such a gift from God! Ason, Corbyn Lee, brightened the lives of new parents, Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry. He arrived on February 27. His loving grandparents include Bro. Dennis and Sis. Deb Fry (Bluffton) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene's family grew even larger when another grandchild was born on March 16. Baby Breann Jean joined the family of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger and sisters, Livia and Kaitlyn. Breann's other grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bluffton).

Our church said good-bye to Sis. Essie Isch who passed away on February 23. Sis. Essie spent her later years at Bluffton North, as her health was failing. She came here from Union City, NJ. We'll remember her sweet smile and loving spirit. She will be missed by her sister, Sis. Alice Honegger, and many nieces and nephews.

Our prayers are with Bro. Steve Gerber (Sis. Gayla) and his family as he faces further treatment after his surgery. We'll commit him to the Master Physician.

We would like to congratulate Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner on their 50th anni-

versary celebrated March 11. What a testimony of commitment. May they continue to enjoy each other for many more years.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber**

"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:42-43

Can you imagine the hope such words must have given the malefactor hanging next to Jesus? He showed belief and was given hope! May we have renewed hope at this precious time of year, remembering Christ's sacrificial love for us.

We are thankful for God's provision as our Bro. Steve Gutwein was ordained Elder on March 11. Our prayers will be for God's grace and wisdom for you as you fill this new role. May God also continue to bless our dear Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman for his many years of service to the Lord and as he makes the transition to retirement. Your example, leadership, and love have meant so much to us all and no words here could adequately describe our appreciation for you. A special thank you to the Elder Brothers who attended the ordination: Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and retired Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

The results of our elections held this past month are as follows:

Sunday School teaching brothers:

Randy Gudeman, Phil Leman and Linc Rinckenberger

Sunday School teaching sisters:

Joy Huber, Diana Houston and Tami Putt

Church Trustee: Bro. Mike Putt

Ushers: Bros. Wendell Anliker,

Jim Denton, Dale Gudeman and Larry Leman

Missionary Committee: Bro. Ben Metz

Metz

Parkview Village Board: Bro.

Wally Bucher

Fellowship Center Trustee: Bro.

John Murray

We pray God's grace and wisdom be with you all as you fill your new roles in the church.

Welcome to the newest member of Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich's family, Cambria Dawn, born February 23. She is joyfully received by siblings, Bro. Levi, Meagan, Landon and Marissa. May the Lord continue to grant you much grace and wisdom as you raise your children for His glory. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich and Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein.

"The Holy Spirit" was the subject for a recent topical Bible study held during our regular Wednesday night service. Thanks to Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) for his study of this edifying topic.

Our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Donna Westfall (Bro. Carl) at the loss of her mother, Doris Rohloff. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the

face of Jesus Christ." (II Cor. 4:6). May His grace carry you and His glory shine through you in this time of sorrow.

Those that have been in the hospital this past month are Bro. Walter Culp (Sis. Valera), Bro. Joe Gray (Sis. Esther), Sis. Juanita Norman and Jacob Zeltwanger (Bro. David and Sis. Kelly).

Much thanks and praise to God for the time and effort of the visiting ministers and their families who have joined us this past month: Bros. Jim Rinckenberger (Bluffton, IN), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) who joined us for the Memorandum reading and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) joined us for a special meeting of the Sunday School teaching brothers and sisters.

With the Lafayette church now having regular services, we will miss many from our congregation who will be attending there. We pray God's blessings on all who attend.

An extra special thank you to my fellow co-writer of the Silver Lining. Sis. Lily Pelsy (Bro. Roger) has put in many years of dependable and encouraging service. Sis. Jessica Murray (Bro. John) will be the new correspondent and we look forward to working with her.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Your many gifts, cards and prayers while Paul was in the hospital were such an encouragement to us. We could feel God's grace and strength through your acts of kindness. It is so very humbling and we do not feel worthy of such love. God bless you for willing to be His "hands and feet" in ministering to

us.

Because of Christ's Love,
Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber
and family

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

Sue Levy
Gail Bradford

Another young heart has responded to the Lord's calling. Traever Guingrich (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy) has announced his desire for repentance. We rejoice with the angels!

We will miss (but are happy for) several families who began worship this month at the Purdue Fellowship Hall, quite a bit nearer their homes in Lafayette, IN. Over the years, they have faithfully driven the long round trip each Sunday to Indianapolis. We will remember the support they provided us in Sunday School and other tasks. They will remain dear to us!

We experienced both joy this month as we celebrated Communion, and sadness, as our dear Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) transferred his shepherding responsibilities to Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). We look forward to becoming better acquainted with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen, whose daughter, Sis. Kara, and son-in-law, Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein, attend church here.

The Lord provides for us in many ways. He guided our congregation to give support to Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy) to serve our pulpit as our fourth minister. Bros. Ken Wuethrich, Ron Bollier and Greg Stieglitz welcomed them to a continuing life of service.

We appreciate Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) who vis-

ited us this month.

Since last fall a feasibility committee has researched options for ongoing maintenance and possible expansion of our church building. As we study the details outlined in their proposal, we should remember what Jesus said:

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25

INDIANA, LACROSSE Jeremy and Natalie Freed

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

John 15:13-14

Our congregation was blessed to host a number of visitors for Invite-a-Friend weekend. The unity we share with Christ and fellow believers is a unique privilege, as we were reminded through ministering Bros. Larry Wenninger and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

Parting brings tears and sadness, but we wish Shaya Elcock (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) God's blessings as she pursues a career near Philadelphia, PA.

Bro. Aaron Heinold is moving into the Parkview Haven home in Francesville and looks forward to fellowship with other Apostolic Christian residents.

We are grateful for Bro. Brad

and Sis. Julie Rocke's little Virginia Rose who is gaining weight and doing well in newborn intensive care. May the Comforter abide with them continually.

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Praise thou the Lord,
who prepares thee with might
and with wisdom,
Heals thy diseases
and leadeth thee on to His kingdom,
From fear and harm,
His strong and almighty arm
shields and defends thee with
kindness.

Zion's Harp #5

Those I mentioned last month still need our prayers for healing. The Father loves to receive our petitions.

Bro. Marty Langhofer visited us to bring us up to date on his trip to Romania. He visited the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, a dairy farm and orphanage. Last June, our vacation Bible School project was to provide gifts for the orphanage and Bibles for the veterinarians who are very hungry for the Word.

On February 24, we shared in the celebration of Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman's 50th wedding anniversary. It was planned by their children, was a surprise and success.

Bro. Ron Bollier and family (Indianapolis, IN) were with us on a Sunday. We appreciated Bro. Ron's message from Psalm 1. He focused on “delight in the law of the Lord” (vs. 2) and referred to other scriptures, Psalm 37:4 and Isaiah

58:13-14 exhorting us to delight in the eternal and not the material things.

Our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz presented a character study on “Son of Consolation” at our monthly topical Bible study. Do you know who the son of consolation is? Read Acts 4:36-37. He started with Philippians 2:1-5, “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” He exhorted us to be a consoler or encourager. One who consoles/encourages is: first, an example; second, sees himself as a connection to the Body (Col. 2:19, I Cor. 12:25, Acts 9:27); third, he is willing to serve and calls on others to help (Acts 11:20-27); fourth, considers others; fifth, has peace and joy within; sixth, is steadfast to conviction; and lastly, at times needs to be comforted (Heb. 10:24-25, Titus 2:13). He encouraged us to be sons and daughters of Consolation.

Gateway Woods annual rep meeting, March 17, was very inspiring as they reminisced on the beginning and early days of Gateway Woods. Former staffers and board members spoke. We welcomed the visitors, many who stayed for Sunday services. The meeting stressed the blessing of service for Him.

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Gal. 2:20

He lives, He lives
I live, I live
Oh, Hallelujah, oh, Hallelujah
Praise Him, Praise Him
He comes, He comes.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Stacey Feller
Pam Beer**

New jobs brought change into the lives of two couples from our Milford congregation. Bro. John, Sis. Stephanie, Victoria, Amber and Lydia Schlatter moved back to the Alto, MI, area after living in Indiana seven years. We are going to miss their presence and friendliness in our church and Victoria and Amber will be missed in our small Sunday School classes. We hope they come back to visit us often and may they feel God's guidance and nearness in their move to Michigan.

Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter moved to our area from the Chicago, IL, church as Vince took a new job here. We pray they will feel our love and soon feel at home among us.

Besides both starting new jobs, Bro. John and Bro. Vince had more change in their lives when their Grandpa, Bro. Joe Schlatter, from Latty, OH, was taken from this life into the presence of God. We pray that both these families can feel God's peace as one is now missing from their family circle.

We appreciate the visits of ministering Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) this past month. We hope they feel our love and may they always feel welcome to come back and visit us often.

Prayers were answered when Sis. Sandy Beer (Bro. Lee) had successful outpatient surgery. It is nice to see her smiling face back among us. As I write this, Sis. Eleanor Beer (Bro. Howard) is in the hospital and needs our prayers. She is improving every day and we pray she may be back in her own home soon.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler**

On March 3, Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) gathered together with us to witness the testimonies of Abby and Kylie Clauss (Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy), Ashton Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) and Jarod Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie). An evening of inspiration was appreciated by all as these four souls remained so transparent with their journey of faith. Sunday, following, we came together in fellowship for the baptism and greeting of our new brother and sisters in faith.

Following the baptism supper on March 4, our congregation experienced the first Elder ordination in almost 70 years. Elders Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Wayne Anliker (Forest, IL), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Wendell Gudeman and Alfred Bahler were all present for the ordination of our dear Bro. Dan Kilgus and wife, Sis. Jenna. Their parents,

Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene Kilgus and Sis. Doris Getz, supported them on the front bench along with their children, Bro. Aaron, Trent, Sis. Alisia and Stuart. After being exhorted by several Elder brothers on their respective roles, our new shepherd and his wife vowed their commitment to their flock. AS sheep, we were also reminded of the equal responsibilities of fervent prayer, support and submission. Passing the baton to Bro. Dan, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, who has served the Remington congregation ever since 1972, officially made his farewell as our Elder. It certainly remains an evening of humility and gratitude as we gathered in full house to witness this passage of leadership. We thank Bro. Alfred from our hearts for countless hours, prayers and tears spent toward the brethren in Remington.

As a little history, our last local Elder was Bro. Robert Bahler, retiring in 1933. The non-local Elder brethren serving us in this interim were: Bros. Phillip Gutwein (Francesville, IN), George Yergler (LaCrosse, IN), Irvin Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Herman Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN).

Our friends, Alan and Erica Craig (daughter of Bro. Rex and Sis. Tammy Clauss) have chosen to forsake the false security of this present world and are claiming their need of a Saviour through repentance.

Another new beginning this past month was our first evening spent in our recently built fellowship hall, located beside our church. Construction began last fall after completing our church edifice last spring.

Sis. Eliza Getz was hospitalized for several days. Being in her mid 90's, we pray for God to bring comfort in her weakened condition of human frailty.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Lavilla Langhofer
DeAnn Schlatter

Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) read the Memorandum in January. It is always good to be reminded of our church's standing on the important issues covered in the Conference. We pray God will bless them and all the ministering brothers for their service to the church.

Samantha Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Buicky Bouribone were announced for peace. It will be a blessing to hear their testimonies and witness their baptisms. What a joy it is to see young people turning to the Lord!

Many of our congregation were on mission trips recently. Bro. Bob Beebe led a team to Haiti to the S.E.E.D. school, accompanied by Sis. Sue and Kara. Bro. Wayne Lehman spent two weeks in Aqua Prieta, Mexico. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Shirley, as well as Bro. Rich Gramm, Bro. Brad Langhofer, Bro. Craig Langhofer and Sis. Keyna Langhofer. We are thankful that the Lord blessed their work, and they were kept safe in their journeys.

South Bend was blessed by visiting ministers, Bros. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker

We would like to thank Bros. Tom Troxel and Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) for sharing God's Word with us last month while our ministers were out of town. We enjoyed spending time with them and their families at a potluck after church.

Thanks also to Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Peoria, IL) for letting God use him to speak to us last month. May the Lord richly bless each of them for being willing to give of themselves in His service.

Our church held an unusual service and lunch the last weekend of February. A windstorm caused us to lose power during the morning service. Although the lights were out, we were reminded that the Word of God does not need electricity, running water, or the modern conveniences we all enjoy today. All God needs is a voice and ears willing to listen to His message. After a brief break, the morning service continued and we finished church with lunch as planned.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for encouraging us through the reading of the Memorandum on February 24.

Our prayers this month have been with Sis. Gwen Bucher and her family as her grandson, Preston Bucher, was in a serious auto accident. Thanks to God's grace, Preston has recovered and is out of the hospital. It reminds us all that we live each day by God's grace.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Geoff and Angie Ginzel

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

Psalm 122:1

With the support of the Elder body and the local congregation, we will start having church every Sunday starting on March 18. There will be two services: one at 10:00 a.m. and the second at 12:00 p.m. There will be a lunch fellowship break in between the two services. There will also be Sunday School (Pre-K through 12th grade) during the morning service.

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 (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber (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 at 10:00 a.m. for services. 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. Curt Frank and Wendell Gudeman.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Erica Wagenbach
Mary Beth Lehman

"The Son of man must be deliv-

ered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

Luke 24:7

Another spring, another Easter, another opportunity to rejoice and be thankful that this scripture was fulfilled. We feel unworthy, yet so very grateful that Jesus loves us so much.

We rejoice with Brittany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) as she has given her heart and life to the Lord. We pray she will feel His grace mightily each day as she serves Jesus as her Saviour.

Recently, Bro. Dale, Sis. Missy, Heidi, Angie and Mark Banwart moved into our area and are attending the Wolcott church. We welcome them and trust God will bless them here.

I've failed to report the recent additions to Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler's family. They have three new grandchildren: Rebekah Graf (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcy), Gloria Rufener (Lee and Melinda) and Jesse Blades (Anthony and Patsy). May God bless these families with His wisdom and care.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to those who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary with lovely cards and phone calls. God bless each one of you for your kindness.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Reba Waibel

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Brenda Schulz
Karla Gerst

We have had quite a bit of change in Burlington recently. Our little congregation has both lost and grown. We have grown because sev-

eral of the Oakville brethren have moved to Burlington. We pray that we can all feel God's guidance and direction and that He will grant a blessing in this transition.

On the other hand, we lost Sis. Betty Baker as she was called from this life. May God's grace and comfort be with her sisters, Sis. Martha Buehler and Sis. Liberty Gerst (Bro. Richard, Oakville), and the rest of her family.

We had many visitors again this month. We are thankful that Elder Bros. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) shared the Word with us. Ministering Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) was with us for a Wednesday evening. May the Lord richly reward them for their labors in His service.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"He is not here: for he is risen as he said..."

Matthew 28:6

Where would our hope be today if Christ had remained in the tomb?

What a blessing to hear, again, the reading of the Memorandum. How much we need and appreciate these loving words of warning and encouragement as we continue in faith's battle.

Little flock in haste assemble
And to Zion's mount repair!
Lo, the prince of world and darkness
for the conflict does prepare.
See the judgment day is coming,
as a thief in darkest night;
Then awake and watch ye righteous;

Walk as children of the light!

Zion's Harp #51

May God bless Bro. Wayne Grimm and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for reading and expounding on this year's "letter to the churches."

Our new church progress continues. A special thanks to those who have donated many hours with our painting, staining, refinishing, plumbing and electrical needs over the winter months. May God bless the efforts put forth as we build a place of worship where He can be honored when we tell our children, "This is God's House."

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

As we experience the first day of Spring, we are surrounded by many miracles of our great God, from the tiny green leaves emerging on long-dormant trees to the new lambs and calves frisking around their mothers in the pastures.

We welcome the miracle of a new baby, Aaron Christopher Mogler. Aaron was born to Jennifer and Todd Mogler and has a sister, Dakota. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (West Bend, IA) and Bill and Juanita Buttrey (Cainsville, MO). We pray for God's blessings as little Aaron grows up.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) share the Word with us. Thank you, Bro. Leroy.

We enjoyed the fellowship as a group from Oakville, IA, spent a Sunday with us recently. It is always good to gather together with God's children.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! We were blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). In addition, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) came to assist Bro. Joe Gerst in sharing the Memorandum with us. May God bless them and their families for so lovingly giving of themselves for us. So many good teachings were shared with us. May we be encouraged and seek the grace necessary to submit to the Lord's pruning in the areas of our life that need correction. As the Word instructs us that man must live by EVERY word of the Scripture, let us not pick and choose what we will heed. May we "show proof of our love" by submitting to the exhortations given so lovingly and prayerfully by our Elder brethren, "for they watch for our souls."

IOWA, LESTER Dawn Metzger Dawn Knobloch

Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla Gerber were blessed with their first child. Katrina Mae was born on February 21. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris, MN). Sis. Emma Gerber is Katrina's great-grandmother.

We were thankful to have Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) with us this month. May God continue to bless him for willingly sharing the Word with us.

We wish God's healing hand upon those in our congregation who have needed medical care. Healing

from broken bones have been Katie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori), Sis. Eunice Knobloch, Sis. Doreen Meyer and Sis. Jeanne Knobloch (Bro. Dan). Same-day surgery patients this month were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Bro. Wes Moser. May God continue to be with Bro. Ron Kellenberger as he recovers at the Tuff Memorial Home from hip surgery. Sis. Laretta Knobloch and Sarah Feucht were also hospitalized this month.

The engagement of Bro. Rick Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Christine) to Sis. Ruth Kuenzi (Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane) of Silverton, OR, was made known on February 25. We pray that God will direct and bless them as they plan their life together.

On March 11, our congregation bid farewell to Sis. Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. David and Sis. Margene). We pray God's blessings will be upon her as she makes her home at Silverton, OR.

We are looking forward to an April wedding for Sis. Sally Heyer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) of Oakville, IA. Their betrothal was announced on February 4.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

Visiting ministering brothers this past month were Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). We are thankful to each one of them for allowing themselves to be used in the Lord's service and on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell

(Sabetha, KS) was able to be with us to assist Elder Bro. Ed in the serving of Holy Communion. What a time of spiritual renewal and refreshing. May we never forget how much our precious Lord and Saviour did for us. May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Gerry for his labors.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:2-3

IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

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

Genesis 2:18

Believing it is God's will, Bro. Daryl Wiegand (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Christy Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice) have announced their engagement. We look forward to having Sis. Christy assemble with us.

Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger celebrated 50 years together on March 30. May God continue to bless them in the years to come.

Sharing the Word of Life with us February 18 was Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN). We appreciate his willingness to serve us.

Note: A light brown London Fog dress coat (size 6) was left at church in the last year. Please contact Sis.

Karoline Wuthrich for additional information at 641-664-2950.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Lori Skogland
Berniece Banwart**

The third weekend in February was a stormy, wintry day. We were especially thankful Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) was able to travel safely from Sabetha, KS, to assist with the testimonies and baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome into our church family Bro. Ben and Sis. Krissa Skogland (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) and wish them much grace as they strive on toward the heavenly goal.

An encouragement to faithfulness was brought to us by Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL).

On a recent Sunday, Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) brought us much food for thought. We appreciate the efforts that all ministering brothers put forth in our behalf.

Two newborn babies have been added to our congregation. First-time parents, Jeff and LaRae Montag, were blessed with a little girl on February 18. Karissa Lynn is being enjoyed by her grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Ed and Luann Montag. Colman Wayne was welcomed into the home of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Ann Grimm on March 3. He has two older brothers, Nathan and Nolan, and grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr, to help look after his well-being. May God grant these parents much wisdom to raise these children according to His will that it may be well with their souls.

Our thoughts and prayers have

been with many of our loved ones who have been and are suffering bodily afflictions and some with ongoing treatments. Those who spent time in hospitals are Bro. Vic (Sis. Marilyn) Banwart, Eva Banwart, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine) Schmidt, Bro. Cameron (Sis. Tammy) Knobloch, Marie Fisher, Patsy (Fred Jr.) Wirtz and Helen Gerber. All have been released from hospitals but Helen Gerber is now residing at the Algona Manor Care Center, 2221 E. McGregor, Algona, IA 50511.

As we prepare for Holy Communion and the Easter season, may we ponder seriously on the price that was paid for our sins so that we can walk the path of life in peace and joy.

'Twas by a path of sorrows drear
Christ entered into rest;
And shall I look for roses here,
Or think the world is blessed?
Heaven's whitest lilies blow
From earth's sharp crown of woe:
Who here his crown can meekly
bear,
Shall wear the kingly purple
there.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Ayako Inoue

Greetings from Japan again this month. The weather is getting warmer every day, and the plum blossoms are blooming beautifully.

On February 25, the Shioda congregation gathered for the reading of the Memorandum letter. It was a good opportunity to think about "fearing God" in our daily life.

In Japan, March is the ending month of the school year and also in business. We are thankful God led us safely through the past year and

ask for His guidance in the coming next year.

We are looking forward to a couple of events which are coming up soon. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehle's family will be visiting Japan and we will also have guests from Hungary. We pray for God's blessings upon their visit.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Matthew 6:28-29

This verse comes to my mind as I see all of the flowers and blossoms bursting out now that Spring has come. They are so beautiful, surpassing any beauty that man, even a king, could create. How can we not praise the Master Artist? And I think most of us know that the verses continue on saying that God is the One who cares for these flowers, but much more even for us humans whom He has created in His own image. May our faith be increased.

Springtime in Japan is the same as many places in America in that new life bursts forth both in plants and animals, but different from America in that a new school and work year begins. Graduations, starting school ceremonies and work transfers or beginnings are taking place everywhere at this time. It is an exciting, but rather emotional time of the year.

There is not too much to report this month as far as church happen-

ings, but we did have another business meeting concerning our Church Building Project and really feel the Lord is guiding us in this endeavor. We are discussing the building plans and several of the brothers have met with the building contractor recently to discuss details. We continue to pray all will be worked out in peace and in the Lord's way and timing.

We enjoyed a visit from Bro. Andrew Klaus' younger brother, Tim, who is working for Illinois State University, but likes to take time off to visit the country where he was born. He was able to worship with us and have supper together. We are looking forward to a visit from a couple from one of our Hungarian churches this coming Sunday. More will be reported on this next month.

KANSAS, BERN

Sally Strahm Lori Baumgartner

We are beginning to notice the subtle signs of spring after a long Kansas winter...the earthy smell of thawing ground, large flocks of geese flying north, an occasional robin, and tinges of green in the lawns and wheat fields. Once again we are reminded of God's unending power as we watch the barren brown landscape become clothed again in various shades of green. A "spring cleaning" feeling begins to stir up in us as we think about cleaning out a cluttered closet, picking up sticks in the yard, or raking dead leaves out from under our shrubs and bushes. As we ready our homes and yards for the season ahead, let us also ready our hearts. Do we need to get rid of some envy, pride, or bitterness? Maybe we need

to throw away an old grudge that we've been carrying for too long. Although it takes effort, through humble prayer and God's grace, we can be renewed in spirit.

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

Psalm 51:10

We are happy to report a new addition to the family of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Strahm. Their daughter, Kate Elizabeth, was born on February 23. She is welcomed home by two brothers, Joshua and Ryan. Kate's grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie Strahm and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO).

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice..."

Romans 12:15

On February 25 we were able to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Cara Hartter and Bro. Jeff Steffen (Morton, IL). We rejoice with this new couple and their parents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter and Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie Steffen (Morton, IL). May the Lord guide and direct Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cara as they establish their home near Morton, IL. We were thankful for the many visitors that were here to share in Bro. Jeff and Sis. Cara's special weekend. We wish to express our appreciation to visiting ministers, Bros. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), for sharing with us from God's Word.

We also have reason to "...weep with them that weep." (Romans

12:15). Sis. Evelyn Robinson passed from this life on February 12. We express our sympathy to Sis. Evelyn's niece, Laurie Wilson (Lee), and her family. Sis. Evelyn's nephew, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), was here to help at her funeral service on February 19.

Upon hearing of the death of Brianna Sinn, the 16 year old daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith of Silverton, OR, we wish to express our deep sympathy to her grandfather, Bro. Dan Edelman, and her aunts, uncles and cousins: Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and their families. May the Lord comfort them during this very difficult time.

God has directed a new family to our congregation. We gladly welcome Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm and their three children, Monica, Brady and Caleb. They have moved here from Elgin, IL. As Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona are formerly from this area, we hope that they will soon feel "at home" here.

We appreciated having many visitors with us the weekend of March 3-4 for our invite-a-friend weekend. How special it is to renew old ties and to make new ones too. We wish to thank visiting ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) for willingly sharing God's Word with us that weekend.

We wish everyone a blessed Easter as we remember our Lord's death and His resurrection from the grave. Because He lives we can face the future with hope!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Joleen Sinn

What a blessing it is when our church family can share the Lord's Supper together. Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) shared Communion with us this past month. We want to thank them and their wives for making the trip and being God's vessels.

We enjoyed invite a friend weekend. We want to thank all who visited us, especially Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) who shared God's Word with us.

On Saturday afternoon just before the company started arriving for invite a friend, our former Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart had a fall. He fractured the second vertebra, and was life flighted to St. John's hospital in Joplin, MO. On Tuesday he underwent surgery and is doing well. Our prayers are with him and his family through the long recovery. We also have prayers of thanksgiving that God saw fit to leave Bro. Raymond with us a little longer. We always need the wisdom of our elders in Christ.

KANSAS, KIOWA Laura Wagenbach Jennifer Stewart

"God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him."

We were very blessed this past month to have ministering Bro. Greg Lehman and his wife, Sis. Mary Beth, and their children (Wolcott, IN) spend the weekend with us. Saturday night we enjoyed fellowship with an all church potluck and singing, and on Sunday we were blessed when Bro. Greg brought us the Word.

The weekend of March 10 brought another special event as our dear Bro. Richard Guthrie celebrated his 90th birthday. Many of his family came to spend the weekend with him and Sis. Florence. We are always grateful for special occasions that help fill our church on Sunday.

We are thankful Sis. Mildred Frieden is back with us after having knee surgery. Special prayers go to Sis. Mildred Farney as she has had a bad bout of pneumonia.

Hymns...the way we would sing them if we were honest...

"I Surrender Some"
"Interesting Grace"
"Blessed Hunch"
"What An Acquaintance We Have in Jesus"
"Take My Life and Let Me Be"
"My Hope is Built On Nothing Much"
"I'm Fairly Certain That My Redeemer Lives"
"Blest Be The Tie That Doesn't Cramp My Style"
"Oh God Our Enabler In Ages Past"
"I've Got Peace Like A Trickle"
"Just As I Pretend To Be"

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

Saturday evening, March 3, our congregation assembled together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) who was with us for this service. We are thankful for our dear Elder brothers who have the oversight of our most precious church.

We appreciated all of our visitors

for Invite a Guest Weekend, especially ministering Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO). May God richly bless them for sharing God's Word with us.

Sunday, March 11, we bade farewell to Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr and family. They have now moved to the Morton-Washington, IL area. They will be greatly missed.

Our prayers are with Sis. Matilda Beyer who was in the hospital this month with pneumonia. Also, our prayers continue to be with Sis. Ada (Bro. Ivan) Beyer who has been taking chemo treatments for colon cancer. We certainly miss her not being able to assemble with us.

During this Easter season, let us strive to remember just how much Jesus did for each one of us so we could have the most wonderful gift of salvation.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for their prayers during my illness.
Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan)

KANSAS, SABETHA Brenda Grimm Mary Kay Wenger

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:1-3

Invite-a-Guest weekend March

10-11 brought many visitors to our congregation. We appreciate all those that came and especially for our visiting ministers, Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA).

Our other visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL). May the Lord bless him for his labors of love.

Bro. Larry Bailey has been in our thoughts and prayers as he has undergone surgery this month.

March 18 we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Ryan Menold and Sis. Tiffany Kellenberger. We wish them God's blessings as they continue to grow in love for each other and for Him. We will certainly miss Sis. Tiffany as she now will assemble in Bern. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Kathy Rokey (Bern, KS) and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger. We want to thank ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) for their work this weekend.

With joy we heard the engagement of Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen) to Sis. Angela Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna, Bern, KS). May the Lord bless them during this special time in their lives.

As spring is soon approaching with new life and bloom everywhere, it reminds us of the new life we can have through Jesus Christ our Lord. He went to Calvary and died a cruel and awful death, but then His resurrection from the grave has given us hope of life eternal with Him someday. May we meditate upon this great miracle during this Easter season.

Beautiful morning!
Day of hope, dawn of a better

life;
Now in thy peaceful hours we
rest,
far from earth's noise and strife.

Beautiful morning!
All the week waiteth thy welcome
light,
Since thy first dawning, calm and
clear,
out of the darkest night.

Beautiful morning!
Grief and pain, weeping before
the tomb,
Fly at thy dawning, Jesus rose,
Jesus dispelled the gloom.

Chorus:
Morning of resurrection joy.
Day when the Saviour rose,
Singing shall greet thy opening
hour,
Singing shall mark thy close.
Gospel Hymns #247

Reminder: April is our annual
collection for the Silver Lining.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation experienced a blessed, but sad weekend February 24-25. First the blessings. Elder Bros. Ed Lanz and Jay Luthi served Communion Saturday evening. They and their wives had to travel through wet foggy weather and we are so thankful for their safe passage. Sunday afternoon, Bro. Ed announced that he was retiring from serving as Wichita's Elder. Fortunately, he was able to name Bro. Jay as his replacement. We thank God that Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan were willing to minister to us these past years and we are likewise thankful that Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane are willing to accept the responsi-

bility.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel became grandparents again on February 22 when Reuben David was born to their daughter, Sis. Jennifer, and Bro. Jeff Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Charlie Grimm underwent quadruple by-pass surgery this morning, March 16. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Gail during this stressful time. We sincerely pray for Bro. Charlie's healing.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Kirby Reutter

This was certainly a busy and blessed month for little Ixtlan. On February 18, Bro. Curt Schmidgall from Oakville, IA (Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Lorenia Sibaja (Felix and Sis. Lourdes). We wish them the grace and peace of God Almighty as they together seek to establish a new home consecrated to the Lord Jesus Christ. Present for the ceremony was a host of American brethren (including ministering Bro. Jon Schmidgall), not to mention a large number from the community. The following weekend was just as busy and just as blessed. As a church, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of faith of four precious souls: Eloisa Aguilar de Magana, Berta Carrillo de Gonzalez, Gloria Gonzalez, and Silvia Cabrera. The combination of young and old, mother and daughter, shows just how powerful the Spirit is who works in the hearts of men, without respect of persons. On February 15 the four submitted to baptism, vowing life-long service to their Lord and Creator. In the evening we as a church shared Holy Communion one with another, re-

membering the body that was broken and the blood that was shed to make this all possible. Assisting in the Lord's work throughout the weekend were Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). Also present were ministering Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). When we reflect upon the events of the past two weeks, whether marriage in the flesh or marriage to Christ, we cannot help but recall the words of the Apostle Paul, how he said: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

Meet Irma Martinez de Roque

I grew up in a family that did not place much importance on religion. As a girl I was pretty normal. I married Jose Roque just before my seventeenth birthday. After our first child was one year of age, Jose returned to work in the States, as he had done before we were married. This pattern of going to the US for about a year to work and then returning for a couple of weeks to visit continued until our third child was born. After that the whole family moved to the States. I was happy with the life there but after two years the children and I moved back to Ixtlan. Jose remained another year before joining us. One day he called and told me that he had been baptized (see "Ixtlan, Mexico" March issue). I said, "You've already been baptized." He told me that infant baptism didn't mean anything and promised to explain it all to me when he got back. When he returned, he wanted me to sit and read the Bible with him, which at

first I thought was pretty boring. But then I began to enjoy the things he was reading and I soon doubted what I had formerly thought to be right. He explained that the saints and images were dead idols without any power to do miracles. I didn't want to believe him, but after he would leave for work I began to read the Bible for myself. When I read the same verses over again I began to tremble. After that I read the Bible often, but never when Jose was in the house. When I read about the "judgment to come" I could feel my own guilt. Jose kept inviting me to go to the church he had found in Ixtlan, but I was afraid that they would ask me questions. He assured me that they wouldn't, and so I finally agreed to go one time. I was so embarrassed that first time (I had never sung out of a hymnal before), and so I resolved never to come back. Then when the people went outside to fellowship, a young sister approached me and began to visit. Well, I did come back, and by the third time I felt "at home." A struggle began to take place in my mind. I knew I had to make a decision - which way was I going to go? Once I finally made the decision to repent, that burden was lifted. I confessed my sins and experienced a peace that my heart could hardly even contain. I wanted to tell everyone in my family about the peace that I felt. Now I could finally rest. Jose and I were baptized together on November 21, 1999. We both are very thankful to the Lord for the change in our lives and in our home. Before there was no peace, only conflict. Now we are united in our desire to rear our children in the ways of the Lord. Our oldest daughter, Nancy, has now begun her repen-

tance. We thank the Lord for giving us peace in our hearts; a peace that we can't even describe with words.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Sandy Schutte
Kristen Plattner

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."

Gal. 5:22-23

A new mother was holding her tiny child in awe and wonder of God's gift. The grandmother told her to be very careful, for the child was like a cup full of love and joy, gentleness and goodness and his cup was overflowing into hers. The young mother responded, "Why then should I be careful if what's in my baby's cup spills on me?" The grandmother replied, "But what is your cup full of, for it will spill onto your child." God makes each of us as a cup and we fill it, but with what we choose. Some choose as Gal. 5:22-23 speaks, but others choose hate, greed, anger, envy, and malice. As we go about life and we bump into people, a part of us spills out. What part of you do you want to spill out onto others?

We extend congratulations to Reo and Andera Rodriquez on the birth of Randy Rider Steven. We praise the Lord for healing that has occurred since his birth and he is now home with his family. Joining them is his sister, Tallia. Andera is the daughter of Sis. Rhonda Rairigh.

Congratulations to Rob and Rachel Cadwallader on the birth of Ryan Thomas. Ryan joins his

brother, Alex. Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk. Joanna Blough and Jason Ellanbaas were united in marriage on March 10. Parents of the bride are Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough. Jason's parents are Jim and Deb Ellanbaas of Lake Odessa.

The engagement was announced of Danielle Oesch to Jon Eickhoff. Danielle is the daughter of Ken and Sis. Denise Oesch.

We want to welcome Bro. John and Stephanie Schlatter into our area and congregation. Bro. John's employment brought them back after being away for a number of years. We are excited to have them back with us and their three daughters, Victoria, Amber and Lydia.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Glenn Riggerbach (Sis. Louise, Smithville, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Rev. 21:4

Sympathy goes to Bro. Ott Schlatter and Sis. Pat and their family on the death of Bro. Ott's father, Bro. Joe Schlatter, Latty, OH.

Home from the hospital and recovering nicely is Bro. Fred Oesch from shoulder surgery. Our prayers are with Denny Keohl that he will be able to once again fellowship with us after his hospitalization.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Peggy Jackson
Rhonda Knochel**

Our congregation rejoiced this month as two souls chose to give their lives to the Lord. Moonlight Szabo (Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail) and Amy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) both heeded God's call in repentance. We are excited for them and their families and pray that they will feel the love of our congregation and God's nearness as they walk with the Lord.

We also were thankful to hear of the changed life of Sis. Jenay Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay) as she gave her testimony to the church. We are always thrilled to see God working in the lives of new believers. There is nothing more exciting or encouraging than the testimony of a transformed life. We pray that Sis. Jenay will continue to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as she continues to walk with Him.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and his wife, Sis. Shirley (Milford, IN), for being with us on this special weekend. We also want to thank Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and his wife, Sis. Connie, for also being willing to minister to our congregation. May God richly bless these brothers for their labors of love.

Among the rejoicing we also experienced sorrow this month in the loss of Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl). Although we are thankful that she has won the victory, she will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Earl and their family. It is our hope that the tender heart of Jesus will comfort them in their loss.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Esther Waibel and Bro. Earl Ramseyer as they both spent time

in the hospital this month. We pray for a complete recovery and that they will be comforted by the knowledge that they are in God's tender care.

With the coming of spring, and the new life it brings, we hope that you will be encouraged to experience new life in Christ. May God be with each of you this month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard
Holly Barton**

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Tom Knochel (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Justin Ooms (Sarasota, FL), both of whom are now living in our area. We are thankful the Lord has led them to be a part of our church family and pray that they will soon feel at home here.

"...when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle; which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation. And Judas and Silas...exhorted the brethren with many words..."

Acts 15:30-32

Like the believers in Antioch in the first century, our congregation gathered together this month to hear the consolation and exhortation of the Elders and ministers, the Memorandum. And like those early believers, we rejoice that our church leaders still come together to prayerfully consider the Holy Spirit's direction for the church and that we have local Elders who pass along these exhortations to us. We greatly appreciate having Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) come to assist Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in the reading of the Confer-

ence letter.

Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) came to minister at Woodhaven this month. Traveling with him were his wife, Sis. Sandy, and their twin toddlers, Michael and David, who were a big hit with the residents! A big thank-you to the Steffens for coming down for the evening.

Our prayers are with Conner Moilanen, young son of Karl and Kerry, who was recently hospitalized. When Jesus was here on earth He was often tender with children - surely He still looks down in tenderness when our little ones are hurting.

Likewise, when any of God's "grown-up" little ones are hurting, He is there to comfort. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine Krieger on the death of his grandmother, Rose Sheetz.

There is a void in our church with the passing of another pillar of the faith, Bro. George Popp (the late Sis. Helen). After suffering from cancer, he passed away March 15. Bro. George was admired and beloved by everyone who knew him - not only his family and fellow believers but those whose lives he touched while in the hospital and convalescent home. He will be especially missed by his daughter, Sis. Bonnie; son, Richard (Carol); four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Ray (Florida); and a sister, Margaret Vingerelli (Seattle, WA). Although we will greatly miss Bro. George's ready smile and sense of humor, we rejoice to have known him and rejoice even more that he knew the Savior. With our salvation, it truly is Who you know that is important. As we celebrate the death and resurrection this month of God's beloved

Son, let's praise Him for the opportunity to know Him - here and throughout eternity.

Which Will Be Your Choice?
On one side stands the crowd.
Jeering.
Baiting.
Demanding.

On the other side stands a peasant.
Swollen lips.
Lumpy eyes.
Lofty promise.

One promises acceptance,
the other a cross.
One offers flesh and flash,
the other offers faith.

The crowd challenges, "Follow us
and fit in."
Jesus promises, "Follow me and
stand out."

They promise to please.
God promises to save...

God looks at you and asks...
Which will be your choice?

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart**

Prayers are with our hospital patients. Sis. Bernadine Miller is fighting pneumonia, Sis. Millie Schmidgall had surgery for a broken hip and is recuperating at a care center and 9 year old Tanner Kent (Sis. Rachel and Darcy) has recovered from pneumonia and an appendectomy.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Proverbs 17:22

Visiting ministers this past month have been our dear Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). We thank them and their families for lending themselves in God's service.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Cheryl Messner

Dianne Kellenberger

We're so thankful for our precious faith, for our church, for the fellowship we share with those of kindred minds.

We extend our appreciation to our visiting ministers this past month who sought the Lord on our behalf. They were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Trusting that God has brought them together, the engagement of Bro. Andrew Messner (Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy) to Sis. Kara Wulf (Bro. Davis and Sis. Nancy) was announced. We pray that they will feel God's continued guidance as they make plans for their wedding.

We feel so richly blessed to have three more cherished souls added to the fold. On March 10-11, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of ReKeeta Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Kurt Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), and Tom Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Merilyn).

Oh, who among the sons of men,
By word or song or deed or pen,
Can every fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day.
It gilds the holy sacred page,
It brings to every clime and age,

To every people, tribe and race
The story of redeeming grace.

The blessed Paschal feast of old,
With mystic meaning does unfold,
For these the Paschal Lamb was slain,
The Hebrews safety to attain.
When angels saw the blood applied,
Upon the lintel doorpost wide
Then they pass'd over every home
In mercy where the blood was shown.

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb
He is the great "I was, I Am"
Through Calvry's pain and dismal gloom,
He conquered over death and tomb.
He rose His own to justify,
And draws all men up to the sky.
If you have found the Christ, His way,
Then you can keep this Easter day.
Hymns of Zion #89

As Easter approaches, let us again be mindful of our Saviour dying on the cross and shedding His innocent blood for our sins that we might have eternal life.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Carol Ann Messner
Marilyn Messner

The stone wasn't rolled
away from the tomb
So that Jesus could leave;
He was already gone.

It was rolled away
so that doubters like me

Could look in and cry,
I believe! I believe!
—*L. Thomas*

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
II Cor. 5:17

We thank Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and many others for their visit and fellowship. A timely message was given on Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Minnesota has had a long cold winter, filled with snow storms. We have set new winter records with cold temperatures and amount of snow. We are reminded in Amos 3:15, "And I will smite the winter house with the summer house," and Psalm 74:17 "Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter." Prayers and thoughts are extended for the healing of Bro. Wes Schmidt (Rhonda) and for baby Thomas (son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll).

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Komari Neal

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

Matthew 26:26-28

This is the time of year that many of us prepare for Holy Communion, the sacred ceremony to remember and honor the sacrifice of Christ's body and blood on the cruel cross. In Kansas City, we prepared our hearts and partook of Holy Communion on March 11. This is such a special time for our brothers and sisters as we gather together as a united body. We are very thankful to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) who joined us to assist our own Elder Bro. Don Braker with the Holy Communion service.

Our dear Sis. Anna Lou Aberle has recovered from her bout with pneumonia and has been able to rejoin us in Kansas City after she spent several weeks in her Sabetha apartment. Illnesses have been prevalent this winter and we are thankful that most of our congregation is feeling better.

We have learned some news that saddens our hearts as well. Todd and Sis. Julia Pyle will be moving their family from the Kansas City area. Todd has accepted employment at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant near Burlington, KS. They, along with their children, Aubrey, Garrison and Alyssa, will be joining the Lamont-Gridley congregation. We will miss their family, but wish them God's blessings in this new endeavor.

Another of our dear sisters, Sophie Delph, has asked that a note of thanks be written to all who have shown their love during the last few months as she endures the effects of cancer. The abundance of prayers, singing over the telephone, cards, food and other gifts is greatly appreciated by Sis. Sophie and Bro.

Jesse. It is this type of love that exemplifies brotherly love.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Kristen Braker
Kristi Huber**

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital. They are Bro. Raymond Luthi (Sis. Vi), Bro. Dale Marti (Sis. Corrine), Bro. Arthur Banwart (Sis. Ruth), and Mark Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa). We are thankful for those that are feeling better, and pray God will continue to heal as He sees best.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship with many from far and near when we had an invite a friend weekend this past month. Among those visiting were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). May God bless these brothers for ministering His Word to us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Peg Haerr

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL) who ministered to us last month. Bro. Ken came along with the Peoria Choir who sang for us March 11 after Sunday services. May God bless each one who visits Taylor!

We rejoice with Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Debra) who has decided to give her life to the Lord! We're so thankful that Sis. Jackie Heimer was spared serious injury in a recent accident! Praise be to the Lord for His loving kindness!

Those experiencing ill health are Bro. Don Hoerr (Sis. Elaine), Sis.

Lois Sutter (Bro. James), Bro. Allen Massner (Sis. Rosie) and Jody Hoerr (Stacy). We are thankful all are doing better now.

Several from our congregation have new grandchildren. Celia Mae was born January 20 to David and Teena Pflum (Minneapolis, MN). Her grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marian Pflum. Her big brother is Jack. First-time parents of Wade Thomas are Bro. Casey and Sis. Jamie Knobloch (Gridley, IL). Wade was born March 14 and his grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp and Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch (Gridley, IL). May God bless these families with grace and wisdom!

We're sad to say goodbye to Bro. Jason and Sis. Courtney Hoerr, who are moving to Peoria, IL. We will miss them, but we are glad to welcome Doug and Amy Hoerr and their three children, Jessica, Mac and Mark back to the Taylor area! May we all try our best to follow God's leading!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Anna Mellnitz

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Well, spring is almost here. They will soon be tapping the trees for the maple syrup season. We will begin our Wednesday night services on March 21.

Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe are back home after spending some time at their daughter Betty's.

Sis. Becky Virkler (Bro. Andy) was in the hospital but is back home now. Sis. Anna Mellnitz had cataract surgery and is recovering. Thankful the Lord hears our prayers for our loved ones.

Sis. Mary Ramseyer (Bro. Earl, Bay City, MI) passed on to her eternal reward. She is a sister of Sis. Esther Rauhe.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

OHIO, AKRON

Joyce Gasser

Our Akron church was host to the Ohio Young People the weekend of February 17-18 and it was a blessing to have them worship with us on Sunday.

We held "Family Night" at the new World Relief Center which has been built near Rittman for our churches in the area to use. Everyone at Akron was invited to come and help with various projects which were designed for all ages to help. Also a delicious "Haystack" supper was served.

Bro. John Graf has been hospitalized and transferred to Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation for therapy.

We enjoyed services recently of Bros. Michael Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Anita Steiner

Visiting us this past month were Bros. Mike Baumann (Mansfield,

OH), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). May God bless them for their efforts and may He also bless each one that came to visit us this month.

We would like to welcome Will Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky) home from Texas.

OHIO, JUNCTION **Cindy Schlatter**

Shana Rae Manz was born on February 26 to bless the household of Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Latty, OH). May God be with these new parents and give much wisdom and grace to raise dear Shana.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) with us as we partook of Holy Communion. It was a very blessed evening for our congregation to spend together and ponder what all our Lord and Saviour endured for us.

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) recently spent a weekend with us. We trust God to bless him for his labors on our behalf.

OHIO, LATTY **Kathy Sinn** **Heidi Hackenjoes**

On the weekend of February 24-25, Julie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. Joanne) and Blane and Rustin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) gave their testimonies and were baptized before a "cloud of witnesses". Can we ever thank the Lord enough for His marvelous grace and call to repentance? We welcome these new "lambs" into our flock. May our lives reflect the

Lord's will and not create a stumbling block to those around us. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Ray Sinn with the duties during the weekend.

During the past month we have had the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA) and Mike Rinkenberg (Congerville, IL). We thank them for their visit and welcome them back when the Lord opens the way. Trusting in the Lord to give them words to speak, we ask for grace to live as the Word has directed us.

We rejoice with Mitch Schlatter (Gus and Sis. Leann) who confesses to have peace with God and man. May the Holy Spirit be ever near for Mitch as he gives his testimony. Then may this same Spirit be ever welcomed within the cleansed and purified heart, now and in the future.

The end of time has come for several family members of our congregation. Our prayers are for Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn during the loss of their niece, Brianna Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith, Silverton, OR). Sis. Clara Sinn witnessed her sister, Sis. Minnie Fetter (Toledo, OH), laid to rest. May the Holy Spirit be a Comforter to each of these family circles. Our faith must be anchored by the promise that the Lord will not leave or forsake us. His timing is right on time and without error.

Our congregation laid to rest Joe Schlatter (Sis. Elsie). We wish to extend sympathy to his family cir-

cle which includes: Sis. Elsie, Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter (Alto, MI), Gus and Sis. Leann Schlatter (Latty, OH), Bro. Eli and Sis. Janel Schlatter (Latty, OH), Bro. Joseph Schlatter, Jr. (Latty, OH) and Carolyn Heyerly.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Mary Eisenmann as she was again admitted to the hospital. We trust that the Holy Spirit will be ever near her during the coming days.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **John and Marci Pfeiffer**

"Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."

Luke 15:6

We rejoice with our Bro. Tony Eichof who after 88 years has found salvation through Jesus Christ. Bro. Tony gave his testimony on Wednesday, March 7, and was baptized on Sunday, March 11. His daughter is Sis. Pat Beer (Bro. Ken).

We are glad to report two new births. Bro. Steve and Sis. Brenda Domka are the happy parents of a daughter, Alora Anne. Alora was born on February 19. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Eszter Orcsik (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann Domka. On February 24, Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever were blessed with a son, Todd David. He has an older brother, Joel. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laoretta Schafer (Leo, IN) and Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever are thankful to have another grandson.

Sis. Donna Gabor (Bro. Dale), Ella Erhart, Sis. Kristy Tucker, Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank) and

Frank Graszl Jr. (Ruth) have all spent time in the hospital this month. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

Two of our sisters have recently moved to nursing homes. Their new addresses are:

Alice Graszl
Ranchwood Place
74 Elmridge Road
Mansfield, OH 44909

Anna Webel
Apostolic Christian
Nursing Home
10680 Steiner Road
Rittman, OH 44270

OHIO, RITTMAN
Cheryl Hartzler
Beth Beery

Pilate glanced at Jesus...There was something about this prisoner that caught his attention—His calmness, that of a man at peace, devoid of fear...The soldiers...bound His hands to a stake, above His head. The lictor entered—a powerful Roman soldier from Syria, his torso bare, in his hands the scourge, a rounded wooden stock with leather thongs ending in pieces of bone and iron. The lictor stopped in front of Jesus, looked at Him with a contemptuous sneer. He was pleased at the prospect of whipping this Jew with the lash of Rome. He walked around to the back of the stake and stood there with legs straddled. He glanced at the centurion, who stood to one side, his arms folded on his chest. The centurion gave the signal. The Syrian made a wide sweep with the whip. It whistled dully and curled around Jesus' chest. As the ends of the whip lacerated His

flesh, He gasped with the searing pain. His knees buckled, but He remained upright, His head far back. The lictor grinned. He had known men to collapse with a single blow. Again the whip swung back, and, lashing forward, sliced into His chest. Again and again, with a regular, murderous rhythm. The centurion looked hard at the prisoner. He had to see to it that Jesus was not beaten to death. He gave a swift order. The lictor stepped unwillingly aside... Someone fetched a pail of water. The cold water descended on the tortured body, and the half-conscious man gasped and twitched spasmodically... Again and again they doused Him. And each time He closed His eyes, shrinking from the onslaught of the icy, fiery water...When He was on His feet once more, they knew it was time for sport, as was the custom when someone had been lashed.

A red cloak was fetched, and they hung it on Him. Soft as the material was, it added to His torture. They had heard that He was called the king of the Jews. Someone pushed a thick reed into His hand. "This is Your scepter," a soldier said, and struck Jesus lightly across the mouth. "And this is Your crown, O King of Galilee," another added. Somebody had plaited a crown from twigs and thorns. The soldier forced it down on Jesus' head, so that the blood seeped slowly across His brow, down His neck, over His swollen cheeks, even into His eyes. A soldier took the reed from Him and struck Him on the head. He stood there, His whole body shuddering, and every now and again His muscles jerked fiercely with shock and pain. Someone brought a footstool. "Let Him

be seated. This is Your throne, O King of the Jews," they mocked. They stood around Him, searching for hatred in His eyes so that they could abuse Him because of it. But His eyes were quiet, holding neither defiance nor resentment...Jesus' face was by now so swollen, so discolored, that His features were almost unrecognizable. His hair was soaked with blood. His hands were crossed by bloody welts where the lash had cut into His forearms. Small rivulets of blood stained His forehead and congealed in His beard. "Simon of Cyrene—The Man Who Carried the Cross of Christ," by Frans Venter.

IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

1. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK us to put aside worldly entertainment, such as TV, movies, organized sporting activities, including skiing, golfing, bowling and such like which steal our time and potentially weaken us spiritually?

2. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK for our Brothers to wear their hair short, neatly trimmed, and to keep their faces clean shaven of facial hair?

3. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK for our Sisters to wear their hair long, which is scriptural, gathered and put up unadorned (also scriptural) in a modest fashion?

4. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK for our Brothers and Sisters to wear modest apparel, refrain from wearing shorts and other scanty or suggestive clothing and to wear everyday clothing that defines our gender?

5. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK for our Sisters and Brothers to refrain from using cosmetics, jewelry, or to

try to enhance their God-given appearance?

6. IS IT TOO MUCH TOO ASK for our brothers and sisters to shun membership in worldly organizations whose main purpose is pleasure and social activities?

7. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK for our Brethren to avoid the use of drugs that destroy our minds and bodies and worldly music that can so easily disturb our spiritual peace?

8. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK to hold fast to these traditions, to defeat the intrusion of worldliness into our churches and restore unity, harmony, and peace in our churches and among us?

9. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK to hold fast to these traditions to preserve the precious church and faith that we have come to know and love and depend upon so much?

10. IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK to keep the promises that we have made that we would be obedient to God and the church for as long as we live?

...OR IS IT JUST OUR REASONABLE SERVICE.

-1995 Conference

"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."

I Corinthians 12:31

Our Elders and Ministers instruct us in "the more excellent way." We thank Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for sharing God's Word on March 4.

Choosing to seek "the more excellent way," with God's grace, is Jesse Rufener (Bro. James and Sis. Patricia) and Martha Maag (Robert).

"...The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Five families have the honor of teaching children these words. Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic have a son, Adam Mitchel, born on February 21. Sisters, Molly and Megan, grandparents, Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie Ingold, can assist in teaching their brother and grandson. Erica Lynn, born on March 5, will cheer the home of Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristen, Barrett, Brad and Rebecca Gasser. Grandparents, Sis. Doris Gasser, Bruce Graber and Elizabeth Chirillo, welcome Erica into their lives. From Denver, CO, on March 5, Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic share the joy of their firstborn, Emily Joy, with others including grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey (Rittman, OH) and Maria Katanic (Akron, OH). Bro. Dale Hartzler welcomes his grandchild, Austin Michael, born on March 8, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy Dotterer (Smithville, OH) and brother of Haley and Erika. We share one more joy of a new birth on the day the Silver Lining is to be finished for the month, March 15. Bro. Gregory and Sis. Joy Stoller an-

nounce the birth of Ann Elise. To help care for Ann is sisters, Laura and Rachael, and brother, John. Welcoming grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller and Bro. Ronald and Sis. Hope Gasser. We are thankful for each precious birth and pray all these families love and joy.

Our Lord, as well as the late Sis. Helen Babin, with the heavenly family welcomed home Bro. Emanuel Babin on March 7. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Jackie Babin (Morton, IL), Bro. David and Sis. Marlene Galat (Rockville, CT), Bro. Glen and Sis. Beverly Rufener (Rittman), the grandchildren and extended family.

"Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been of old."

Psalms 25:6

We are thankful for the kindness and mercy of our Lord to those who knew sickness and/or pain: Bros. Vernon Landis (Sis. Elizabeth) and James Rupp (Sis. Sharon), Sisters Diane Gasser (Bro. Daniel) and Ella Miller (Glenn), and Tristan Hartzler (Brad).

OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

My faith gives joy and sweetest rest,
leads me to heaven and the blest to Thee, my God and Father.
The comfort of mortality preserve with steadfast faith in me;
I'd follow Thee forever.
Salvation is the noblest part;

Impress this deeply on my heart.
Zion's Harp #102

This was the closing hymn at the funeral for Sis. Minnie Fetter (Toledo, OH). Comforted that Sis. Minnie's faith will lead her to Heaven is her granddaughter, Sis. Alice Ramsier (Bro. Mark).

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

Hebrews 13:17

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron, OH) and our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle for reading to us the Memorandum. May God bless them for their labors on our behalf.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

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

Hymns of Zion #257

How thankful we should be that our Lord was victor over death and arose again. We always rejoice when souls can repent and find peace with God and man and live an overcoming life, and we know this can happen only because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer) has found this precious peace and now awaits baptism. May God help her to continue to grow in the Spirit as she awaits

the time when she can give her testimony and be baptized.

Two little boys were added to families in the past month. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam Zollinger welcomed Matthew Joseph into their family circle on February 14. Carla, Joshua and Aaron are happy for another playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian (Rittman, OH).

Austin Michael Dotterer is the newest member of Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy Dotterer's family. Austin was born on March 8, and is welcomed by his two sisters, Haley and Erika, and grandparents, Bro. Dale Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Keith Dotterer and Sis. Linda Dotterer. May both of these families experience God's blessings as they seek to raise their children in the true fear of God.

Our thanks to Bros. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Don Manz (Junction, OH) who recently visited our congregation and ministered unto us. May God richly bless them for their efforts.

It seems there are always those who must endure affliction. Those hospitalized this month were Jim Gasser and Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave). Also, Sis. Carolyn Stoller has been confined to her home for a number of weeks due to physical problems. May each one feel the healing touch of the Great Physician.

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

Zion's Harp #226

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalm 116:15

Sis. Minnie Fetter left this life February 27. Her family includes a daughter, Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard), a sister, Sis. Clara Sinn (Latty), four grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. We hope that they can feel the comfort of God's Spirit.

The ministry of the Word is a precious gift to us. We thank Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) for again serving us from the pulpit.

Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) and George Beard have both been hospitalized. In times of physical difficulty, we are thankful we can trust in God's power to heal and to comfort.

Nick Sancraint and Andrea Sheets have announced their engagement. Nick's parents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint. May God bless them as they plan for their future.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

We held our annual business meeting recently and a rotation of responsibilities took place as terms were finished by several brethren. Bro. Denny Martin finished another term as treasurer, a duty he performed very well for quite a number of years. Our thanks to Bro. Denny for his efforts all these years. Bro. Mark Gallup was voted

in to be our new treasurer and also moved to the position of head trustee since Bro. Ray Moser finished his term. Bro. John Kinsinger moved to the second trustee position and Bro. Ray Moser was voted in as our third trustee.

May the Lord guide and direct these brethren as they assume these responsibilities and may He bless them as well for their willingness to serve.

As always, we thank our visitors for being with us and hope you'll come again soon. We wish everyone a blessed Easter.

OREGON, SILVERTON **Rosa Lee Kuenzi**

Our hearts go out to the Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn family who laid to rest their dear sixteen-year-old daughter, Brianna Irene, February 25. Our deep sympathy also to the entire grieving Sinn family, especially the brothers and sisters, Kenton, Laura, Darwin, Trenton, Nelson, Troy, Erin, Travis, Desiree and Katrianne. Special prayers for grandmother, Sis. Marian Sinn, and grandfather, Bro. Dan Edelman (Bern, KS). We know no words we can speak that will heal these hearts and comfort this sorrow, but God does. He, too, lost a child, a Son. His Son, our Lord and Saviour, is our ever present Helper in every need and He will answer our prayers when we plead for His comfort, strength and closeness to them now and in the difficult days ahead. One of the many scriptures that can be helpful now is I Thess. 4:13, "...Brethren, concerning them which are asleep, ...sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

Our sympathy also to Tim,

Sandy (Knecht), Jeff and Cody Jones and family at the passing of Tim's father, Jim Jones. Jim was well known in Silverton where he was a mail carrier for over thirty years.

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). We very much appreciate his willingness to stand and bring the Word of the Lord to us.

Note of Thanks:

It is in humble gratitude we wish to express our thanks for helping to carry us this far in the loss of our precious daughter and sister, Brianna. We are so thankful for all the prayers, support and love we've felt these past weeks. Also all the cards, gifts of food, flowers and money and memorials meant so much to us. May our merciful God bless you, each one, richly for all the love and support we've been given.

Tom and Edith Sinn and family

Reminder:

March is Silver Lining month for Silverton. If you are making your donation by check, please make the check out to Silver Lining. Thank you.

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA**

Nathan and **MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month our small congregation partook of the Lord's Supper. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumberg, NY) minister to us in this service. We thank God for His faithfulness to us in the past year, and for the continued unity our congregation shares. May we remember, not only at this time but throughout

the year, the sacrifice paid for us, and the love our Lord had in His heart as He prepared the sacrifice of His life.

We were blessed to have our dear Bro. Merle Rocke back for a visit on a Wednesday evening. We also enjoyed having Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) share the Word with us this month. Finally, we welcomed Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and his wife, Sis. Edie, and their family to our congregation for a weekend, and appreciated Bro. Ron's service to our small flock. We encourage all those who would be traveling this spring to stop and visit us in Philadelphia.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are so thankful for God's wonderful provision for each of us, through willing brothers who come to share His Word. We thank each of these brothers for their recent ministry to us in Nashville: Bros. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) and Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Athens, AL). In addition, we are thankful for the fellowship we can enjoy with brethren who visit us from many congregations. Recently, we have been privileged with visitors from Athens, AL; Rockville, CT; Chicago, Cissna Park, Fairbury, Goodfield, and Washington, IL; Francesville, IN; Winthrop, MN; Junction, Latty and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We now have a visiting minister scheduled for every Sunday (except Easter, Christmas, and New Year). The fol-

lowing churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bern, KS (Apr. 22), Francesville, IN (May 6), Latty, OH (May 13), Chicago, (May 20) and Champaign (May 27). 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 in the Word in the past month were Bros. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) and Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). 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 sending ministers for the month of May include: the 6th (Gridley, IL), 13th (Lamont, Gridley, KS) and 20th (Smithville, OH). There is currently no scheduled service for the 27th (Memorial Day weekend).

Don Metzger (West Bend, IA) has been student teaching in Houston for about three months and has been attending regularly with us.

We have enjoyed his presence in our fellowship. His last Sunday with us was March 25, as he has returned to Iowa to complete his schooling. We rejoice that while he was with us, we could learn of his desire to turn to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with him that he can grow in grace and experience the rebirth that Jesus freely gives, to all who seek Him.

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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Joyce Nohl
Mary Plattner

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bros. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield,

OH). We are thankful for these faithful servants who travel so many miles to serve us.

We were saddened to hear of the funeral of Linda Bauer (Cissna Park, IL). She and her late husband, Phil, spent many winters in the South Texas area and worshipped with our congregation here.

Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL) brought a truckload of clothing from the World Relief Center in Fairbury, IL, to Laredo. The clothing will be distributed among the needy through several clinics in the Laredo area. Each year the staff of the clinics looks forward to the shipment of clothing from our World Relief center to give to their indigent patients. Thanks to everyone that makes this possible.

The women in our congregation are in the process of gathering recipes for a cookbook from Zapata. Anyone that has visited in Zapata and would like to contribute to this should send their recipe to Sis. Wilma Pulfer by June 1. Her address is 1504 South 7th, Pekin, IL 61554-5727.



Sermon continued from page 2

ment, but going our own way and trying to solve our own problems... problems that God did not create, but that we created.

We have become a society of finger pointers. We have become a society that has no responsibility, and it not only has affected us socially, but it has affected us spiritually. If we have a spiritual problem, it is a problem between us and our relationship with our God, not with our neighbor, not with our spouse, not with any personal or blood relationship on this earth, but it is how we are dealing with this, and with our benevolent Father in Heaven.

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters," I Corinthians 10:6-7a. Oh, we are above being idolaters! We are educated. We are a society greater than that, or are we? What has our high intellectualism brought us? What has our higher education brought us but a world of more sophisticated sin and not a better way to righteousness. Man's biggest obstacle unto God is himself. Himself? Then we break it down farther than that. It is self. When we put self before God, we will lose the way.

We are warned here of the basic sins that man has not developed but has seemingly been born with the tendencies to commit. It is not a feather in the cap of the human race, but it is a shame because it is evil and it separates us from God.

We are warned here of our weaknesses for here it says that even in one day fell three and twenty thousand. That is a lot of individuals when we consider they had a base of about a million people. But as we look at statistics today, as we look at our society today, as we look at the gullibility of the human family, as we see the forces of the media, and the advertising that is presented unto us in all means and in all ways, through hearing, through sight, even through taste that we can be

drawn away from a path of life that is pleasing unto God, pleasing and maybe temporarily good feeling unto self. Here again is self.

Do we murmur? Do we complain? That seems to be the sadness and the scenario of mankind in general and some of us it may be in particular. This is sad, really, that we would murmur, or that we would not be content for what God has furnished us for the moment.

Contentment with godliness is great gain. This is in no way trying to infer that we should not try to better ourselves. We should try to do better, but that we should not become discouraged that our lot and station in a particular moment of time because that is where God has placed us.

God has brought us to this moment and He is not going to drop us and leave us set. We have that hope in His promise and in the satisfaction of that which He gives unto us. Really, I doubt if there is anyone here that has missed a meal. Probably wouldn't hurt us if we would miss several meals. But He has always given us enough. That is not to say that He gives us that which we have a feeling maybe a yearning in our hearts what we want or desire—but let us be honest. Have we ever had that Superior need? He has always supplied us. He has always come unto us.

Sometimes we might think it was in the eleventh hour and the fifty-ninth minute, but He was there. He provided for us in His time. He provided for us not that we couldn't understand it. Maybe if we would have done it, we would have planned it different, but has He ever left us? Has He ever forsaken us?

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples..." I Corinthians 10:11 a. Where would we be if we would not have the examples that are written in God's Word? What happens to the individual when they err from the way? Our life, really, is a life of example, by example and this

is why we have strength. This is why we thank God for those that were before us, who directed our thoughts and directed our hearts and minds to the point where we recognized our own loss and sinful condition.

We were wanting to get out of a life in which we were enslaved. We could not help ourselves from doing the bidding of the enemy of our soul. Then we were released. We were unshackled so that we could do God's precious will that would really give us true happiness...really give us true joy because we knew from His Word and from the feeling He gave us in our hearts that He was with us. He was directing our way.

We are warned. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I Corinthians 10:12. When one thinks highly of one's self, he is in a dangerous position. Our society and our educational system and all these things work together and now to tell each one that we must think highly of one's self. We must puff one's self up in order that we can be successful in this world, but we find that this is the opposite effect when we want to do that which we are brought into this world to do, and that is to serve God.

Because when we find that we think highly of self, we have little regard for God. We have little regard to communicate with Him. Why should we read His Word and why should we pray unto Him when we are sufficient unto ourselves? Self reliance will never get us to Heaven. Self reliance will get us in the sphere of righteousness and will get us in trouble. Because when we are self righteous, we feel that we can stand, and then we would fall. Do we have concerns that we might be tempted above all? Or that we have a problem that no one else ever had...a problem that we are concerned that God will not even understand? Surely the Lord Jesus never experienced anything like I am going through.

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man," I Cor. 10:13. The enemy of our soul would not like us to think that. He would like us to be discouraged. He would like us to think that we are being picked upon and that we have no hope and have no way of escape and that we have no one to comfort us and no one to correct us, but we have the Lord.

"God is faithful." I Cor 10:13. Do we believe that? That is what His Word says. But God is faithful. Who knows our frame? Who knows our abilities? Who knows our desires even before we are aware of them?

"...who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;" I Corinthians 10:13. He knows our spiritual breaking point. Even though He will not tempt us, He will see that along with every temptation that comes before us, that He has furnished a way of escape.

Do you know what our problem is? It is we are so prone to be tempted to look and yield to temptation rather than try to shun temptation aside

and look for that way of escape. Do we see that exit sign? Have our spiritual eyes been opened? Or are we nodding away to sleep in the Spirit? "...but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13. Not in weakness yield to it, but to bury it.

Then we are told, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." I Corinthians 10:14. Flee from self. Flee from all those things that separate you from God. "I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say." I Corinthians 10:15. Do we believe God's Word? When we read God's Word, does It speak to us? Does It speak about us? It should speak about us. When we read God's Word, It should not speak of our neighbor. It should not speak about our spouse or our children, or our brethren, but it should speak to us.

We are reminded here that we cannot eat from two tables. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot be partakers of everything. We cannot be a part of the world and be a spiritual person.

We were reminded here, "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils. Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?" I Corinthians 10:21-22.



TEACHERS

Gateway Woods is excited to announce teacher openings at Gateway Woods School. Our school is an accredited education program, serving students who are having difficulty being successful in public school. We are accepting applications now for teacher openings beginning in the summer. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. This is an excellent opportunity to do mission work in the U.S. For more information, please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Road
New Haven, IN 46774
(219) 493-6711

Mexico Board Work Teams

*Orphanage
Casa De Elizabeth*

*Imuris, Sonora, Mexico
- 40 mi. south of Nogales*

**June 4-9
June 11-15**

Contact:

Bro. Dick Beery
(602) 266-1517 - evening
(602) 625-7244 - days (cell)

Bro. Jerry Tooley
(480) 460-4531 - evening
(602) 256-2664 - work

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**

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2001

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

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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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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about Gateway Woods published
three times yearly.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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or postgraduate work leading to a
degree in a social services field.
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application are available by writ-
ing or calling Bill Eisenmann at
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BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible Distribution Center which
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Bible Distribution
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Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: biblelist@parlorcity.com

MEXICO WORKTEAMS 2001

CONSTRUCTION

RIO BRAVO - ICCD

*(International Christian Center
for the Deaf)*

June 16-23

Contact Bro. Joe Maller
219-565-3211

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



The remarks by Henry Michel continue on. Bro. Samuel Froehlich becomes converted and his spiritual ministry takes shape.

The Ministry

Then it was just the time when he should be ordained as a preacher. I don't know how they do it in this country, but over there in Switzerland when you are to be ordained in the State church, you first have to deliver a sermon, bring a sample of your wisdom, of your ability. The people who listen to this first sermon are not the public who are generally in church, but just ministers and all the authorities of the church.

A church is filled with preachers, old ones and "critical" ones; and they listen to this sermon, and have to decide whether this man will be ordained or not. He was so joyful about the miracles that he experienced in his sickness that his sermon was a wonderful message of the power of Christ. He told how he went to school; how he lost his faith; how he was sinful as a student, regardless of the fact that he was a theological student, just as sinful as anyone was; and he gave the glory to Jesus.

He spoke about the conversion he experienced, about the peace he found, and about the remission of his sins. The more he spoke, the more the people were concerned; and when he finished, they said, "Such a man is no good; we cannot use such a man." They thought he would turn the whole church upside down, and they did not want such a disturbance. They wanted ministers able to keep the people quiet and silent, and able to keep them coming to church and faithfully paying their dues.

Trial Minister

So he waited for one year and then made application again. They thought, "Now let us see if this man has lost his extravagance." I do not know exactly if his second sermon was as joyful as the first one. He, at least, had a year's experience

behind him, and it certainly had been joyful, but perhaps in a moderate way, and he was ordained "on trial". It was said to him what is generally said when you receive your license only on trial, "We have a right to withdraw this license on a moment's notice." So he was joyful anyway. "Now I can live for my Lord," he said.

Souls are Convicted

There was a certain Lutheran church near the Lake of Constance, between Switzerland and Germany, where there was a very old preacher. He was sick in bed and could not preach anymore. So he always had to have somebody from outside to come and so Samuel Froehlich was sent as a vicar. He started to give a testimony of Christ, and the result was so marvelous that after the first or second preaching, the whole church was deeply moved and in tears.

And not only was the church deeply moved, but the old preacher in his bed, likewise, was under conviction. He had a whole life of preaching behind him, and yet he did not know Jesus. He was in his sins, and now he was dying and did not know anything about salvation. Samuel, who was a very zealous man, not only preached in the church, but he preached to the preacher.

The Word wrought such a wonderful miracle that the preacher found peace before he died. He died in the arms of Samuel, thanking him for what he brought to him, and he gave him permission to have the funeral service. So this young man who just had a license on trial had to give the funeral sermon before a big congregation, most of whom were ministers and authorities of the church. They watched this young man, and the more he spoke, he wrote in his diary, "the longer the faces became."

Afterwards they took him aside and said, "You are discharged." He had the courage to say at the funeral service that the old preacher had found peace and remission of his sins on his death bed. That was terrible in the eyes of the authorities,

but he could not say otherwise. The old man had wanted him to tell, but that was an offense to the church. So he was discharged and had to leave immediately.

More Preaching

After a while he received another call to a small town called Leutwil in the county of Argovy in Switzerland. This is a nice, quiet village. Having received that call, he went there. It was a very much neglected congregation. He preached the full Gospel, preached remission of sins, preached salvation by the grace of God. After two or three sermons, many were deeply moved and brought under conviction to such an extent that sometimes he could hardly continue to speak. There was a wonderful awakening, and everyone came and confessed their sins and cried to the Lord to be saved.

But the revival was not confined to that village; it spread to the neighboring ones also. People told their friends, "Come and listen, this is something different." So they came from all the neighboring towns, from all the other churches so that the villages had empty churches on Sunday and the church of Leutwil was filled with people hungry for salvation. You can understand how much jealousy that wrought in the preachers of the neighborhood. They made complaint after complaint to the authorities of the church, "Go and see what the trouble is. He is really turning the whole church upside down; take his license." So they always sent people who listened and brought back notes about the sermon, but generally not correct notes for they did not know about shorthand at that time.

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein
Gridley, IL*

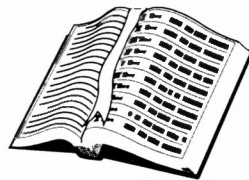
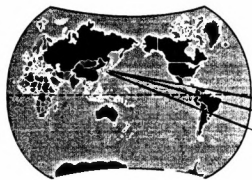
Next issue:

A new church, based solely on God's Word, is born. Bro. Froehlich begins preaching.

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“LISTENING FOR THE RESURRECTION”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is very important to be a good listener. Not only do other people want to be listened to, but you can also learn a lot by listening. Speaking and communicating properly has its place but listening must not be forgotten.

In Isaiah 49:1 we read, “Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far.” The Lord God does call on us to listen to Him and He expects us to obey. We can also obey what others tell us to do so long as it is something good and not bad or harmful. We do have to listen and hear or we won’t know what to do. Many things we hear are not commands but simply information, which we should store in our heads and use as the need arises. Through it all, it is very important to be a good listener.

In John 5:25, the Lord Jesus Christ said, “The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” I believe that this verse speaks of the resurrection of the body of those who have died in Christ, who will

henceforth live in their new and resurrected body forever and ever. The emphasis, however, is on hearing.

Listening indicates a conscious effort to hear. If you are asleep and there is a very loud noise, you will hear it without listening. But when we are awake, we should be listening to see what we can learn.

In I Thess. 4:16 we read, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” It is interesting to note that when the resurrected Lord comes to resurrect His saints, He will do it with a shout, and even with the trump, or trumpet, of God. We should be listening for that now. I wouldn’t want to miss it.

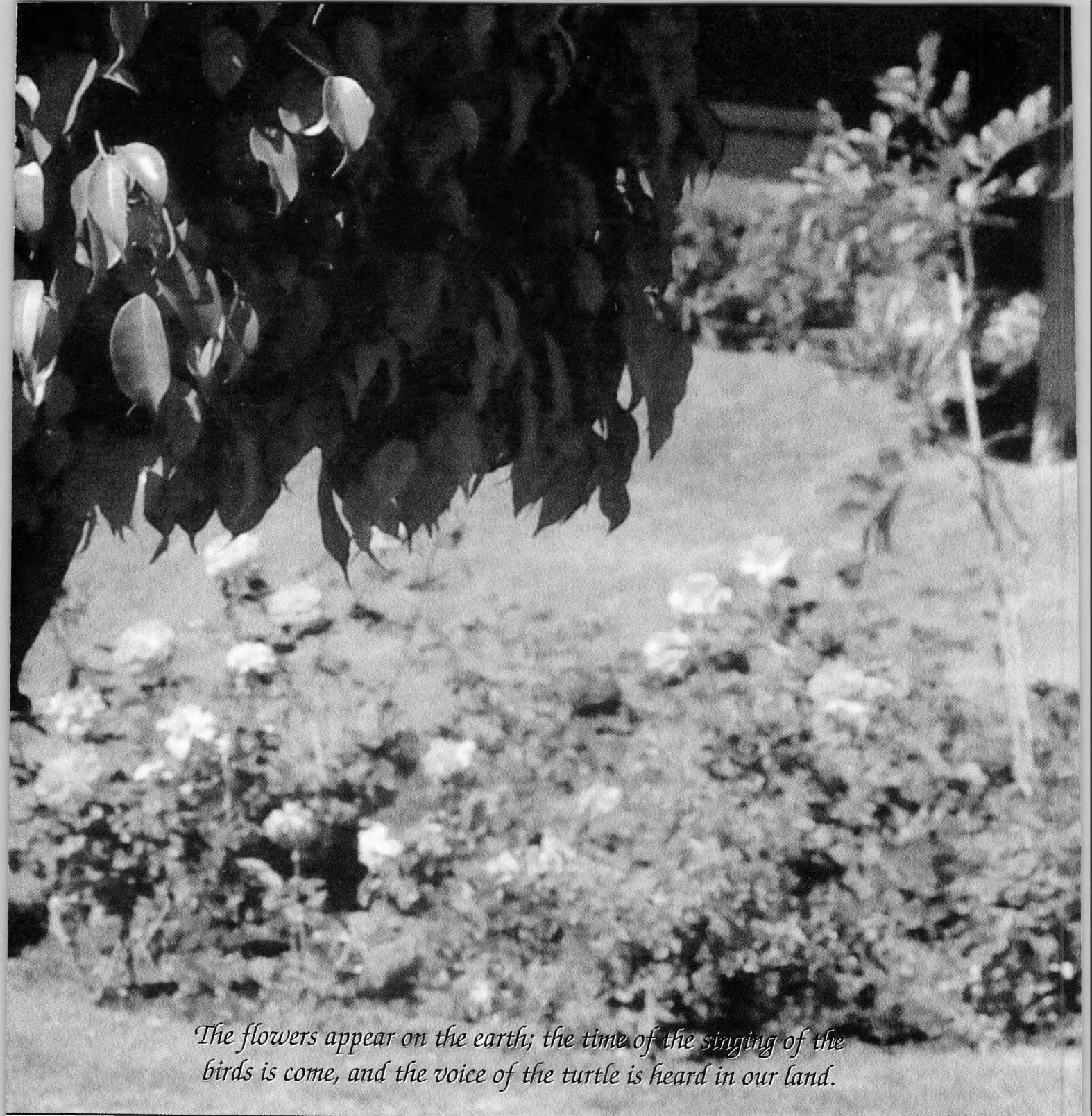
Without Christ’s resurrection, He would be just another teacher, the founder of another religion. With His resurrection, He becomes a great and mighty power which motivated the early disci-

ples to give their lives for His cause, without a moment’s hesitation. During the Easter season we do well to celebrate Christ’s resurrection but let’s also be listening for His second coming for His saints. While listening for that, let’s also be listening to what others say, especially what our brothers and sisters in faith say. They want to talk to someone who will listen. It is important to be a good listener. If they say something that is wholesome, wonderful. If not, caution them.

In James 1:19 it is written, “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” The apostle James was inspired by the Holy Spirit to emphasize the importance of hearing or listening. Eccles. 3:7 tells us that there is “A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.”

Let’s listen for the resurrection. Listening is very important.

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*The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the
birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.*

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