

# *The Silver Lining*



*But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory and the lifter up of mine head.*

May 2001

## “WE SERVE A LIVING GOD”

*Sermon by Bro. David Oberghel, Peoria, IL*

Judges 4 and Hebrews 9

In our first reading, it is kind of an interesting story. It is kind of a gruesome little story but it is a sad story because the nation of Israel really should not have been in the position they were, and that is under the lordship of an evil king. What they really did is that they got into their own little thing once they had crossed over and had taken some of the lands. They did not push everybody out and there is a multitude of different things but they began to trust in the idols and gods that they were supposed to destroy in this land. This is where it got them.

It says, “And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD...” Judges 4:1. So this isn’t the first time they did evil and it isn’t the last time as we can read on a little bit. It will happen again and again and again. You get into the Kings and the same thing happens over and over again. It is kind of like our nature. We learn for awhile and as we learn what Brother Mike said today, “When the pressure is on and when we feel like there is nothing that we can do, who do we turn to?” Of course, we turn to God.

Sometimes we don’t always do that. We kind of drift away slowly. You know, Satan likes us to do that. He likes us to kind of drift away. We usually don’t walk away from him very quickly, but we drift away. It is kind of like those shows. Have you ever watched those animal shows when they have those documentaries? There is always, like a lion, or something out waiting and watching the herd of gazelles or whatever the animal might be. He is looking for a certain type. He is looking for either a sick one, a young one or someone who is not paying attention. We can understand the sick one and the young one because of inexperience, but it is sad when something is caught, like one of those animals, because it is not paying attention to what the rest of the group is doing. It wanders off on its own. Yet,

that animal is there waiting and waiting and at the right minute he will pounce on that gazelle or whatever in the world those things are out there and it is too late.

You know, that is something that happened here with the nation of Israel. They kind of slowly begin to drift away, and Satan had them. But yet, listen to what they did. They finally turned back to God and called upon Him and Deborah was able to help deliver them. When we talk about being faithful, basically the battle was already over — it was already won — and Deborah knew that and she tried to convince Barak that by saying, “God is going to deliver this so go out there and do what you need to do.” Barak said, “No, you need to come with me.” Sometimes we feel a little insecure. It is nice if we have a buddy to go with us, a brother and a sister, or someone that can be with us through this.

She said, “You are going to miss a real blessing if you take me because Sisera is going to be put into a woman’s hand, and she will deliver him.” So the battle goes on and we hear the end of the story that all the men are killed. Isn’t that amazing? They killed them all except Sisera. He runs to that tent and Jael is there and she takes a nail and pounds it into the ground and through his forehead, and he is dead. Just like Deborah, the prophetess, said, “What happened? Why is that?” It is because if you go back into what we read in Hebrews, there is a verse there, number fourteen, and if you would take a look at that, it says, “...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:14.

You see, that is what it is all about here when Paul was writing to the Hebrews or when he is looking back at history, he said, “We have a Living God we serve.” It is not a God of the past or God of the present, although he mentions that there is going to be a

judgment in the future. But he said, “We serve a Living God right now.” When the nation of Israel believed that and trusted that and they were faithful, then they had victory and they had that abundant life God had planned for them. Just like John says, “We are going to have an abundant life.” We are not going to have an abundant life when we do things on our own, or when we don’t trust in Him, or when we don’t believe we have a Living God because He is

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

May 2001

### Flee

Numerous times in the scripture we are admonished to flee. Sometimes the danger is physical, sometimes it is emotional and sometimes the danger is spiritual. Whatever the case, the warning is given to help us escape the danger.

To flee means to go swiftly or to move rapidly. When faced with physical danger we recognize the need to quickly move out of the way of the danger. Do we have the same reaction when faced with spiritual danger?

Too often sin is regarded as an inconvenience or an attractive nuisance rather than as an attempt by Satan to destroy us. If we truly believe the Bible, and if we believe there are only two destinations for the souls of mankind, then surely we must take seriously the threat that Satan poses to us. His goal is to cause us to spend eternity in hell, forever separated from God.

God, however, has the opposite goal for us. He wants us to spend eternity in Heaven with Him, forever protected from the temptations and deceitfulness that Satan brings before us. In His desire to help us win our battles with Satan, He has left us with clear instructions that, if followed, will help us to be successful in those battles.

As God's people, we are instructed to stay away from sin and to "...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;..." (II Cor. 6:17). In spite of our best efforts to remain separated from the evils of the world, we sometimes find ourselves in situations that are dangerous to our spiritual life. When that happens, the Lord wants us to recognize that situation and act quickly to protect ourselves from spiritual harm.

We have a faithful God who will not let us "...be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape,..." (I Cor. 10:13). How can we escape? "...flee from idolatry." (I Cor. 10:14); "Flee fornication..." (I Cor. 6:18); "Flee also youthful lusts:..." (II Tim. 2:22); and finally after being

warned of the dangers of coveting, we are told, "But Thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (I Tim. 6:11).

Although the scripture only ties a few specific sins to the commandment to flee, it is apparent that a child of God is advised to flee from all sin. The Apostle Paul has numerous strong admonitions that encourage us to avoid sin. "...Abhor that which is evil;..." (Ro. 12:9) and "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Th. 5:22). If we are to abhor evil and not even have the appearance of evil, quite clearly we must flee all evil.

If we heed the advice we are given in the scripture and quickly remove ourselves from temptation, we have the assurance of escaping the temptation. As an added comfort, we are promised that if we "...Resist the devil...he will flee from you" (Ja. 4:7).

Therefore, if we follow the instructions that we are given in the Word of God, we have a double portion of protection. If we flee from sin, we will be separated from evil, and if we resist the devil, he must flee from us.

What will happen to us if we do not flee from sin? If we allow ourselves to be deceived and ensnared by evil, we will pay for our foolishness in this life and in the time to come. Guilt that we have as a result of sin brings fear. In the Garden of Eden Adam said "...I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid,..." (Gen. 3:10).

Belshazzar, King of Babylon, committed a great sin by taking vessels from the temple and using them in his heathen feast. The hand writing on the wall caused such fear that "...the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another" (Da. 5:6).

If we live in sin, the Lord will set his face against us, causing such fear that "...ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (Lev. 26:17). Solomon reminded

us that "The wicked flee when no man pursueth:..." (Pr. 28:1). Sin ultimately will make us powerless. When the children of Israel were rebellious and self-willed, trusting in swift horses, they were told that not only will they be unable to escape by trusting in themselves but that their enemies would be swift and cause them great fear. "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee:..." (Is. 30:17).

Therefore, we can readily understand that if we do not flee from sin, the time will come when we will be so confused and so overcome with guilt that we will flee as a result of the guilt brought on by sin. Fleeing at that point, however, will be of no avail. We will not be able to outrun our fears.

If we choose not to flee from sin, we will try to flee from our fears brought on by sin. When we understand that we cannot outrun the consequences of sin, unrepentant sinners will make a final attempt to escape. Unfortunately, the time will come when sinners who ignore God's warning will be unable to flee. They will realize too late that they have ignored the opportunity to escape destruction and will "...say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us" (Lk. 23:30), but it will be to no avail. The situation will become so dire that "...shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them" (Rev. 9:6).

Therefore, in dealing with sin we must follow scriptural teachings to flee from sin. If we ignore that warning, we will try to flee from the fear brought on by sin. After we understand that we cannot escape this fear, we will ultimately try to flee from the wrath of God. This, too, shall fail. Only by fleeing from sin, and keeping ourselves pure, will we find comfort in God's Word: "... cleave to that which is good. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" (Ro. 12:9&12).





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

## First Response Disaster Work Team Project

The Disaster Work Project Sub-Committee, under the USA Board, was given a mandate by the World Relief Committee to develop opportunities for volunteers to help victims of storms and floods in cleanup and rebuilding of their dwellings. The Camilla, GA Project, of last year, was the first opportunity for rebuilding houses. A tool trailer was purchased and fitted with equipment for building applications. It was found to be very useful and provided most of the tools needed at the job site.

The Sub-Committee has been developing plans for cleanup projects. This type of project requires different tools and equipment than for the rebuilding phase. A donated box van has been fitted with shelves, bins, and racks, and equipped with chain saws, pumps, tarps, shovels, wrecking bars, and many other tools required for this type of service.



This equipped "first response" vehicle was on display at the Western Churches World Relief Informational Meeting held at the Roanoke Church Fellowship Hall on March 10. The display was well received. A number of welcome suggestions for additional items that could be beneficial for cleanup service were received.

The plan is to use this first response truck to assist in cleanup activities,

within, but not limited to, a day's journey from central Illinois. The estimated day's journey with the truck is 550 miles. In considering locations relative to our congregations, we have the following areas:

- Southeast, Athens, AL - 550 mi
- Southwest, Lamar, MO - 480 mi
- West, Bern, KS - 516 mi
- Northwest, Lester, IA - 550 mi
- North, Winthrop, MN - 520 mi
- Northeast, Bay City, MI - 421 mi
- East, Sardis, OH - 511 mi

The distance limitation consideration is due to the time element of getting the truck and volunteers to a job site, be able to work for a minimum of three days, and return home within five days. Should the cleanup require additional time, a second team would be sent to relieve the first team.

At this time, the Disaster Work Team Sub-Committee (DWT) is in need of:

1. Storm Watchers for First Response  
A storm watcher's responsibilities are to monitor weather and storm conditions in their geographic region and to relay information as to size of disaster area and type of damage to the DWT. This individual may become involved in making decisions regarding the sending of truck and teams. Qualifications are:

- Availability
- Internet Proficiency

2. First Response Truck Drivers  
The truck driver responsibilities include driving to the disaster site and to check out the tools to the team members. Qualifications are:

- Must have a drivers license for driving a truck of up to 26,000 GVWR, or Illinois License C or higher.

- Able to leave within 24 hours and be away up to 5 days, and be able to work 10 hours a day for 3 consecutive days.

3. First Response Team Workers  
The team workers must have the following qualifications:

- Be able to leave within 24 hours notice.
- Be able to work hard for 10 hours, 3 days in a row.

We are asking individuals interested in this work to contact Bro. Jerome Witzig and provide him with the volunteer category you desire and qualify to fill. His contact information is listed below.

One or two drivers will go with the truck, depending on the distance to travel. It is expected that the local congregation will try to furnish the six to eight volunteers needed for a project team. If the local congregation is not able to provide enough volunteers, the committee will enlist volunteers from other congregations.

The proper line of communication from the local congregation level to the Disaster Work Project Sub-Committee is phone, fax, or e-mail direct to:

Jerome Witzig  
[foxrun@mtco.com](mailto:foxrun@mtco.com)  
309/744-2347 Phone  
309/744-2463 Fax

Arnold Gerst  
[agerst@rnet.com](mailto:agerst@rnet.com)  
217/223-8424 Phone  
217/223-0116 Fax

Kent Heimer  
[kheimer@nemonet.com](mailto:kheimer@nemonet.com)  
573/769-5515 Phone  
573/769-5516 Fax





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

### Berean Prison Ministry Has Many Programs

For a number of years, brethren and friends in central Illinois have been carrying out many programs through an organization that is now called Berean Prison Ministry. Located in Peoria, this ministry is supported nearly 100% by the Apostolic Christian Church. The Mission Committee furnishes funds to help finance a number of their activities.

#### Bible Distribution

Any time a person enters a prison in this country, they are given a number which remains with them for life. The Berean Prison Ministry enters these numbers in their computer. Upon written request from a prisoner, the Ministry sends one Bible to that person. The computer records allow the volunteers to know who has already received a Bible. About 2,000 Bibles are sent out each month.

#### Bible Study Program

Our own brethren have developed a basic Bible Study Course, which is sent to each prisoner along with their Bible. In order to answer the course questions, one must read the Bible. When they complete a lesson, the prisoners return it to the Ministry in a postage paid envelope. The lesson is graded, and another 3 lessons mailed to the prisoner. There are 50 lessons in the basic course.

At this time the Ministry receives about 5,000 lessons per month to grade. Brethren from the area churches plus young group members participate in grading. The current course is very basic, and the Ministry could use one that would carry on from this course. If anyone is interested in helping

compile such an intermediate course, kindly respond to the address at the end of this article.

#### Russian Program

The Ministry also sends Bibles and Bible study courses in the Russian language to prisoners incarcerated in the Republic of Karelia, Russia. A retired English teacher of the Russian school system is coordinating this program in her country.

Colonel Alexander Safonov is the Director of the Department of Corrections in the Republic of Karelia. He has been to several of our churches in the USA and is truly a friend of the Apostolic Christian Church. He had heart surgery this year in Finland, and our brotherhood helped cover his medical costs.

This is amazing when one considers that only a few years ago the Bible was banned in Russia. Last year Brothers Jim Hoerr, Paul Meister, and Howard Getz traveled to Russia to evaluate this work. Mr. Alan Tadlock from the Illinois Department of Prisons also went along.

#### Jail, Youth, and Prison Ministry

Our church has the Chaplaincies of the Peoria and the Tazewell County Jails, the Youth Farm, the Juvenile Detention facility, and the State of Illinois Hanna City Work Camp. They hold Sunday services, mid-week Bible studies, and do counseling at these facilities. This work is carried out under the direction of the local elders and ministers.

The Chief Chaplain of the State of Illinois works with our brethren to carry out this ministry. He has asked if the Ministry would consider holding Sunday services at the Galesburg, Illinois Prison, but as of this writing, they have not found volunteers to do this work.

#### Food Program

The Berean Prison Ministry gives away about 200,000 pounds of food per year. This work is done in cooperation with the World Relief Committee. Food is supplied to all of the missions, food pantries, and soup kitchens in the Peoria area as well as in McClean County and the Aurora area. Last year they sent seven loads of food, furniture, and clothes to the Charlotte, NC area damaged by floods and hurricanes.

#### Jewel-Osco Program

In 2000 the Ministry received eight semi loads of products from the Osco Drug Stores. These are items on the shelves when a store is closed or remodeled. Everything handled in a modern drug store except for prescription medicines is included in these loads.

Items received in this manner have been distributed through our World Relief Distribution Centers. Goods have been sent to many of our church homes as well as all the organizations mentioned above. Many of these products are included in overseas shipments to various destinations.

#### Appreciation to volunteers

The brethren working with this Ministry are grateful to God for the many avenues of service that have opened up. This work involves hundreds of volunteers, and there are many needs to meet. Without this support, this Ministry could not reach so many whose needs are so great.

If anyone would like to participate in this ongoing work, please contact:

ED MEISTER  
BEREAN PRISON MINISTRY  
PO Box 761  
PEORIA, IL 61652-9950  
309/697-9450

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Just as each of you, the residents that live at our homes enjoy the spring weather. Sunshine, warmer temperatures, green grass, birds chirping, budding trees, tulips, and all that accompanies spring lifts each of our spirits as we "look forward" to summer. "Looking forward" seems to be common ground for all human beings. May we together, "look forward" to seeing our Saviour, Jesus Christ, face to face.

Activities this past month for residents of Timber Ridge included egg coloring hosted by a Sunday school group from the Princeville church. The large group of residents that participated found their morning passed quickly and joyfully. Spring also brings the beginning of the Central Illinois Riding Therapy for a small group of Timber Ridge residents. The warmer weather accommodates the therapy sessions on horseback. Regular outings into the community for dining out and bowling also took place. A special weekend activity that was entertaining was the "Disney on Ice" ice skating program at the Civic Center in Peoria.

June birthdays at **TIMBER RIDGE**, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Dale Plattner (5), Christopher Rogers (5), Sara Baker (6), Aldine Winger (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenamin (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23). At **OAKWOOD ESTATE**, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Rodney Blaum (15) and Doris Hutchison (18). At **LINDEN ESTATE**, 1000 Linden, Morton, IL 61550: Chip Johann (22). At 241 Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Sharilyn Rowell (19).

## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Jan Baumgartner**

As the seasons are changing from winter to spring, so Gateway Woods has changes also. Sharon M. was a new arrival at the Meister House, Nicole R. was discharged from the Plattner House and Sarah E. returned home from the Meister House.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand and their three children left on March 29 to return to Colorado where they will live near many of Sis. Naomi's family. They will be greatly missed after Houseparenting here for 3 1/2 years! May God bless them for their dedication and commitment to children here at Gateway Woods. Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman will now be Houseparenting at the West House, and will need continued prayer in this new endeavor.

Rusty B. came under our foster program with the Quick family who transferred to our agency, as they wanted to be with a Christian Agency. Alex, Jowaun, Nate and Reggie added lots of life to the Colbert foster home since they are four brothers ages 2, 4, 5, and 6 years of age. Stephany Y. left the Ross foster home and Crystal W. returned home.

At the present time we have an opening for an Alternate Houseparent Couple, a Teacher at Gateway Woods School, and are in need of foster parents in our area. Of course, volunteers are always welcomed at Gateway Woods.

In prayerfully considering any position working with troubled children at Gateway Woods, please consider the following story about boaters.

Three boaters were docked next to each other at the marina. The owner of the first boat was content to sit in his boat at the dock and enjoy the sea breezes and gentle lapping of the water. He waved to passing boat-

ers and made small talk with his neighbors. He called his boat "The Tranquillity" and left the dock only twice all summer.

The next man leapt onto the deck, fired up the engine, and headed out to sea. He enjoyed the spray of the water and wind blowing through his hair. He waved cheerily to his fellow boaters. He called his boat "Fair Weather".

Funny thing about him, He always made certain that he kept the shore in sight. If the waves built up or dark clouds began to gather, he hurried to the dock. Let a fog start to roll in and he was back—in spite of having the latest equipment.

The third boat owner would rather be out to sea than anywhere. He never bothered to check a weather report and an approaching storm excited him. He seemed happiest being behind the wheel with the waves crashing and the wind howling. He and his boat had been through a lot together. He called it "Wave Dancer" and he knew what it could do. Storms did not frighten him.

When it comes to the life of faith, some believers don't trust enough to even cast off from the dock. They stay where it's safe and secure. Others make quick little jaunts out into the deeper waters of Christian experience, but they scamper back as soon as things start getting a little tough. Still others go out on the rough seas of life with Christ as their Pilot. They know by experience that He will not leave them, and that He keeps every one of the promises of His Word. They trust Him most when the storm blows hardest.

Being involved at Gateway Woods with troubled children does involve being a boater willing to leave the safe and secure place at home with family and home church. It forces us to experience really depending on Christ as our Pilot to guide us through the new experiences and trying times in dealing with the lives of these children and

their families. Every brother or sister that has related their decision and their experiences here has testified how they were helped to grow more dependent on Christ as their Pilot. If you are considering coming to Gateway Woods, please consider becoming a boater willing to go out onto the rough seas of life with Christ as your Pilot. It can be exhilarating!

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

This is a very exciting time of the year for us at the Preschool. We have just celebrated Easter Sunday and the children responded so well to learning about Jesus, the Cross and the resurrection. What a blessing it is for the staff to hear these little ones sing about Jesus as they go about their day. I am reminded of the parable that tells us about sowing seeds. We know the seeds are planted in the hearts of these children. May God add His blessing and increase in His own way and time.

On March 31, the semi annual Preschool board meeting was held and it was approved to let it be known throughout the churches that we have a need for a teacher. This is a very special opportunity for a brother or sister to live and work in a Christian environment and to use your talents and abilities to touch the hearts and lives of these little ones. If God is working in your life to consider a work such as this, the following steps are recommended. After prayerfully asking God's direction, talk with your home Elder for his advice and approval. Then contact Bro. Tom Schrenk here at the Preschool by phone (256) 233-0591 or e-mail apostolic preschool @ junos . com to get details of requirements, salary and benefit information. This position is open at the present time.

We have had several inquiries

from volunteers to come during the summer months to help us. We appreciate all who have this desire and welcome you. This also gives the staff a chance to have a little vacation time, and lets us catch up on things that need to be done. Please call or e-mail us and give us the date when you can come. We will also schedule free time, so you can enjoy schedule free time, so you can enjoy schedule North Alabama.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all that have remembered us in your prayers and support through our sponsor program. This program has become a very important part of the Preschool, as we reach out to help those who have financial needs. The State of Alabama recently changed some regulations. This made it necessary to withdraw from a program that paid some tuition for some At Risk children. It was decided to keep these kids and help these parents with that portion of tuition through the sponsor program. For us to continue helping these children, we need special help from those who help us with our sponsorship program. Please pray that God's will be done.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Joan Reinhard  
Louise Hall**

This month has been one of extremes for us here at Athens. We have had extreme joy and sorrow. We appreciated a visit from Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm (Taylor, MO) on March 18. Bro. Roy shared God's Word with us and we appreciated being included in their plans.

March 30 and April 1 was the weekend of the Preschool Board meeting and Communion. This is a very special time for us as we remember our Lord's sacrifice and death. It always seems to draw us just a little closer as a congregation and we are so thankful for Jesus' instructions found in Luke 22:19 "...this do in remembrance of me." Elder Bros. Ken

Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were all present to share this time with us. They also shared Communion with Bro. Pete Perry and Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore, who were both in the hospital at that time.

Then one week later, on April 8, our Bro. Pete went Home to be with the Lord. He had just found out about two weeks before that he had cancer. He died in his home and our prayers are certainly with his wife, Ruby, his sons, James, Delmer and Ricky, and his daughters, Betty Gatlin, Joyce Perry and Melisha Middlebrooks. Bro. Pete was a brother to Sis. Corrine Thomas and Sis. Hazel Vibbert. We will certainly miss Bro. Pete, but we rejoice in his homecoming.

The next Sunday, we were blessed with our Sunday School Easter Program. The students did a great job of portraying our Lord's death and resurrection. It makes us eager for the time of our own resurrection when we will ever be with the Lord. We truly appreciated the effort put forth by each one to memorize their part in the program.

We were also pleased that day with the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Daron Price to Sis. Monica Steffen. Their parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen, all of Milford, IN. The couple plan to remain here in Athens after their July 8 wedding in Milford. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and we are thankful to have them in our congregation.

Then on Thursday, April 19, our Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore finally went Home to be with Jesus after a hard battle with cancer. He was at home when he died and our prayers have been, and will continue to be, with his wife, Sis. Doris; and his sons, Bro. Mike (Sis. Pam), Jeff, Randy (Lisa), and John (Holly). His funeral was held Sunday, April 22, and we are thankful to the many visi-



tors who came to show support to his family and to our Athens church. Bro. Lavoyd has been the Elder here in Athens since 1980 and a minister since 1964. We would truly covet your prayers during this time.

It has been decided that Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) will help with shepherding the flock here in Athens and we are very thankful for his willingness to take on this additional responsibility. May the Lord abundantly bless Bro. Andy and his wife, Sis. Roberta, as they allow themselves to be used for His work.

We have some Sunday School changes for this next quarter. Bro. Daron Price will take Sis. Joan Reinhard's place, Sis. Louise Haggemaker will take Sis. Pam Moore's place and Sis. Barbara Coulter will take Sis. Louise Hall's place. We are thankful for the willingness of each one to help train up our children.

Our visitors this month came from Morton and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, LaCrosse and Milford, IN; Taylor, MO; Junction, Sardis and Smithville, OH; and Nashville, TN. There was also many, many churches represented here at Bro. Lavoyd's funeral. Thank you each one for coming and being with us.

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 or e-mail Don.Sauder@juno.com or Bro. Tim Reinhard (931) 424-5838 or e-mail treinhard@juno.com. We look forward to enjoying the weekend with all who can attend.

## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

*Psalm 51:16-17*

Easter is such a happy time to believers. April Young gave her testimony on Saturday, April 14, and was baptized on Easter Sunday. Sis. April, we welcome you into our fold and pray your enthusiasm for God will last forever. To know Him is to love Him!

We had many encouraging messages besides our own home ministers. Bros. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) came to share God's Word.

Our beloved Sunday School children presented their Easter program on Palm Sunday afternoon. Their singing and Bible recitations praised our Lord Jesus and pleased us. Thanks to our teachers.

Easter Sunrise Services were held at Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's residence. The large crowd enjoyed the choir singing and later breakfast. Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Robert and Sis. Chris for making the day so special. God blessed us abundantly.

We have truly enjoyed our many winter visitors. God's love is our bond. Let us keep praying for one another.

Ray Peuschel was in the hospital. Sis. Toni Bentley was at home for a lengthy spell with pneumonia. Baby Dakota Pearl Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather) was also hospitalized.

Our church redecorating is moving along nicely; the "big stuff" will soon be coming. Your patience (a vir-

tue) please...

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

*Eph. 6:23-24*

## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

"There is beauty all around, when there's love at home." (Hymns of Zion #64). This song came to mind as we recognized our mothers on Mother's Day this month. Mothers are usually the nurturing part of the family unit and the majority of us have much to praise and thank God for in the mothers He gave us.

Things have been quiet in the Prescott church. We are praying for growth in number, spirit and unity as the Lord wills and in His time. We have been averaging 35-40 assembling each Sunday. We have welcomed some visitors and hope to see more as the summer months get closer.

This last month our ministering brethren included Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), James Emch and Herb Knochel Jr. (both of Phoenix).

## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

We had a blessed Easter Sunday here, starting with a morning song service in the local foothills. What promise and hope that came with Christ's victory over death! Even thousands of years later, we celebrate that powerful weekend and catch a glimpse of God's endless, un-failing love. Imagine the intense joy felt by those who came to anoint Jesus' body when they heard these words:

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where

the Lord lay.”

*Matthew 28:6*

We were privileged to host the 25 and older singles' weekend on March 24-25. Thanks to all who worked towards making this weekend a success. Special thanks to the ministering brothers who gave of their time and accepted our invitation to speak. We enjoyed the inspiration and fellowship of Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN), Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) and Richard Aberle (Altadena).

Our Sunday School picnic was held on April 22. Ministering Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) assisted our ministering brothers on the pulpit, and brought his family to enjoy the picnic along with others of their congregation.

Sis. Lynn Hartzler will be returning to Rittman, OH, for the summer. We will miss her. She has been a great blessing and help to our congregation as Sunday School teacher and we look forward to her return in the fall.

Sis. Martha Slenker has been in the hospital following hip surgery. She is now staying at the hospital's convalescent facility in the area. We pray that God's Spirit could be ever near, comforting her during these trying times.

We laid to rest Sis. Blanche Coldeen this month (94). After the funeral service, it was moving to hear reminiscences of all the lives that she had touched during her special ministry through the provision of countless quilts among so many. During her later months, Sis. Blanche spoke often of her desire to go Home. We can surely rejoice that her goal has been attained.

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## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

### Peggy Jevremov

This past month our congregation was blessed with many visitors. Our single group hosted a weekend

of precious fellowship with brothers and sisters from Rockville, CT; Junction, OH; and Silverton, OR. Our singing had a special quality with the blending of all their young voices. It seemed to be a foretaste of that new song in Heaven.

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion also this month. Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) came to assist Bro. Peter in serving us. May the Lord richly bless him for his willingness to come whenever the need arises.

We appreciated having Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) among our visitors. May the Lord bless him for sharing God's Word with us.

At this time of year we are reminded of all that our parents do for us. May we show them our appreciation and thanks, not only now, but throughout the year. They have passed on to us, their children, a rich spiritual heritage that surpasses anything else that could have been given to us.

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## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

### Nathan Reutter

This month has passed quickly but the Lord has seen us through. This month has brought to us two visiting ministers. They were Bro. Allen Stoller and his wife, Sis. Susan (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Victor Bauman and his wife, Sis. Brenda (Smithville, OH). We hope they felt as blessed with their visit as we felt with them in our midst. May God bless our ministers for their unending efforts. We encourage our ministers to "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." (Acts 5:20)

Also this month we have been reminded of the great price Jesus paid on our behalf on the old, rugged cross, that we might be set free. We are so thankful He rose on Easter morning. We were reminded that

God provided His only begotten Son as a pure unspotted Lamb to be sacrificed for our sins, just as God provided Abraham a ram in the thicket to sacrifice instead of His only Son. We are very thankful Jesus was willing to come to the thicket of this world and be sacrificed for us, that we nor an animal had to be.

We pray God watch over you this coming month and provide that which is necessary to sustain your faith. We encourage anyone who wishes to come and visit us. The summer season is coming and we would love it if you vacationed in the area. Niagara Falls is within two hours of our church. May God bless you always.

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## COLORADO, DENVER

### Mike and Heather Katanic

Our Sunday School children presented us with the Easter story, singing and telling us of Jesus' last days on this earth.

As we prepare for Communion, we were encouraged to "...let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (I Cor. 11:28-29)

We were blessed to hear Ruth Pfeiffer would like to give her testimony and we look forward to listening to her testimony the weekend of Communion.

Our Sunday School children in the middle school classes attended a youth weekend hosted by the Fort Scott, KS, church.

Some families in our church traveled to a Colorado Springs nursing home to sing hymns to Sis. Elizabeth Shaefer (Bluffton, IN). We were touched to see her face light up when she recognized some of the songs.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Kathe Hasty (Congerville, IL) in the loss of her husband of thirty years, Bro. Richard Hasty. Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathe lived in the

Denver area for many years. Our sympathy and prayers also go out to Sis. Sharolyn Hohulin (Bro. Doug) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Alice Metzger (Bro. Arnold, West Bend, IA). May the Lord be with them and provide comfort for them.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Cherie Galat**

We rejoice with Bruce and Karyn Kloter on the birth of their precious son, Luke Henry, who was born on March 22. Benjamin and Owen will have another brother to love. Baby Luke's grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter and Al and Margaret Krause.

"...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

*Matthew 19:6*

Bro. Justin Moser and Sis. Robin Kellenberger were joined as husband and wife on March 18 and currently fellowship at Chicago, IL. Parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Moser and Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May this dear couple always look to Him for future direction in their lives as they walk this pilgrim pathway together as one.

"A Christian, now baptized, To me much grace is given..." (Zion's Harp #43). Five dear souls were buried in the likeness of Christ's death and arose from the baptismal waters. We rejoice with our new brother and sisters, Bro. Greg Lanz (Sis. Linda), Sis. Heather Lanz (Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda), Sis. Joy Hany (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy), Sis. Amber Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Beth Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy). Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in the work. May these new lambs continue to receive His grace and peace through-

out their lives as they commit their way unto Him.

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

*Romans 10:15*

We had the privilege to have a meeting of the Eastern Region Elders here in Connecticut. It is a blessing that some of our dear Elders were able to stay longer and share God's Word unto us over the weekend: Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH), William Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH). Also visiting in the past weeks was Bro. Andy Virkler (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We thank each of these dear brothers for their service unto us.

In holy reverence our congregation stood in the pews of the sanctuary and shared the loaf and cup during Holy Communion. What a blessed privilege it is to take part in that which our Lord has asked us to do! The quietness and solemnity of the occasion surely allows us to reflect upon His death and suffering. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan were Elder Bros. Eugene Pamer (Akron, OH) and Andrew Stoller (Smithville, OH). We are so thankful that these dear brothers are able to serve us in this manner. May God bless them for their efforts to carry out His work.

We bid farewell to Seth Webb who has fellowshiped with us for some time. He plans to fellowship with the brethren at Morton, IL. We hope he felt the love of the Rockville, CT, congregation while he was with us. May God bless and keep him in His care.

Our prayers are with those who have been sick or hospitalized recently: Sis. Joan Hoffman (Bro. Steve), Bro. Robert Luginbuhl (Sis. Martha) and Sis. Betty Virkler. May God be with each one and heal according to His will.

As Mother's Day approaches, may we pray for our dear mothers that each one can be as the virtuous woman, "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." (Proverbs 31:20). May He bless each and every dear mother.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

"Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."

*Eph. 6:2*

At this time of the year we honor our mothers and thank the Lord for the blessing of godly mothers.

Our visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Bradford and Eureka, IL; and Rittman, OH.

A mother came to me the other Sunday asking if I knew a college girl with an Apostolic Christian background who would be interested in working as a nanny in this area this summer. There would be opportunities to see the sites either with the family or on her own. For more information, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

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.

If you are planning to visit Washington, DC for vacation or business, please call Bro. Matt Fetter (703) 860-5749 or Bro. Barry Steffen (410) 569-3635 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to



get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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**FLORIDA**  
**NORTH FORT MYERS**  
**Dorothy Beer**

This is the time of year that all of our winter residents and visitors have returned to their homes in the North. We do miss them, and look forward to their return in the fall and winter months.

We were blessed by the following ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Scott Schaefer (South Bend, IN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN). We thank them, along with our home ministers, for giving of themselves in the Lord's work.

We welcome to our church Eugene and Alice Myer who have moved here from Bloomington, IL. Their address is:

Eugene and Alice Myer  
18292 Morrison Ave. NW  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
941-625-8626

Another BBQ was enjoyed by all after church on March 25.

Our Wednesday evening services have been canceled for the summer.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

We were saddened that Bro. Linn Stoller's brother, Doug (Leo, IN), has passed away from a battle with cancer. Our prayer is that the Lord will give the grace and support to Bro. Linn and his family for their loss.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers to assist Bro. Tom this past month. We would like to thank Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). We were

richly blessed for the Spirit inspired Word they brought and the fellowship we shared.

As summer vacation approaches, we look forward to the summer travelers that will transverse the South. Our small congregation enjoys the many different brethren that stop in as they travel. The church is located in Fairburn (6225 Campbellton-Fairburn Rd. Highway 92), southwest of Atlanta off exit 64 on I-85. Our church is exactly four miles west of the interstate. We have services every Sunday and on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. To help us with serving lunch and Sunday School preparation, please alert us to your visit. You can call either Bro. Linn Stoller (770) 631-4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman (770) 304-8335 or Bro. John Brewer (770) 463-0701.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**  
**Sheila McCoy**  
**Doreen Moser**

"No one is poor who had a godly mother."

—*Abraham Lincoln*

Let us remember the great love of our mothers on this Mother's Day and remember to let our light shine if we are mothers.

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

*Romans 10:17*

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) with the reading of the Memorandum this month. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). We thank all our ministers for strengthening our faith and may "ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:8).

Andrea McCoy (David and Sis.

Sheila) and Mike Katz (Arthur and Sue) are engaged. May their love for God and each other be strengthened. "His banner over me was love." (Song of Solomon 2:4).

We have been so blessed with two new bundles of joy! Alex Daniel was born on April 7 to Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold. First-time grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (both of Cissna Park, IL). Todd Michael was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Peggy Anliker on April 11. Other happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL). "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3)

Bro. Art Mueller used the topic of "Walking in the Spirit" for our Bible study in Madison. "Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

We were blessed on Palm Sunday to hear many beautiful hymns, scriptures and verses pertaining to Jesus' death and resurrection by our Sunday School classes.

*Three Rusty Nails*

This is a story of a man who owned a store  
And was proud to have his name  
over the door.

It was some 2000 years ago as I recall

Located in Jerusalem, across  
from Pilate's Hall.

I though that I had everything  
anyone would need.

Folks would come from miles  
around regardless of their  
creed.

The only thing I had that I  
thought would not sell  
Were three rusty nail spikes back  
on a corner shelf.

Then one day a big Roman soldier  
came through the door

And as he walked up to me — it seemed he shook the floor.  
I asked, "What can I do for you?"  
in a voice that seemed so frail.  
He looked at me and grinned and sneered, "I want some big, big nails."

"Why" I said, "I'm sorry, sir, but three rusty spike nails is all that I have to sell you."  
He said, "They will work just fine for the job I have to do.  
Three is enough, how much do I owe?"  
I took the money, glad to make the sale.  
Then I wondered and asked, "Sir, what can you do with three old rusty nails?"

He glared at me and asked, "Do you remember Jesus the Nazarene?"  
I replied, "You mean the man who is so good and serene?"  
"Yes, that's the one — well today I intend to show the world that I am boss!  
I'm going to nail Jesus to the cross."

I stood there and so numb I felt I pleaded, "Please, sir, don't do that" as on my knees I knelt.  
"Please sir, I'll buy the nails back."  
But he turned and walked away, the nails in his pack.  
In the distance I could see the howling mob through tear filled eyes.  
"Away with Him! Crucify Him!" I could hear their angry cries.  
And above the jeers and bitter groans of grief and agony I could hear the ring of the hammer driving the nails through His feet.  
As that big Roman soldier nailed Jesus to the tree,  
I heard Him cry, "My God, my

God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

We offer our sympathy to Bro. Dave and Sis. Millie Jepson and Bro. Jim and Sis. Carlene Jepson in the loss of their father and grandfather, Reno Davis. May God comfort them.

We certainly need to thank all those who have been so generous with volunteering their time and talents. We have so many to thank for monetary contributions, donations of many items, and prayers as we have been building our new church. God be willing, we hope to be moving into our new facility at the end of May.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

#### Shawn Masters Dana Knapp

We were blessed this month to have retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign, IL) with us for a topical Bible study entitled "Unity in Christ". We thoroughly enjoyed it and thank him for his efforts and example. We also thank Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) for sharing the Word with us. We appreciate their efforts to encourage and teach us through God's Holy Word.

We praise and thank God that He continues to draw souls to Him. We rejoice that Russ and Beth Koehl (Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl, Morris, MN, and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle, Princeville, IL) have turned their lives to Him and began their repentance.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter have been blessed with a precious bundle of joy. Shauna Jean was born March 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Donald and Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (Princeville, IL). Also adding another little blessing to their family are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Crystal Cargill.

They adopted a precious daughter, Sydney Joy, from China. She is 11 months old. Enjoying their new little sister are brothers, Jonathon and Brandon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard (Fairbury, IL).

Our Sis. Helen Bauer passed away this month. Our prayers and sympathy are with her family. She will be greatly missed by our church family. Our prayers and sympathy also go to Bro. Curt and Sis. Sue Heimer at the sudden death of Curt's brother.

It is always a blessing to watch our Sunday School children sing praises to God. We thank them for bringing us the real message of Easter during the Easter Program on April 8.

Our church family enjoyed starting Easter morning focusing on Christ and the love He has for each one of us during our Sunrise Service. Thanks to all who labored on our behalf.

We would like to welcome Sis. Robin Lemons as she has begun worshipping with us.

On April 15, we heard the engagement of our Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Rebecca Inoue (Hisato and Sis. Kathie). We wish them God's nearness as He molds their lives into one.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Chad and LauraLee Plattner

Each child born brings great joy. On March 6, Abram Issac was born to Troy and Sis. Heather Pyles. His two younger brothers are Morgan and Logan. Grandparents are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser and Bro. Denny and Sis. Becky Pyles.

Bro. John and Sis. Sara Ehnle are blessed with the arrival of their fifth child, Ruth Ann, born April 30. Her older brothers and sisters are Rebecca, Jonathan, Luke, and Hannah. Grandparents are Bro.

Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and John Steiner (Oakville, IA). May God bless them for their labors among us.

Bro. Denny Pyles (Sis. Becky) was hospitalized for a short time this month. We are thankful God gave him a quick recovery.

We apologize for leaving out the following note in our last month's report:

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our thankfulness and appreciation for the many prayers, concern, and love extended to us during Elwin's recent illness and hospitalization. We were so encouraged and uplifted by the many cards, gifts of love, and prayers during that time. God has been so good to us and we are so overwhelmed by the outpouring of prayers and love from our church family. May God bless you all.

In His love,

*Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold*

## ILLINOIS

### CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

#### Samuel and Pamela Furrer

As I write this in mid-April, we are hopeful that we have springtime weather with us to stay for a period of time. It seems that spring has been having a hard time making its entrance this year. Our spring bulbs around the house put some green shoots up some weeks back only to be covered with snow. That melted away and we had some beautiful days which encouraged some blooming flowers. Just as the tulips opened, the temperatures dropped again and snow dusted the ground and the flowers on April 17. Now the grass is greening, the trees are bud-

ding, and we are seeing that renewal of life that always brings a special quality to the season. The little bulbs we planted in the fall are producing sweet-smelling and beautiful flowers all in the fragrance, color and formation that God has planned.

Our college students hosted the Parent Weekend and Champaign-Urbana Appreciation Day. There was a very nice showing of parents and/or families here for the students' Saturday evening dinner at the church. We were glad that many families also stayed over for Sunday. While one of the purposes of this is to thank the local church, we really feel it is our blessing to have the students with us. We do appreciate the students' efforts and their parents being with us whenever it is possible.

"I Have Seen the Lord" was the title of our annual Sunday School Easter program which was presented by our young people. The program explored Christ's sacrifice and how it has an impact on our lives. The children led us to Gethsemane, to Calvary, and to the Resurrection through scripture readings, poems and songs. From the smallest preschooler to the oldest high school student, this most important account was re-told to renew our motivation to continually seek Jesus.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth."

*Colossians 3:1-2*

Bro. Dennie Mangers' mother, Josephine Mangers, passed away on February 26. Our thoughts and prayers were with Bro. Dennie and Sis. Cheryl and their family over this time of loss.

Ministering Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben

Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) were with us over the past month. Whether it was a mid-week service or a Sunday, we thank them for coming to spend time with us and share the Word with us.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Jill Rager

During the Easter season especially, I try to circulate the Easter story books that we own to the "read me a story" basket for our children. I also borrow library books on the same topic. I have found it to be very worthwhile to preview any Easter books for Biblical accuracy. (This is also a good exercise for me as it sometimes sends me searching through my Bible to verify details.)

I was about three-fourths of the way through one book which thus far had been very accurate, but my heart sank when the Roman soldier called out "Truly, this was a son of God." In my eyes, the change from "the" to "a" distorted the impact of Jesus' position in God's plan. Essentially, the statement was true because we as converted people are children of God, but Jesus is set apart. He has been God's Son before God even created people! He was the only Son that could be a Redeemer for the rest of us. Let us keep that reverence for Him in our hearts with gratitude.

Palm Sunday was the day our Sunday School students shared (in accurate detail) the Easter program. From the enthusiastic "Alive, Alive, Alive forevermore" of the preschool class to the "Up from the grave He arose" of the older students, the truth of the Easter story was reiterated.

As Easter and spring are natural reminders of new life, we rejoice with Sis. Christine Hodel (Kent and Janet, Washington, IL) and Bro. Blake Stahl (Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria) as they announced their engagement and their wish to begin a



new life as one.

Lastly, we offer prayers of comfort and healing to Mabelle Welk as she has experienced some health problems recently.

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

We are thankful for the ministering brothers that came this month. We thank Bro. Marvin Lemman for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading the Memorandum. We thank Bro. Steve Baner for coming and having a topical Bible study on moderation. Also, Bro. Trent Meiss came and proclaimed to us the Word of God.

We thank the Sunday School children and their teachers for reminding us of the Easter story. Our program was held on the evening of Palm Sunday.

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,  
 When His covenant He did endow,  
 When His blood in love and grace eternal,  
 For transgression and for sin did flow,  
 He established for His church a token,  
 That His covenant might ne'er be broken,  
 That His holy Sacrifice and feast,  
 For His own, from sin and death released.

*Zion's Harp #26*

We want to thank our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) for coming and sharing the Lord's Supper with us. We appreciate their efforts and reminding us of the great price that was paid for us on Calvary.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will

not depart from it."

*Proverbs 22:6*

Ryan and Sis. Adrea Wells welcomed little Autumn Larise on April 7. Her brother, Skyler, along with grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Ray and Carole Wells, are thankful and happy. Also, we extend congratulations to first-time grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher and Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold, on their grandson, Alex Daniel. His parents are Bro. Thad and Sis. Elizabeth Heinold (Belvidere, IL).

We extend our sympathy to the family in the passing of our friend, Linda Bauer, who had been in the nursing home for several years. Also, our prayers are with Sisters Dort Walder, Carol Waldbeser, Marge Rinkenberger and Grace Bauer on the death of their aunt, Sis. Helen Bauer, of Bloomington.

Sis. Lucille Walder was our only hospital patient this month. We are thankful it was only a short stay and she is feeling fine now.

We are thankful to witness another milestone in a brother's life. We extend a happy birthday to Bro. George Winger as he turned 101 in March. We are thankful he is still able to assemble with us on Sundays and wish him God's blessing.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our most sincere thanks to all who remembered Earl and our family during his extensive surgery and illness. When he lost his earthly battle so unexpectedly in late January, your support was still there for our family. The mystery of God's order and plan as to who He calls Home and when will someday be revealed to His children.

*Mary Knapp, children and grandchildren*

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Glenna Rinkenberger**

March 18 our Bible Class hosted Washington and Bradford Bible Classes, their teachers and wives. Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) were with us and the youth for the day. Our prayer is that these young people can come to the realization of the truth soon.

Full of youthful zeal, I was pursuing  
 Nothing but deceit and vanity;  
 Sham and shadow I was ever wooing,  
 And the truth remained unknown to me.

*Zion's Harp #182*

The angels in Heaven rejoiced with our congregation as we added three new lambs to the fold on March 25. We welcomed Bro. John Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) and his wife, Sis. Jackie, and Sis. Kate Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol). May God bless each one with the strength to be a light wherever they need to be in this life. Visiting ministers who were with us that day were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bros. Bruce Hohulin and Jeff Grimm (both from Goodfield).

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it."

*Mark 14:22-23*

On April 1, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in this sacred evening. As we see spring and the new growth around us, we feel a new beginning spiritually after self-examination and the blessings that follow. Palm Sunday and Easter continued to remind us of the pre-

cious privilege of salvation and the price that was paid for it.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Vern and Sis. Judy Wettstein and their family in the death of his brother, Glenn Wettstein.

Our prayers also continue with Sis. Kathe Hasty in the passing from this earthly life of her husband, Bro. Richard. May the family find comfort that Bro. Richard was ready to meet his Maker. Sis. Kathe will surely be blessed for her faithful care in sitting by Bro. Richard's side all these years. May the Lord be her Comforter.

Even as the cycle of the seasons continue, so do life and death. New life has entered the home of Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser. Born April 4, Morgan Rae was welcomed home by her big sisters, Alyssa and Jessi. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch (Lamont- Gridley, KS). We all need the prayers of each other that we can raise our children in the obedience of the Word.

Our prayers continue with Bro. Allen (Sis. Carol) Schrock in his slow recovery from back surgery. Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Jeff) McClure is back assembling with us after surgery. Bro. Duane (Sis. Lois) Steffen and Joshua Knepp (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette) each had a fall which resulted in broken bones but they are up and around.

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Amy Gasser**  
**Kay Kellenberger**

"For, lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; The time of the singing of birds is come, And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

The sign of spring brings to mind new life. Our hearts are made reverent and humble as we continue to meditate on how God has given each of us the blessed opportunity for a new life in Christ Jesus. The Elgin congregation rejoiced with Sis. Sarah Moore and Bro. Dan Kellenberger as they gave their testimonies and were baptized. May we uplift and pray for each of them as they continue their walk in Christ.

Glory be to God in Heaven,  
 Praise to Christ, our Saviour  
 great!

By the power of Thy Spirit  
 a new man Thou didst create.  
 Angels see in joyous rapture  
 God's own Word in deed fulfilled;  
 And amid our glad embraces  
 is this child of God revealed.

This new being now arises,  
 having died with Christ before;  
 What in Adam's fall had perished  
 Christ the Saviour did restore.  
 Dearest child, we bid thee welcome  
 in our blessed brotherhood;  
 From the wild tree thou art  
 grafted  
 on this holy tree and root.

Out of water and of Spirit  
 Thou, O child, art born today;  
 You've escaped the old oppressor,

In God's covenant you'll stay.  
 Of one vine we all are branches;  
 Of Christ's body members we;  
 And for Satan's gall so bitter,  
 Streams of life our drink shall be.  
*Zion's Harp #34*

We are again thankful as God's faithful Word is brought forth to encourage, strengthen, comfort and chastise each of us. May the following visiting ministers be blessed for their humble service: Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Dean

Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL).

May our heart lift in prayer Sis. Barbara Schock during this time of her hospitalization. We also extend our prayers to Sis. Nancy Schieler as she has been experiencing complications with her pregnancy. We all need to lean fully on God's grace, knowing we are safely resting in His hands.

The Elgin congregation shared in the fellowship of hearing the Easter story expressed by our Sunday School children. It is so precious to hear this account be told from the mouths of babes. May our hearts continue to pray for our children that they too will soon accept the gift of salvation.

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Janet Zimmerman**

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

*Isaiah 53:5*

Saturday evening, April 7, we were reminded of the Lord's great suffering on our behalf as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) helped with this sacred privilege.

We are always glad and thankful when we can report a soul who is repenting. We wish God's grace to Wade Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) as he has turned from the world and has begun to serve the Lord. It is encouraging to know that God's grace and mercy is still available to us if we ask. "Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful tho' we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, to free: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee..." (Hymns

of Zion #118)

On April 12 we laid to rest our dear beloved sister - in - faith, Aldine Leman. We will miss her very much and yet we are thankful that she is "safe in the arms of Jesus." How glad we will be when we can meet our loved ones on yonder shore. Sis. Aldine died Monday, April 9. We extend our sympathy to her family, Sis. Jan Rocke (Bro. Rob), Kathleen Lyman (William) of Wyckoff, NJ, Maurice (Carole) and Douglas (Gloria), both of Germantown Hills, three brothers, Bro. Eugene Stoller (Leo, IN), Bro. Glen Stoller (Junction, OH), Victor Stoller of Del Ray Beach, FL, and to her grandchildren.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO). May God richly bless each one.

Those who have been hospitalized recently are Bro. Willis Stoller, Sis. Elizabeth Zimmerman and Sis. Evie Gudeman. Our prayers are with Sis. Julie Kupferschmid as she is taking chemotherapy treatments at this time. We commit our loved ones to the Lord as He knows what is best and we pray for His will to be done.

Monday evening, April 2 was our annual church housecleaning. We enjoy working together and then having lunch and fellowship.

Wednesday evening, April 11, was our Easter Program. We all received a blessing and we thank the Sunday School students who sang for us.

Lisa Hartter and Jacob Rouse of Nathrop, CO, were united in marriage April 7. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev and David and Karen Rouse of Longview, WA. We wish them God's blessings.

May God bless our dear mothers. With grateful hearts we thank our

God-fearing mothers for showing us the way of truth and righteousness.

"He maketh the barren woman to keep house and to be a joyful mother of children."

*Psalm 113:9*

*Mother's Song*

Mem'ry paints a picture very dear to me;

In the twilight seated, there at Mother's knee.

Sweetly she is humming, notes almost divine:

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine."

Often o'er life's pathway hangs a cloud of night,

But my mother's Saviour makes the darkness bright,

As I hear her singing, joy in every line,

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine."

Often though, I've wandered till sin held me bound,

Then in Mother's message, sweet relief have found.

To my Mother's Saviour I my all resign,

"My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine."

Something in the message always finds my heart:

Often as I hear it, will the tears drop start.

Sweet its benediction; Low my head I bow:

"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

—author unknown

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Sally Fehr**

**Joann Zehr**

I now have found the firm foundation

Where evermore my anchor grounds!

*Zion's Harp #221*

We are thankful that Louise Hibsich was able to lay a foundation of faith in Christ in her high age. She was proved and baptized by our Elder Bro. Art Bahler and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL). May she continue to feel the peace of God. We rejoice when those who are at a high age can come to the Lord in repentance, but there is no promise that the time will be granted to everyone. "In days of youth seek ye the Lord..." (Hymns of Zion #135)

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

*II Timothy 4:2*

We appreciated Bro. Kent Getz's (Elgin, IA) willingness to preach the Word to us. Then we were blessed to have Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) with us on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday, Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) spoke the glad news of the Resurrection to us. We thank you for your visits and welcome you to come back again.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

*Hebrews 11:1*

By faith, Bro. Bill Stork (Bro. John and Sis. Eunice) and Sis. Shay Steffen (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay) proved out that it is God's will for them to be joined in Holy Matrimony. Our prayers are with them as



they make plans for a July wedding.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell welcomed their new son, Justus DeMarco, born April 10. Justus has a brother, Cody, and a sister, Dakota. Grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and "Skip" and Helen Voeste of Forrest, are enjoying the new arrival.

We rejoice with Marvin and Jane Bahler, who celebrated their 50th anniversary recently. Their children are Sis. Connie Bahler, Sis. Julie Drayer (Bluffton, IN) and Steve Bahler.

Sis. Ruth Meyer and Sis. Roberta Meyer lost a sister and an aunt when Sis. Pauline Witzig (Gridley, IL) passed away. Sis. Thelma Slagel's granddaughter, Cynthia Eubanks, 42, of Dallas, TX, died of cancer on April 16. We extend our sympathy to each one.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kathryn Kaisner, Sis. Jeanne Bittner and Bro. Bud (Sis. Sharon) Kelson who submitted to surgery. May the healing power of the Lord be with them.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works..."

*Hebrews 10:24*

Recently this verse was brought to my heart to ponder its meaning. Provoke means "to challenge" or "to stimulate to action." This is when others view our example, the things we do and say, and are "stimulated" to follow the same course of action. Do we, by our example, inspire or provoke our fellow believers (one another) to a closer walk to the image of Christ? Or do we provoke one another to a closer walk with the world? Do we provoke denial of self in one another, because of love toward Christ and the brethren? Or do we provoke self-gratification? "Let us consider one another..."

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jean Knapp  
Linda Anliker**

Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His  
foes...

*Tabernacle Hymns #205*

After Good Friday services, our Sunday School children brought us the Easter message of salvation through songs and verses.

Let us rejoice that Christ, who walked on this earth as man and willingly died for our sins so we can be set free from the clutches of Satan, was triumph over death and the grave. The earth could not withhold His glory and splendor as the heavy stone was rolled away.

Likewise, symbolic to Christ's burial, three souls, after giving testimony of their faith, were baptized; burying their old nature and arising to a newness of life. Making a covenant to God to remain true and faithful all the days of their lives were Bro. Craig Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), Sis. Amber Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Tami Young (Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy). We thank Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bros. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) for sharing in this blessed weekend.

Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) were united in Holy Matrimony on April 15. We appreciate Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Chris Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for being with us for this special occasion.

Three boys have been born this past month. Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim Leman and Milan are thankful for the arrival of Paul Earl. His grand-

parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Fairbury, IL). Chase Daniel is welcomed in the home and hearts of Bro. Arlen and Denise Leman and "big" brother Jacob. Thankful grandparents are Jim and Rita Bahler (Fairbury, IL). Both of these boys are grandsons of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman (Eureka, IL).

Madison Kupferschmid is happy to have a baby brother, Austin Reid. His thankful parents are Daton and Kathy Kupferschmid and his grandparents are Lynn Fogal (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid.

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Bro. Art (Sis. Velda) Huette and Bro. Wilbur (Sis. Ruth) Wiegand.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Eli Leman who passed from this life into eternity on March 21. We sympathize with his wife of many years, Sis. Bertie; and his children, Donald (Columbus, OH), Howard (Sis. Gloria, Morton, IL), Velda (Gary) Fite, and Judy (Bob) Zimmerman (both of Normal, IL) and Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Al) Zimmerman; his siblings, Sis. Marie Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Sid Leman. We thank Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) for his part in the funeral service.

Our sympathy and prayers also go to Bro. Herb and Sis. Jan Bachtold and their family in the death of their father and grandfather, Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

### *Note of Thanks:*

Loving and kind in all his ways, upright and just to the end of his days; sincere and true in his heart and mind, a beautiful memory he left behind. He had a nature you could not help loving, a heart that was purer than gold; and to those who knew him and loved him, his memory will never grow old. May God bless every kind thought, deed and

prayer offered during the short illness and passing of our beloved husband, grandfather, great grandfather and great, great grandfather.

*The family of Eli Leman*

## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

### Heather Hohulin

Our congratulations go to Bro. Matt and Sis. Melissa Kaufman as they became one in the Lord this past month. Parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet Leman and Linda Kaufman and Warren Kaufman. We pray that God will bless their marriage.

We also wish to congratulate Kim Mullins (Roger and Sherry) and Dennis Major (Carl and Jeanette) as they have announced their engagement. May God be with them as they plan a new life together.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Marci Schieler (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Ted Schieler (Sis. Peg). We pray they are on the road to recovery.

How thankful we are to have many upcoming testimonies and baptisms. Having found peace with God are Marti and Holly Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), Angie Kuntz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat), Sarah Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy), Meika Monfre (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne), Ryan Sides (Jerry and Penny), Jordan Tanner (Joe Tanner and Jan Rogers) and Larissa Wiegand (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori). May Christ's light continue to shine through them throughout their lives.

I'm always thankful that we at Goodfield celebrate the Lord's supper on Good Friday. With Easter so close it just brings in to remembrance the total sacrifice that our Lord and Saviour made for us. How humbling it is to be able to say that because of His total selflessness, we can have eternal life with Him. There is no greater gift. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Wayne

Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) here.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN) and Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL). We thank them for bringing God's Word to us.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Thanks to all for remembering me with the lovely birthday cards I received for my 90th birthday.

*Sis. Elsie Hohulin*

## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

### Perry A. Klopfenstein

We were blessed by the visit of ministering Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) on April 2. He posed the question if we were walking in the light, or walking in darkness. He cautioned those who walk in the light, that they not stray into the darkness.

It is always a joy to sing from the Zion's Harp hymnal. The words are so descriptive of what we, as believers, experience from day to day. One hymn was especially appropriate for Sunday morning (#254, vs. 4):

Slumber now, my worldly business,

For today I am engaged.

All my strength and all my efforts

I have to the Master pledged.

Praising God to watch and pray,

Is my duty for today.

On April 1, four souls were taken into the fold. Those baptized were Sis. Renee Schallmo (formerly of Chicago, IL), Sis. Amber Miller (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol), Sis. Christy Stoller (Bro. Curt and Sis. Carla) and Bro. Ryan Schlipf (husband of Sherrie Schlipf). We rejoice with the

angels in Heaven. May God sustain them in their new walk. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) was here for the occasion.

On Wednesday evening, April 4, our congregation took Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) was here to help. It was a blessed time.

On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed a special breakfast in the fellowship hall. The young group sang several hymns followed by a Bible exhortation. Bro. Ron Bollier was a visiting minister on Easter. May God reward him for his efforts.

Bro. Steve Baner made a topical Bible presentation on Wednesday evening, April 18. He spoke on "Moderation". He advised us it means moderation in temperament, rather than in lifestyle (according to the Greek definition of moderation).

On Sunday evening, April 8, the Sunday School children put on an Easter program in the assembly room. It was a blessed time. Our song leaders are to be thanked for their efforts in drawing the singing talents out of our youth.

Sis. Judy Zimmerman has been engaged to Bro. Gary Musselman (Goodfield, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman. His parents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Eileen Musselman of Goodfield. An April 29 wedding is being planned.

Tony Dohman (John and Sis. Judy) is engaged to marry Amanda Sides of Delavan (James and Leann Sides, Delavan). They plan to marry on June 16.

Sis. Marjorie Witzig fell and fractured her pelvis and elbow. She is now up and around.

Others with illness were Bro. Ralph Schlipf who had heart bypass surgery, Bro. Bill Butikofer with chest pains, Byron Martin for back surgery, and Sis. Eunice Schlipf with an undiagnosed illness (as of April 23). May God heal them all according to His will.

Sis. Laura Martin is now residing in the Meadows Home (4 mi. east of Gridley). We pray the dear Lord will comfort her in this time of change in her life.

## ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Phyllis Farney  
Cheryl Wuthrich**

On April 22 a solemn and inspiring event took place in our congregation. Bro. Ted Witzig was ordained Elder of the Morton church to take his place among the Elders of the Apostolic Christian Churches. His wife, Sis. Cindy (Rassi), and his children, Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna (Tanner), Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder, Bro. Andy and Sis. Erin (Mott), and his mother, Sis. Aldeine (Koehl) Witzig, as well as a church filled with loved ones were there to support him. The brothers here to assist retiring Elder Bro. Joe Braker were Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) who exhorted and encouraged Bro. Ted; Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) who talked to the church of our responsibilities; and Ron Messner (Washington, IL) who addressed Bro. Ted's family. It was an event which strengthened our unity and love.

The congregation wishes to thank our beloved Elder Bro. Joe Braker and his dear wife, Sis. Shirley, for their years of service to the Morton church. Elder Bro. Joe was ordained in September, 1974. He has been our Elder for over 26 years and he will always be an important part of the Morton church. We know that the Lord will continue to use him and Sis. Shirley in special ways. Words cannot express our gratitude for all they have done nor the love we have for them.

The Morton congregation was happy to welcome Bro. Andy and Sis. Jayne Sauder into the fold of the redeemed as we heard their testimonies and witnessed their baptisms March 24-25. Many of their loved

ones were present as we all rejoiced with the angels. We wish them God's continued guidance and direction as they go forward with Him.

On March 28, the Memorandum was presented so kindly and lovingly by the brothers. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Joe Braker in this.

During the month of April our focus was on Jesus' death and resurrection. All of the traditional Easter activities helped us to remember our Lord's sacrifice. On April 1, our Easter program was held with all ages participating in song. On April 8, Communion exhortation was held. On Easter Sunday a special Sunrise Service and breakfast was enjoyed. And, of course, Good Friday and Easter Services were the foundation of our worship and remembrance.

On April 13, Sis. Lucille Hohulin passed away at the age of 92 at the Apostolic Christian Restmor. Her husband was the late Bro. John Hohulin. May the Lord comfort and bless her family; one son, John, of Morton; two daughters, Janice Collinson and Joyce Collinson, both of Colorado Springs, CO; one brother, Joseph Ott, and four grandchildren.

We are so happy for Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger as they welcome home their first child. Kelli Renee was born April 11. Grandparents are Sis. Judy Knapp (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger (St. Louis, MO). We pray for wisdom for Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy as they rear their precious child to love and obey the Lord.

Another happy family, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi and Timothy, welcome home Kayla Ruth born on April 19. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott (Morton, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). May the Lord continue to guide and bless

these parents as they teach their children the ways of the Lord.

On April 22, the High School Bible Class hosted the Roanoke young people. It was a blessing to have them and the adults that accompanied them.

We have elected new Sunday School teachers. They are Bros. Allen Kaiser, Jeff Stoller and Keith Schick and Sis. Elaine Sollberger and Sis. Diane Funk. We wish them a rich measure of wisdom and love as they undertake this important task.

We enjoyed many visiting ministers and their families this month. Visitors who ministered in addition to the Elder Bros. mentioned above were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bros. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN).

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

**Peter and Mabel Weber**

At our Continuing Care Retirement Center "Skylines", home to 113 residents, spiritual care has precedence over physical conveniences so our elderly can complete their lives in a godly environment. During an informational meeting on 3/22 at the Fellowship Hall, various aspects of service, advance directives, estate planning, gifting, long-term care insurance and future plans were discussed and we thank members of administration and board for their presentations as well as their ongoing availability to answer questions from anyone interested.

Prayers from the pews bring power to the pulpit. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for their ministries on 3/25. Only two of the twelve spies relied on God's promises. Some forty years

later, Rahab, though a most unlikely person, was used in a similar way so the Israelites could take Jericho when its walls fell after they had circled it seven times. Rahab "bound the scarlet line in the window" and had it ready (Josh. 2:21). We, likewise, must be prepared. Don't limit God and let your hearts be troubled. The truths of His promises are so profound that we miss them sometimes. Only one of the lepers returned; we also must be thankful for every step of the way so our lives can be open to take the Word as our guide. We exist on three levels: physical (we need to be present), intellectual (visit and fellowship) and spiritual (realize why we are here).

Holy Communion was pre-announced for Palm Sunday to provide the opportunity to examine and cleanse our hearts (to be fit for the Kingdom when our life is over) and then accept the invitation to the Lord's table...a special time of revival as joint-heirs with Jesus.

"Church Discipline" was the topic of Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) at our family night service on 4/4. Many of us benefited from our parents' discipline, because they loved us. Later we learned to discipline ourselves as a very positive way to help us through life. God wants us to lead a sinless life, but if we do sin, there is a propitiation for our sins (I John 2:2). Proverbs 6:27-33 states there are consequences to sin and there are two kinds of sins. "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord" (Hebrews 12:5). We have a Heavenly Father, Who loves us and provides a way to be reconciled again if we are humble and will correct our sins right away. Whom does God correct? Whom He loves, so he can be a partaker of His holiness. Sin is like an infection: the healing process starts when the sore is cleaned out. In I Cor. 5 we see that the church was lax and the most grievous sins received no action. Membership is no longer meaningful when everybody

can be a member, because "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (6). The purpose of discipline is twofold: to save the soul, and keep the Church pure. There is a price to pay for sin, but with true repentance "the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (5). In case of serious sin, the ban is used (I Cor. 5:11), which is a very painful experience, but remember: in the Old Testament such were stoned to death. Sin and the Spirit of God don't mix to share the same heart, and if it is not dealt with, the Spirit departs. Discipline is for the preservation of the Church, and that we do not hear: "I know thee not!" We thank Bro. Joe sincerely for his well-researched topic. He will soon lay down his duties of eldership and ministry and mentioned it would be his last time to speak from our pulpit.

"I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene"...as foretold 700 years earlier by Isaiah (53:2-7). The Sunday School and Young Group presented the Easter Program on 4/1 and gave us new reasons to thank God for His perfect Son, the teachers for their motivation, members and friends for praying and supporting them, the students for their preparations and parents for bringing them to Sunday School.

We thank Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Ken Hoerr for serving Holy Communion on Palm Sunday. The believers received a written invitation, in the Word, to come to a very special feast for the spiritual body, paid for by the Saviour with His suffering, so we can have eternal life in Heaven.

Thanks, Bro. Andy Moser (Valparaiso, IN), for your visit on 4/8 and ministry on Isaiah 50: they plucked the hair out of His beard and spat upon Him (6); we must let the Holy Spirit work in us, examine ourselves and ask for help as we are losers, without a promise for tomorrow.

We thank the choir for their dinner and hymn presentation on 3/31

at the Fellowship Hall and providing the opportunity to share in the Lord's work thru singing.

Luke 15 tells us all are important to God, and of the joy in Heaven when one sinner repents. Wayne Guingrich gave his testimony of conversion on 3/28 and received baptism, the central part of the Christian faith. We wish him God's nearness in his new walk of life, and sustenance as he continues to wait for a heart transplant.

"Gott ist die Liebe" and other favorites from the Heft book were intoned at the German Hymn Sing on April 1 at the Skylines. We thank all who contributed to making it a blessed event, especially our bilingual songleaders.

Two World Relief projects were supported by local groups: 3/15-3/22 Medical Team/AMMAR at Ciudad, Juarez, Mexico. Bros. Rich Schock and Lee Klopfenstein (MDs), Elder Bro. Marvin Leman and Bro. Greg Lehman and 40 participants set up consultation tents to treat minor medical and dental ailments and distributed over 2,000 Bibles. From 4/7-4/14 at Deaf Village/CCCD in the mountains of Jamaica with Bros. Tim Funk and Loris Knobloch, 60 Bible Class students assisted in building constructions. We thank the Lord for His protection and blessing these efforts.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Anna Schneider for the death of her sister, Sis. Pauline Witzig (92), on 3/25 at the Eureka Home. One whom we loved and esteemed, Bro. Harold Leman (90), went to his eternal rest on 3/26. He came to the faith in the last years at the Skylines, where he resided since 1996, and will be missed by many. Our condolences to son, Jerry, and his wife, Bette, and the rest of his family.

We don't know why God took Bro. Frank McCall (foster son of Sis. Frances Wiegand) out of this life at age 45 when he had so much to look forward to, but God doesn't make



mistakes and if we are fully committed to Jesus, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. We express our sincere sympathy to Sis. Frances, Bro. Mike and the family.

Our hospital patients were Bros. Walter Merkle and Richard Guingrich and Sis. Carolee Unsicker and Lydia Meyer.

A communal breakfast, song service and inspirational message by Bro. Jim Hoerr were enjoyed Easter morning at the Fellowship Hall... "Death in vain forbids Him rise".

Another reason for Easter to be special was the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Harlan and Sis. Mazie Thomas. Our best wishes for the Lord's blessings for future years of good health and togetherness.

The contemporary word "Welcome" is not in the Scriptures, but we are advised to "greet the friends by name" (III John 14). We thank the brothers who have been willing to lend themselves for this service, stood at the church doors, even in the cold of last winter, and extended the invitation to come and worship with us.

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Mary Ehnle**  
**Crystal Streitmatter**

Said the robin to the sparrow, "I should really like to know, why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin, "Friend I think that it must be, that they have no heavenly Father such as cares for you and me!"

—author unknown

May we be thankful for our Heavenly Father's care, and be reminded of how He cares for us and for all of His creation, as we see the new life emerging everywhere this springtime. We trust that those who have

had to submit to care in a hospital this past month have also felt their Heavenly Father's care. Those individuals are Sis. Lydia Meyer (the late Walter), Collin Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri), Paul Streitmatter (Mary) and Lee Streitmatter.

Our congregation was privileged to have Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) with us to help our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller share Holy Communion with us on March 31. Bro. John read in Romans 5 and we were reminded of how Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that we are not worthy of God's love in sending His Son for us. It was a blessing to again remember our Lord's death and suffering.

Ring the bells of heaven there is joy today,  
 For a soul returning from the wild;  
 See the Father meets him, out upon the way,  
 welcoming His weary wandering child.

*Tabernacle Hymns #202*

Our congregation welcomed Brian and Kristin Knobloch into the fold on March 24-25 as our new brother and sister in faith. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for being in our midst. Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman, Bro. Kenny Dietz and Bro. Gary Endress (all from Bradford, IL), and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI).

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Cathy Stahl's father, Jim Cable, of Leesburg, FL. Our sympathy and prayers have been with Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy and their family. Also, our hearts go out to Harry and Sis. Virginia King in that recently they felt the loss of a sister, Darlene Plotner, of Deer Grove, IL, and a brother-in-law, Don Keckler, of Toulon, IL

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank you for the visits and cards sent to Martha at the time of her illness and the kind deeds done for her at the Home, also at the time of her death at the church. It was all appreciated. May God bless you all.

Love in Christ,  
*Leah Stahl and family*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Linda Hodel**  
**Jenell Hodel**

"He is not here, but is risen."  
*Luke 24:6*

What a day of rejoicing that first Easter morning and how thankful we are that we can rejoice each day that Jesus paid the price for our sins.

We were blessed the evening of April 4 to hear our Sunday School students tell the story through song of Jesus during our Easter program. May these children always keep the love of Jesus in their hearts. We pray for our Bible Class, especially the seniors who were involved in their last Sunday School program, that they will remember all they have been taught and yield to the King of Kings when He calls them.

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

*Matthew 26:28*

On Palm Sunday, April 8, Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) were with us as we shared Communion. It was very special to partake of the Lord's supper together as a congregation. May the Lord bless these dear Elders in their service to us.

We thank Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) for being with us on Easter day and sharing the wondrous story of our risen Saviour with us.

It is always a joy to work together

as we had our annual church and cemetery cleaning. Many hands make light work and the fellowship is always a blessing.

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

*Proverbs 20:11*

This was one of the verses that our Kindergarten through 6th graders have hidden in their hearts and shared with us on March 28. Our Wednesday night Scripture Memory Program completed their year by presenting the verses they learned through song to us. Our prayer is that these verses will bless them and give them strength in the years to come.

Surely the angels in Heaven are rejoicing as we have two new converts: Nate Sauder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan) and Mike Hodel (Willis and the late Sis. Margaret). May they feel the love and prayers of our congregation as they begin their walk with our Saviour.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ann Leman as she had surgery and spent time in the hospital. May she feel God's love and presence.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two precious children. Logan Matthew Gastman was born March 22 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jana. His grandparents are John and Sis. Barb Gastman and Sis. Linda Harris, all of Roanoke, and Mike Harris of Wilmington, DE. Hailey and Kaitlyn are thrilled to have a brother added to their family. On April 10, Joshua, Jason, Abigail, Edward and David Moser, along with their parents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharlene, welcomed Jonathon Eric. His grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser and Sis. Shirley Kieser (late Bro. Dave) of Princeville.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I wish to express my deep appreciation and thank you for all the kind-

ness and love shown to me at the time of my surgery. Thanks also for the visits, prayers, phone calls, gifts of love and many cards, food and flowers. Also, a special thank you to those who came in and helped me out and stayed with me the first night. I might add a special thank you for all the gifts of love and cards received at Christmas time and a gift of \$80.00 which the name was accidentally separated. May God bless and keep each of you.

*Sis. Mabel Bowald*

*Alice Fehr* wishes to express her thanks for the beautiful pink flannel comforter given to her by World Relief. May God richly bless you.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your prayers, memorials and other expressions of love and support at Dad's death. We have many fond memories of Mom and Dad. May God bless each one of you.

*Wayne and Marjorie Blunier*

*Mel and Marilyn Blunier*

*Bob and Marilyn Ott*

*Keith and Ida Kellenberger*

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi**

**LaVonne Wagenbach**

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

*I Cor. 11:24*

We were privileged to remember our Saviour's suffering at our Communion service April 7. We appreciate the time Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) gave to our congregation. Additional visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We thank them all

for their loving service to us.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ron Menold (Sis. Lynnette) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach. We are thankful they are able to assemble with us again.

*Notes of Thanks:*

Dear Ones All,

May God richly bless all that prayed for us during our stays at the hospital. It was a humbling experience to receive the cards, gifts, flowers, food and phone calls. We thank God first for His love, and want to thank you individually for your love shown to both of us.

*Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach*

I would like to thank all who sent me cards and gifts for my 90th birthday. God bless you all.

*Sis. Lila Moser*

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Sue Ruppert**

**Denise Romersberger**

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."

*Isaiah 32:17*

The tiny foot of the two year old stomps the floor while he clamors, "Meself!" While that behaviour is to be expected from a toddler, it would be shocking from an adult. However, the stubborn independence of a young child sometimes characterizes our relationship with God.

We trust only ourselves when making hard decisions and muddle through problems until we're so confused that we're finally stuck in a mire. Wait is not a word in our vocabulary. God doesn't shout to get our attention. We wouldn't hear Him if He did — any more than the shrieking toddler hears a frustrated par-

ent's voice. God's presence is gentle and quiet. The help we need is always at hand, but we often can't see it because of our busyness or hear it because of the noise in our mind and heart.

Our Father sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sinful self. He is in control of our lives, no matter how far we wander from Him. He waits patiently for us to hear Him speak. When we take our eyes from ourselves and put them on the Lord Jesus Christ, the peace of God replaces the noise within us.

Guest ministers this month included Elder Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) who assisted with our Communion service on Saturday evening and then again on Sunday. Also, Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) came to minister to our spirits through the preaching of God's Word. Thank you, brothers, for your continued efforts.

We were once again blessed by a special Communion service. The act of remembering our Lord's words and actions, and all that He has done for us, refreshes our spirit in a very special way. May we remember His great sacrifice every day, and live our lives for Him because He paid the price for us.

We rejoice with Sis. Christine Hodel (Kent and Janet) and Bro. Blake Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria, Chicago, IL) in their engagement and upcoming wedding. May God continue to grant you His guidance in your new life together.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ann Meiss whose sister, Sis. Doris Zeltwanger, of Morris passed away. God comfort you as only He can.

Sue Ruppert has undergone two more surgeries in the last six weeks. Thank you to all who called, sent cards, or supported her in other ways. God remains faithful.

## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

### Beth Aschliman Tonia Isch

"...but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

*1 Timothy 4:12*

Bro. Ray and Sis. Viola Ringger have been a great example in sharing 65 years of marriage together. They have been faithful and an encouragement to the church and their family. We are so blessed to have them in our church family and rejoice with them as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

We are also blessed to have a new convert this month. Jen Schwartz (Rick) is the daughter-in-law of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz. She will be in our prayers as she starts her new walk with the Lord.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Darla Fiechter adopted a beautiful baby boy, Jalen Charles. He was born February 3. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine Fiechter and Daryle and June Hari. We are so happy for them. Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber have been blessed with Dennis Alan born March 19. Anna, Erika, Mark, Daniel and Timothy are happy to have a new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gerber and Bro. Dezso and Sis. Jolan Vidakovics. Jaxson Lee was born to Bro. Luke and Sis. Jamie Rinkenberger on April 7. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Felicia Scheumann (Darren and Sis. Trisha), Jalen Fiechter (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Darla), Sis. Dora Aschliman, Bro. Roger Baumgartner, Bro. Scott Dehoff (Sis. Rita), Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Pat), Truman Barger and Sis. Alice Steffen. We pray for a full recovery for these loved ones.

We are saddened by the passing of

Nadine Sprunger. She was the mother of Bro. Kent (Sis. Sheila). Sis. Pat Bloomfield's (Bro. Jim) father, Bob Lehman, was laid to rest this month as well. Also passing into eternity was Bro. Russell Moser. His wife, Sis. Dorothy, and children, Sue Baller (Bro. Steve), Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Kay Gerber (Bro. Keith), will miss him greatly. We will keep these families in our prayers.

We wish Bro. Jonathan Isch the Lord's blessings in his walk with the Lord. We apologize for failing to list him with the others who gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of February 10-11.

Our congregation shared Communion on March 24. Sharing with us were Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). We are thankful for their willing service to us. Also giving of himself was Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) who visited and shared God's Word this month. May they be richly blessed for their acts of service.

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

### Ann Meyer Rhonda Maller

"I will love thee, Oh Lord, my strength."

*Psalms 18:1*

Have you told Jesus that you love Him? Do you express your love to Him often? These are questions Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) posed to us as he exhorted us in the Word of God this past month. We appreciated his visit and pray the Lord will richly reward Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary for their work in the ministry.

We also extend thanks to and pray the Lord's blessings upon Elder

Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) for coming and helping Bro. Phil serve us Communion. It was, and always is, a special time of cleansing and renewal.

The Sunday School students blessed our congregation with song as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless them and draw their hearts to Him in repentance as they grow to adulthood.

Sometimes God answers our prayers for healing with the "ultimate" healing of death. Sometimes He gives us strength to endure for "in our weakness, He is made strong." Sometimes He gives us miraculous healing on earth. This was the case with six-year-old Brendan Baumgartner (Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle). As Brendan lay critically ill and in intense pain, our churches joined in prayer for him and his family. God answered with a miraculous healing of life. We thank Him and praise Him for the gift He has bestowed upon Brendan and his family. May it encourage each of us to make good the time we have with our loved ones for we never know when it will be ended.

Stephanie Gerber (Bro. Brent and Sis. Anne) and Bro. Steve Gerber (Sis. Gala) appreciate our continued prayers as they deal with illness. We pray for Sis. Gladys Fiechter as she recovers from eye surgery.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to those in our congregation who have said good bye to loved ones. Bro. Frank Ifer (Sis. Ruth) lost his sister, Mary Stone, to cancer. We pray also for Mary's husband, children and grandchildren as they learn to live without her.

Sis. Sue Baller (Bro. Steve) grieves with her family over the loss of their father, Bro. Russell Moser (Sis. Dorothy, Bluffton). He has

fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith; There is laid up for him a crown of righteousness.

As some families say good bye, others rejoice with new birth. Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller welcomed their new granddaughter, JaNon Rose Isch. She is a delight to her big brothers, Braden and Dustin, and to her parents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittany (Bluffton). Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger have already welcomed two grandchildren in the last five weeks, but they are thrilled with another. Jaxon Lee is the firstborn of Bro. Luke and Sis. Jamie Rinkenberger (Bluffton). Jamie is the much loved "honorary" daughter of Steve and Irene. May all the little children in our congregations be raised in the admonition and nurture of the Lord.

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

#### Jessica Murray

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for his inspiring Bible study on "Standing in Grace".

May God use our prayers to comfort Bro. Sid Leman and Sis. Frances Leman as their brother, Bro. Harold Leman (Peoria, IL), went to his reward.

We express our thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for assisting with Holy Communion.

Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emilie) spent some time in the hospital last month and is thankfully home again.

We rejoice with Grant Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) as he has found peace with God and man. May he continue to grow in the Spirit.

Many thanks to the following

brothers who shared the Living Word with us this past month: Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). God bless you and your families.

May the Lord bless dear Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Gray as they worship at home for the time being. May we continue to pray for God to give them strength as they battle their illness.

Clayton Lee Pelsy was born on April 15 to Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily Pelsy and welcomed home by his brothers, Jonathan and Rodney. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Luella Pelsy and Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt.

We pray God's grace and joy to Sarah Overmyer (Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet) and Daniel Flory who are engaged to be married. May you feel the love the Lord gives as you prepare for your future.

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### INDIANA

### INDIANAPOLIS

#### Sue Levy

#### Gail Bradford

We rejoice with little Allison Kay Gerber's father and mother, Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika, on her birth on March 27. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman and Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Allison's great-grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Bro. Walt and Sis. Jean Aeschliman (Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Leona Schwartz (Bluffton, IN).

On the weekend of March 31 - April 1, we coordinated our now semi-annual "Indy Outreach" when young people from around the Midwest serve those in need. They visited the boys' and girls' prisons, nursing homes, crisis pregnancy center and some households to work, sing and share the Gospel. We experienced the joy of shared tasks



and blessed fellowship.

We appreciated the services of our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlan, Champaign, IL).

Good Friday brought sadness and amazement at the sacrifice of God's Son on the cross for us. On Easter Sunday morning, our spirits soared and our hearts pounded at the miracle of the resurrection. Even though Easter has passed for one more year, let us hold onto the message this holy event brings: that the gift of hope and salvation remains available to all.

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### INDIANA, LACROSSE Jeremy and Natalie Freed

O, Spirit of God's strength and  
might,  
Create in us new life and light;  
O, join us all in heart and mind,  
That access to God's throne we  
find  
Within Thy light!  
*Zion's Harp #200*

Following self-examination and drawing nearer to God, Communion is a special time to reflect on Christ's body and blood sacrificed for us. We appreciated the services of our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and visiting Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) during this sacrament.

How blessed we are to have Bro. Man Huynh, originally of Iowa City, join our assembly at LaCrosse. We heartily welcome him and hope he will feel the spirit of love and unity here.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie Locke are home with their precious newborn Virginia and are thankful for her continued growth and health.

May God grant comfort to Sis. Nicole Gudeman who recently lost her grandmother, Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA), in a car accident.

Having been reminded on Good Friday of Christ's crucifixion, and on Easter of His resurrection, may we acquire renewed zeal to lead a life of self-denial in service of our King.

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### INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We were inspired, motivated to worship and encouraged to meditate on God's Word, through the visits of Bros. Jim Ramseyer, Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Howard Plattner (Alto, MI). Bro. Jim showed us a glimpse into Heaven, the throne of God, through Isaiah 6. Bro. Bill read Luke 16, reminding us that covetousness and earthly possessions draw us away from God and Christ. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Howard reminded us of the agony and suffering that preceded resurrection morn, and how natural it was for Jesus' followers to doubt that He arose.

On March 25, the Sunday School presented the Easter program "Praise to the Lamb" based on readings from Isaiah 52:7-10, 53 and Rev. 4 and 5, another view of Heaven and the glory of God.

April 12, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz helped Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz serve the Lord's Supper. He read from John 3, and correlated it to I Cor. 11:24-25, Christ's broken body and blood, that He gave for us.

Easter morning we gathered at the Fellowship Center for a Sunrise program. It was a very inspirational time on this cloudy rainy morning. We then had breakfast together before going to church.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene Stoller on the death of his son, Doug (57). Funeral services were held at the Leo Church on April 19. Burial was at the Apostolic Christian cemetery, Latty, OH. In addition to his father, he is survived by four sons, two daughters, six brothers and two sisters.

Bro. Jack Bollier had a light stroke and is hospitalized a few days

for tests. Sis. Leanne Fischer is homebound due to a back injury. Sis. Thelma Schlatter has returned from her daughter's in South Carolina and is again attending services. We welcome her back and pray for those who are missing.

Wednesday evening, April 18, Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) presented our topical Bible study "The Image of God". We are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26). Have you ever thought about it? What does it mean? There are the images the world presents to us which draw away from God and they cause many problems.

We do not look alike so our outward appearance is not the image of God. First "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). To conform to the image of God we must be spiritual. We can only become spiritual by coming to the Father through Jesus (John 14:6). When we are changed into His image, there is liberty from the problems caused by the image of the world.

I Peter 1:15, "...He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy..." Second, we must be holy. Holiness releases us from pressure as we take a stand.

I John 4:11, third is love. God showed His love for us and expects us to love one another. Read Ephesians 4.

Fourth is humility (Philippians 2:5,6,8). Jesus is the image of God, and when we conform to His image, we will be a light to others. We can only see ourselves in truth by going to the Word of God. "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

#### *Note of Thanks;*

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, the beautiful scrapbook, and being with

us on our 50th wedding anniversary. It was a very special and memorable day. May God bless you all.

*Louis and Sis. Ruth Garman*

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## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Pam Beer  
Stacey Feller**

Our congregation had the opportunity to begin the Easter season by sharing Communion together on Saturday evening, March 31. We thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and his wife, Sis. Frances, for coming to help serve us. We enjoyed and appreciated their company on Sunday as well.

Recently, we have had reason to "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15). We are rejoicing with Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and her family as she has made the decision to give her heart to the Lord. Neal Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) was announced for peace and we look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism in the future.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Lee and Diana Price and their four sons as they laid a newborn daughter to rest. Grandparents of the little one are Stan and Sis. Ginger Price. Our deepest sympathy is with this family, and we pray the Lord will wrap His arms around them and uplift them daily.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

*Isaiah 41:10*

We think of Bro. Howard and Sis. Eleanor Beer often as she continues to struggle with regaining her health. After being hospitalized for several weeks, she is now residing at Lakeland Health Care Center in

Milford. May God give them special grace for each day, as life has so suddenly changed for them.

On Easter day, we enjoyed our annual Sunrise Service. Later that day, we were so happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Daron Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Monica Steffen (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen). They both reside in Alabama, but we claim them to be our own and were so glad they were homewith us for the announcement. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they make plans for their future.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Rochelle Ward**

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God; Which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; which keepeth truth for ever..."

*Psalm 146:5-6*

After a long, cold winter, spring is finally here. The buds on the trees are becoming leaves, the grass has turned from brown to green, flowers are popping out of the ground and the birds are cheerfully singing again. Spring is such a reminder of God's promises. Just as spring has once again returned, we can be certain of Christ's return for those who are faithful. What an inspiring thought!

We are thankful to have had two visiting ministers this month: Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). Thank you, brothers, for your service in the Lord.

We enjoyed the Easter season as our young people brought to us the message of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. The enthusiasm in sharing God's perfect plan was a great reminder of the joy

we should thank God for every day. Because of His supreme sacrifice, we have a hope! A special thank you to the teachers, students and parents who helped to make the program such a blessing.

Zach and Karena Price are happy to announce the arrival of Kaden Clark, born on April 4. Little Kaden's grandparents are Mike Price and Sis. Jayne Price and Mark and Debbie Holder. We wish Zach and Karena God's nearness as they are first-time parents.

Dean, Sis. Tammy and Justin Waibel are also happy to have a new addition in their family. Harmony Brooke was born on April 9. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Helen Waibel. Maternal grandparents are Ken and Carolyn Thompson.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Angie May as she is recovering from a broken hip. May she feel the healing hand of God during this painful time.

Our prayers for healing are also with Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) as he has had outpatient surgery to repair cut tendons in his hand.

With Mother's Day being this month, I had to think of how much we should thank God for giving us a loving mother to nurture and help us grow. I think I personally have taken my own mother for granted at times. I guess I did not realize how much a mother does until I became one myself. So let's all be sure to take a little time to say a special prayer and thank God for giving us moms!

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**DeAnn Schlatter  
Lavilla Langhofer**

Did not our hearts burn within us as we shed tears hearing of God's grace and power to change hearts. March 24 we heard four moving testimonies and on the 25th rejoiced to witness the baptisms of Kara Beebe,

Caleb Schafer, Samantha Schafer, and Buicky Bouribone. Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville, IN) assisted in this work and fed us from the Word. "Only a few more trials, only a few more tears. Firm on the Rock of Ages, Ever my trust shall be. Here let me wait with patience..." (Safe in the Arms of Jesus)

We thank God for the safe arrival of Jacob Matthew Beebe, the precious new son of Matt and Anna. Jacob is welcomed by his sister, Lauren, and grandparents, Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe, and Ciro and Karen Haraguchi.

*Blessed is the Man —*

We know we are a Blessed people

We count our Blessings —

We thank God for Blessings —

Everyone wants to be Blessed —

Even Pharaoh asked Moses to

Bless him as he ordered the

Exodus —

What does the Word tell us to do to be Blessed? —

Do we study and do these instructions? —

Do we pray for God to Bless us?

Praise Him for Blessings!

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**

**Darel and Janet Walker**

As spring approaches, we all enjoy the warmer weather, the beautiful pink magnolia blossoms, and the arrival of another growing season. The seasons come and go, but one thing remains constant: the generous love of our Lord and Saviour, who died on the cross for our sins. The passing of another Easter season gives us a chance to reflect on our lives. Are we living the kind of life that would please our Lord? If the answer is "no", then we need to ask for forgiveness and be thankful that we still live in the day of grace.

Several members of our small congregation have lost loved ones

this month. We pray that God will comfort Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger (Sis. Marilyn) on the passing of Lyle's sister, Sis. Doris Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), after a long illness. We also remember Sis. Carol Bucher (Bro. Ken) in our prayers as she mourns the loss of her brother, Glen Wettstein, of Eureka, IL.

Life on earth brings us trials and struggles but God is always there to lead, guide and direct us through the troubled times if only we ask for His helping hand. We thank God for a successful surgery for little Seth Bucher. He is doing well and is back home with Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher. We praise the Lord also for His healing hand in helping Dawn Gaddis recover from surgery this month.

On Palm Sunday, we were blessed with the Word of God delivered by Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN). We were reminded of the promises that God made in the Old Testament and how Jesus Christ fulfilled every promise in His brief life on earth. We also enjoyed a very nice Easter program featuring a men's quartet from Bluffton, a mixed choir from Valparaiso, our Sunday School children's choir and an original poem by Bro. Merle Bucher entitled "Life With Jesus". The theme was "What will we do with Jesus?" Thanks to all who were willing to be part of this special program.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**

**Mary Beth Lehman**

**Erica Wagenbach**

We were thankful to have Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) with us this month. May God continue to bless each one of these brothers for willingly sharing the Word with us.

The engagement of Brad Kyburz (Ron and Donna) and Tanna Patton (Dennis and Darlene, Wheatfield) was announced.

"He is not here, for he is risen..."

*Matthew 28:6*

We listened to the Sunday School children bring us the story of Easter in verse and song on Good Friday. May God bless each one who took part in the Easter Program.

We pray for God's healing hand on Sis. Jean Ravellette (Bro. Ralph) as she is in the hospital.

On April 21, we gathered to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler. May we always remember the high price our Saviour paid for our salvation.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**

**Karla Gerst**

**Brenda Schulz**

This past month we were privileged to have four visiting ministers. They were Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bob Stoller (Lamar, MO), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Andy Virkler (Croghan - Naumburg, NY). We certainly appreciate the efforts of these brothers to bring us the Word of God. May God richly bless them.

We pray that Bro. Galen Metzger (Sis. Mary Jo) will feel God's comfort as his mother, Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend, IA), has unexpectedly passed away. She was also the grandmother of Bro. Shane Metzger (Sis. Dusty).

**IOWA, ELGIN**

**Gloria Frieden**

**Heidi Butikofer**

With Mother's Day soon approaching, we want to thank our mothers for all the nurturing, love

and support they have given us through our lifetime. As we grow older, we can see the many times they have given of themselves on our behalf, to make us and teach us into what we are today.

It is a special Mother's Day this year for Candace and Dalen Moser as they welcomed Skylar Ann on April 5. Grandparents are Roger and Sharlene Halverson and Carl and Laura Moser (Elkader). Also, first-time grandparents, Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer, welcome Anelyse Marie on April 11 along with her parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst, and grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst, all of Iowa City.

Unfortunately, Sis. Ruth Schupbach has been admitted to the hospital. We hope God's healing hand is upon her and that she can return to her home soon.

We would like to thank Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and his wife, Sis. Sandy, for traveling to Elgin to minister the Word. We also would like to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Wayne Grimm (both of West Bend, IA) for assembling with us and helping serve Communion, along with Bro. Lawrence.

Our thanks also to Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Becky, Croghan - Naumburg, NY) for being with us at a recent midweek service. How much we need these midweek words of encouragement and direction.

Our church building is continually progressing in its construction. We once again would like to thank all of you who have come from near and far to help us with this project. May God richly bless you for your efforts and labors of love.

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### **IOWA, GARDEN GROVE** **Willa Clark**

Springtime is so joyous when the days grow warmer. As the fuzzy pussy willows and sunny daffodils herald the springtime, we are again

reminded of the new life we experience as God's children. The joy of rebirth and renewal on this earth is so wondrous and deep, yet only a tiny hint of the experience of Heaven. Who could not want to be eternally in God's presence?

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed visitors from several churches, including ministering Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and their families. As we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour on Easter Sunday, Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and his family worshipped with us. We are thankful for these loved ones who travel to share God's Word and assist our Bro. Brad Funk.

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY** **Janette Schulz**

Greetings to all! We've had a blessed month with many visitors, including our newest attendee! Our visiting ministers included Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA). We sincerely appreciate them and their families traveling to worship with us.

Our newest attendee is newborn daughter, Anelyse Marie, born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa Gerst on April 11. First-time grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst and Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer (Elgin, IA), are thankful for her safe arrival. Great-grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva Gerst (Oakville, IA), Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie Gress (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Albert Banwart (West Bend, IA). First-time aunts and uncles on both sides are quite excited, as is the whole church, as we look forward to getting to know this new little person. We wish her parents much wisdom and love as they seek to bring her up to know the Lord.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Bro. Man Hyunh who has felt led to accept employment in the Francesville, IN, area. We hope he soon feels at home there, but will have the opportunity to visit us when he can.

During a recent sermon, we were encouraged to check our "tent stakes" to see how attached we are to our earthly circumstances and possessions. While we always miss those who move away from our small congregation, we know we must all seek out God's will for our lives and be willing to "pull up the stakes" and move if He bids us. May each of us examine our lives to ensure we are in His will, for only then do we experience the full blessing and peace He gives to those that love and serve Him.

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

Saturday evening, March 24, was truly an encouragement and blessing for those who gathered to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) with us for this service and for ministering to us on Sunday.

Keith and Julie Moser were wed on March 31. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold and Mike and Kathy Moser are the parents of this couple. It was a very special day for their family and friends to share and we wish them much happiness and God's nearness as they establish their home.

Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS) ministered to us the first weekend of April. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them and our home ministers for their labors of love.

Out onto Calvry's hill,  
Where Jesus died I'll go,



To hear the words He speaks,  
To see Him in His woe.

*Zion's Harp #89*

Holy Communion is a time of remembrance of the deep suffering our Saviour endured for each of us. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) assisted our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner in serving us on April 7. We are always fed and strengthened when we hear God's Word and thank Bro. Art and Sis. Betty for spending the weekend with us.

Our bodies do fail us and once again we have loved ones that underwent surgery. We pray God's healing touch upon Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Elgeva Knobloch (Bro. Art), Bro. Marvin Metzger (Sis. Joleen), Bro. Phil Mogler (Sis. Donna) and Blain and Damon Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea).

So quickly life can be taken from us and our loved ones. We heard of the accident that took the life of Sis. Alice Metzger of West Bend. Alice's sisters in our congregation are: Sis. Elgeva Knobloch, Sis. Salome Knobloch and Sis. Viola Kellenberger. Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Sis. Iola Knobloch are her sisters - in-law. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to each of them and their families during this time of sorrow.

### **IOWA, OAKVILLE**

**Melody Steiner  
Debbie Wagenbach**

Two precious little bundles have been added to our congregation. Cousins, Denalyn Jean Lanz and Bryant David Lanz, were born to Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris Lanz and Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia Lanz. Denalyn is welcomed home by her siblings, Kaylyn, Logan and Keegan. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Teddy and the late Dennis Lolling of Wapello, IA. Bryant has two big sis-

ters, Raiann and Claire. Bryant's grandparents are Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Emma Jean Lanz and Dave and Phyllis Tapp of Marion, IA.

Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) have visited in our congregation and brought forth the Word of Life. May God bless them for their efforts in His service.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We want to sincerely thank everyone for all that has been done for us in the past 6-8 months. The love and support has been overwhelming and we appreciate so much the prayers and gifts you have given. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. God bless you all.

*Bro. Ted, Sis. Carrie, Kaelen and Lance Wiegand*

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

Anew, Lord, we are bound to  
Thee  
Through Thy blest sacrament,  
which we  
Partook, that joined in heart and  
hand;  
To Zion's realm and Holy Land  
We journey on.

*Zion's Harp #20*

We thank Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Doug with a Communion service and reminding us of the price that was paid for each of us at Calvary.

Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) also shared God's Word with us this past month. We appreciate them and their families for traveling to be with us.

### **IOWA, WEST BEND** **Berniece Banwart Lori Skoglund**

We are thankful for visiting ministers who are willing to bring forth the Word of Life. On a recent Sunday, Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) shared the pulpit. On Palm Sunday, Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) brought us many teachings. That evening, we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion and Bro. Bob assisted in serving us. We were all reminded of the Lord's death, His suffering, and the price that was paid for our redemption.

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

*Luke 15:10*

And so it is in our congregation as we rejoice with our convert, Autumn Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), who has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

Our sympathy is extended to the James and Jeff Montag families on the loss of their great-grandmother, Vivien Bargman. Also, to Jim and Sherry Schmidt and their families as they mourn the loss of Sherry's sister, Martha Gifford.

Sis. Lucille (Bro. Duane) Schmidt and Kristin Wirtz (Fred Jr. and Patsy) are both grateful to be home after being hospitalized this past month.

For many years our Sunday School has appreciated and benefited from the large number of students in this year's graduating class. They are as follows: Jody Banwart (Mike and Marilyn), Molly Banwart (Ron and Carolyn), Andy Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa), Jonna Bruellman (John and Cindy), Sis. Minny Bruellman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb), Autumn Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy), Greg Fehr (Bro.

Dan and Sis. Eunice), Kent Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon), Annette Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane), Joleen Grimm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose), Todd Kellenberger (Joel and Theresa), Cory Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlie), Dallas Metzger (Roy and Angie), Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy), Rustin Metzger (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley), Shelby Metzger (Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy), Justin Mogler (Bro. Tim, Gloria), Michael Rongved (Bruce and Lisa, Kevin and Julie Jordan), Sis. Anne Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) and Sis. Ruth Zaugg (Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris). As they begin the journey onto their own separate paths of life, may they apply the wise instructions given to them by their parents and their Sunday School teachers over the past years. The words found in Proverbs 3:1,4 have such good advice for them and for all of us: "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments...So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

May we all be thankful for our mothers as we celebrate Mother's Day this month.

#### *A Good Mother*

A good mother is the loving foundation upon which the home is built, the guardian of the small lives she has borne. Tenderly she nurtures the precious souls entrusted to her care, gratefully thanking God for the individual beauty, personality and talents of each child and humbly praying for the wisdom and understanding to help each attain a sense of his own self-worth and special niche in God's wondrous world.

A good mother is the first and most loving teacher that the child will ever know, the most soothing nurse that will ever attend him, and his most understanding judge on earth. A good mother is her child's dearest and most faithful friend. He

is always in her heart and mind, and she never ceases to sacrifice, work, and pray for what is best for him. A good mother is a shining beacon on the sea of life.

—*Louise Pugh Corder*

Whereas the service rendered the United States by the American mother is the greatest source of the country's strength and admiration; and Whereas we honor ourselves and the mothers of America when we do any thing to give emphasis to the home as the fountainhead of the State; and Whereas the American mother is doing so much for good government and humanity, we declare that the second Sunday of May will henceforth be celebrated as Mother's Day.

—*Congressional Resolution, 1914*

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

There are so many cherry blossoms and peach blossoms around the Shioda Church. Now is one of the most beautiful seasons throughout the year.

We had wonderful fellowship with our Hungarian guests, a couple who were visiting Japan for one and a half weeks. Although we couldn't communicate with them very much by using a language, we believe that they understood our hearts. We were very happy to welcome those who came from Hungary. We had a singing for them at the Tokyo Church. Christian songs are common all over the world, so Christians can have fellowship through Christian songs wherever they go, like when they go to Heaven.

We were sad that Sis. Horiuchi of our Tokyo Church passed away on April 2 (I am not sure of the actual day). No one expected she would leave for Heaven just two weeks ago, because she was healthy. However, we believe she overcame in her fight

of faith as a Christian.

We had an Easter service the morning of the 15th on a hill or mountain, which commands a view of the whole Kofu area, which was covered with peach blossoms. Every year we review what happened to Jesus Christ and the thoughts and actions of those who followed Him. Even though these facts are in the Bible, many people haven't yet understood how important it is. We pray for them that God will forgive their sins and that they will go to Heaven through Jesus.

We will have Holy Communion on the 22nd. We pray that our church will become tightly joined together and that God will bless us with much love and peace.

#### **JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus**

It is with sadness that I start out this month's article as, for the first time, I have to report a death of one of our members here. To my knowledge, we have not had a death in our church for around 16 years, for which we should be very thankful. However, going through the experience of this recent death has been very good for all of us here, I believe. Our dear Sister of nearly 30 years, mother of 7 and grandmother of 20, Takako Horiuchi, passed away in her sleep in her own home at the age of 79 on March 31. It was a shock to her family and all of us, as she had been in fairly good health most of her life. Her family was all Buddhist, but they very respectfully honored her wishes, and her visitation and funeral services were both held at our church and conducted by our Elder Brother Akito Inoue and Bro. Andrew Klaus. This was a new experience for many of us, but we truly felt the power of the Holy Spirit, due, I believe, to many, many prayers of the Brotherhood in Japan and America on our behalf. Thank you so much to all who were interceding for

us during a very difficult, yet opportune time. Our church was packed with Sis. Horiuchi's relatives and friends, most of whom were of Buddhist faith. What an opportunity it was to witness of the faith of Sis. Horiuchi-san in a living God and thus reaching her goal of eternal life with Him! "The Lord is my Shepherd ...though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me..." (from Psalm 23). "There is no reason to fear death, when the living Lord is our Shepherd" was part of the message passed on at her funeral. It would be very much appreciated if each of you dear ones reading this could send up a prayer to our God for all of those dear souls of Sis. Horiuchi's family and friends who heard the gospel message through her death. Oh, that her faith could be passed on! We will all miss Sis. Horiuchi's calm and meek presence at our church. Especially in a small church, the loss of one feels very big.

March 21—April 1 we were very blessed by a visit from a very brave, humble couple, Bro. Gyula and Sis. Piroska Csik, from our church in Kaposvar, Hungary. We enjoyed their beautiful music abilities and pleasant spirits and even though communication was very difficult, we could definitely feel the bond of Christian love. Several of us here were able to keep them in our homes and enjoyed touring and visiting (that is through much gesturing and flipping through dictionaries!) together. And we could worship together for two Sundays and have a supper (Hungarian dish) and singing. What pleasant memories! Thank you to that dear couple for their brave efforts to visit us in Japan.

On Sunday, April 8, we had lovely weather and a nice time of fellowship with Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois' three children visiting from America, Joy Bao, Tom Ehnle, and Jewel Maeda, and five grandchildren, Da-

vid and Emily Bao, Hannah and Noah Ehnle and Matthew Maeda. Sis. Lois also came for the day and Bro. Willis joined us for supper. It was nice to renew our friendships with them and we look forward to their next visit! On that same day, we had our annual business meeting with much to discuss with the upcoming tearing down and rebuilding of the structure next to our church. We still want to lift up all of these plans to the Lord in prayer that all will be done in the proper way and order.

Easter Sunday was a blessed day with our usual morning service, special lunch and afternoon program. As was with Christmas, many of Sis. Marie's English students were in the program and presented pieces and songs in both Japanese and English. "I am the door" was the theme song and Bro. Akito expounded upon the meaning so each person there could clearly understand. The Easter story of hope and joy was told many times over and many mothers and some fathers of the children came, as did quite a few other non-Christian friends, so we continue to lift these people up to our Father in prayer that the seed planted would take root.

We extend our congratulations and God's blessings and leading to Sis. Ayako Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie) as she graduated at the top of her class from medical school in March from the school connected with Yamanashi Idai Hospital. She plans to intern at that hospital for two years now. Sis. Ayako just returned back from a two-week visit to Illinois and Indiana where she could enjoy some time with relatives and friends and volunteering at Gateway Woods Children's Home before settling into a very busy and demanding schedule as she does her internship. May the Lord go with her each day.

## KANSAS, BERN Lori Baumgartner Sally Strahm

March 18 was a special day for Bro. Ryan Menold (Bro. Joe D. and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Tiffany Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa, Sabetha) as they were joined together in holy matrimony at Sabetha. We rejoice with them and warmly welcome Sis. Tiffany to the Bern congregation.

The same day the engagement of Sis. Angela Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) to Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen, Sabetha) was made known. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their future together.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Lila Rokey (Bro. Joe) and Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Waneta). We pray the Lord will be with them and restore them to full health and strength.

"Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

*I Cor. 11:24*

What a blessed evening we had on April 7 as we partook of Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters in faith. Our appreciation goes to Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) in helping our Elder Bro. John Lehman and ordained deacon Bro. Galen Rokey with this special occasion.

We were especially thankful to have ministering Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI) with us for Good Friday services on April 13 as we were reminded of what all Jesus went through during His death on the cross and resurrection. May we each one have a blessed Easter and as we reflect on our Lord and Saviour's death, be more willing to pick up the cross of self-denial for Him.

Our prayers and support go to Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm and their family as he has been se-

lected to minister the Word of God. May he always feel the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as he feeds the flock.

We are thankful that God has blessed Bro. Alphia and Sis. Maimie with 50 years together as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God grant them many more blessed years together.

It's the time of the year again when we will switch from mid-week services to song services on Sunday evenings. Following Easter Sunday we will have song services every other Sunday evening with Sabetha.

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

We want to give a belated but very loving welcome to Sis. Carol Carter who has recently moved here.

Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart welcome their new little grandson, Conner David Miller. Conner's parents are David and Trista Miller.

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

*Mark 10:15*

Our hearts were reminded of the death and resurrection of our dear Lord and Saviour as our Sunday School students presented their Easter program.

May God richly bless Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS) for coming and sharing the Word with us this month.

We are rejoicing that our Heavenly Father has granted Bro. Raymond Banwart (Sis. Kathryn) strength to return home. He has a long recovery ahead of him, but we were thrilled to have him in church last Sunday afternoon.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many

prayers, cards and visits given to us during Raymond's stay at the hospital. We appreciate all the love and kindness shown us.

In Christian Love,  
*Raymond and Kathryn Banwart*

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

Our Bible class students had the wonderful opportunity last month to go on a medical work team to Mexico. Going were Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice), Jamie Johnson (Shawn and Sis. Lynne), Rebekah Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura), Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling and their son, Matt Schupbach. Many memories were made and everyone was ready to go back next time. A special thank you to all who contributed to make the trip possible.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Marvin Ott and family on the tragic untimely death of his grandson, Jay. Just a year ago, this family lost another young member. We pray for God's understanding and His comfort that only He can give.

Congratulations goes to Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay Farney on the birth of their new grandson, Joseph Thomas. Thankful new parents are Brandon and Marianna Farney. Great - grandmother is Sis. Helen Farney.

We also ask God's blessings on the newest member of our congregation. Gabe Daniel Stewart was born to Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny Stewart on April 11. Welcoming him home are siblings, Stacie, Joshua, Carter and Allison. Grandparents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling. Great - grandparents are Bro. Frank and Annabelle Kisling.

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

We are glad and thankful that we could partake of Holy Communion on April 7 and to remember our Saviour's death. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife, Sis. Joan (Oakville, IA), for spending the weekend with us. May the Lord bless them for the many trips they have made to our church over the years in the Lord's service.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are the grandparents of a new little granddaughter, Morgan Rae, born to Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer Kieser (Congerville, IL) on April 4. Morgan has two sisters, Alyssa and Jessi, to welcome her.

At age 93, our dear Sis. Matilda Beyer was relieved of her suffering and went to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to her two sons, George and Alvin Beyer.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduates this year. Graduating from 8th grade are Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy), Marie Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) and Nathan Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri); and graduating from high school is Sis. Ester Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri).

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we are certainly thankful for the Godly mothers in our congregations and may God richly bless them.

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

On March 27, Bro. Stan and Sis. Marilyn Wiegand welcomed the birth of their son, Simon Eugene. Naomi and Joel are excited to have a baby brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty Metzger and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand (Eureka, IL).

We rejoice with a new birth just as we marvel at "each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings"



which God in His wisdom did create.

How can we behold the great  
work of creation  
and not feel moved His name to  
praise?

From whom are these wonders?  
O give Him the glory!  
Our voice in honor to Him raise.

*Hymns of Zion #49*

Elder Bro. Art Metz and his wife,  
Sis. Elizabeth (Silverton, OR), were  
with us for a Wednesday evening  
service. May God bless him for  
bringing forth the Word.

We welcome our "snowbirds"  
back with us as they have returned  
from their winter homes in the  
south.

Recently we had an exhortation  
to prepare for Holy Communion  
scheduled for April 28.

Good Friday services were held at  
Bern. It would be wonderful to have  
an overflowing assembly each time  
we gathered together for services.

We were thankful visiting minister,  
Bro. Keith Beyer, and his wife,  
Sis. Alisa (Detroit, MI), could be with  
us for Easter.

I must needs go home by the way  
of the cross,  
There's no other way but this;  
I shall ne'er get sight of the  
Gates of Light,  
if the way of the cross I miss.

I must needs go on in the  
blood-sprinkled way,  
the path that the Saviour trod,  
If I ever climb to the heights sub-  
lime,  
where the soul is at home with  
God.

*Hymns of Zion #167*

We remember in prayer those  
who have been hospitalized, includ-  
ing Sis. Wilma Farney, Sis. Esther  
Terry and Sis. Caroline Banwart.

Sis. Caroline is temporarily recuper-  
ating at the nursing home.

God is our refuge and our  
strength,  
a very present help indeed;  
He in the time of trouble sends  
His grace to meet our every need.

*Hymns of Zion #4*

Our Wednesday evening services  
will be discontinued until Fall as we  
now return to alternating Sunday  
evenings with Bern for an hour of  
song service.

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### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Tamra Kaeb

Nowhere are there greater trea-  
sures

Than in Jesus Christ I find.  
All the earthly joys and pleasures  
Only burden heart and mind.  
Just to call the Lord my own,  
Satisfies my soul alone.

*Hymns of Zion #226, vs. 3*

After opening with a prayer, this  
is the verse that Bro. Edwin Strahm  
began his Bible Study with on April  
18. Bro. Ed (Bern, KS) spoke about  
Hope to our group of K-Staters and  
our families. Hope may be a simple  
four - letter word, but he used it to  
evoke in us a deep thoughtfulness  
about a very serious question: Can  
each one of us say with confidence  
that we have hope of life eternal with  
God in Heaven? If not, neither  
should we rest our heads in slumber  
until we have submitted ourselves to  
our merciful Saviour. We thank Bro.  
Ed for humbly sharing God's mes-  
sage with us. Bros. Randy  
Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO),  
Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and  
Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) also gave of  
their Wednesday evenings to serve  
us with the Living Word. Bros. Jim  
Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Roger Aberle

(Sabetha, KS) presented topical Bi-  
ble Studies on Christ's miracles and  
His death and resurrection, respec-  
tively. May the Lord bless each one.

Over the past year, our group en-  
joyed our bi - monthly visits to the  
Valley Vista Good Samaritan Center  
in Wamego, KS. We spent an hour  
with them every other Thursday  
evening singing our favorite hymns.  
Seeing their welcoming, apprecia-  
tive smiles each time we walked in  
the doors where they sat waiting was  
thanks enough to keep us going  
back. It sure is good for one's soul to  
provide a ray of sunshine for another  
individual. We look forward to con-  
tinuing this in the Fall.

As May quickly approaches, we  
recognize that some students will be  
taking semester finals for the last  
time. Our 2001 graduates are Bro.  
Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis.  
Karen, Sabetha), Bro. Galen  
Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis.  
Karen, Kansas City), Bro. Rodney  
Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou,  
Bern), Bro. Brett Plattner (Bro.  
Howard and Sis. Kristen, Alto) and  
Steve Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis.  
Dar, Bern). May the Lord bless and  
keep each one of these individuals as  
they begin a new path. Also leaving  
K-State is Bro. Tony Frey (David  
and Joyce, Sabetha) as he plans to  
continue his education at Kansas  
University in the Fall.

We also are pleased to share that  
Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Bro. Martin and  
Sis. Karen, Sabetha) and Sis. Angela  
Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna,  
Bern) announced their engagement  
on March 18. We pray that God will  
bountifully bestow them with bless-  
ings when they become one in Him  
on July 22.

God has blessed us with a safe and  
favorable year here at K-State. We  
wish to thank all our family and  
friends who were so dedicated in at-  
tending our mid-week services and  
Bible Studies. Our true appreciation  
for all their prayers and support can-  
not be adequately expressed. We

wish everyone a blessed summer with safe travels and look forward to gathering together again when classes resume on August 20.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

The weekend of March 17-18 the Wichita congregation had the pleasure of having two visiting ministers worship with us. Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner (Oakville, IA) made a special trip to be with us. Also, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL) were enroute home from a mission trip and made a special effort to be in Wichita for Sunday services.

We are continuing to pray for Bro. Charlie Grimm as he is experiencing complications after his by-pass surgery. We give praise for Bertie Reimschisel's (Bro. Roger) healing as she continues to recuperate from her surgeries. Also, we extend our sympathy to Chris Setsor in the loss of his grandfather.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk back from a trip to Germany where they visited their son, Derek, and his wife.

Good Friday services were held Friday evening. Then we met again on Easter morning for a breakfast and fellowship and a short song service before our regular service began.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Glenda Neukomm**

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyfully in thee. For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

*Psalm 5:3,11,12*

*A Sure Way To A Happy Day*  
HAPPINESS is something we  
create in our mind,  
It's not something you search for  
and so seldom find —  
It's just waking up and beginning  
the day  
By counting our blessings and  
kneeling to pray —  
It's giving up thoughts that  
breed discontent  
And accepting what comes as a  
"gift heaven - sent" —  
It's giving up wishing for things  
we have not  
And making the best of whatever  
we've got —  
It's knowing that life is deter-  
mined for us,  
And pursuing our tasks without  
fret, fume or fuss —  
For it's by completing what GOD  
gives us to do  
That we find real contentment  
and happiness, too.  
— *Helen Steiner Rice*

The weekend of March 3-4, we had a potluck Saturday evening. Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were here to share the reading of the Memorandum with us. We appreciated so much their efforts and truly had a very blessed weekend.

We also had potluck and singing on Saturday eve, March 10, when ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) came and brought a nice group of about 50 with him. What a special weekend of fellowship this was for us.

It was Princeville's turn to send a visiting minister the weekend of April 7-8. Bro. Walter Herrmann shared this time with us and brought a nice group with him. We had potluck and singing on Saturday eve also.

Ministering Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) was here April 22.

We appreciated him and his dear wife, Sis. Helen, coming to share the day.

We pray the Lord will richly bless the ministering brothers who so faithfully come and share the Word with us. We really appreciate their efforts.

Those who had surgery recently were Bro. Doug Germann and Sis. Glendoris Huber. We're so grateful to the Lord for His healing and answers to prayer.

Those who will be graduating this month are: Steven Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Scott Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca), who are graduating from 8th grade; and Kyle Germann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca) who is graduating from high school; and Bro. Alex Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda), who is graduating from college at UK. Our congratulations on a job well done! We extend our very best wishes to each of you and the Lord's rich blessings to Steven and Scott as you go on to high school, and our convert Kyle and Bro. Alex as you seek the Lord's will and leading in your lives.

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

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN**  
**Claudia Gonzalez**

"From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised."

*Psalm 113:3*

What a wonderful Saviour we have in Jesus Christ! Praised be His name! The Lord has given us many blessings. We're thankful that more people are coming to church, and our prayer is that each one can understand the need for Jesus Christ in their lives.

*Meet Sis. Elsa Sibaja:*

I began attending the church five years ago when I was in elementary school. I came to church only on Saturdays for Young Group. I enjoyed it, but for me, the things of the world were more important.

One day, during a Bible Study, the Word of God came to my heart, and I felt the need to have Jesus Christ in my life. I thought that maybe I'd give my life to Christ during vacation, but after vacation I returned to school and I got back into sin. So, it was in my last year of junior high school that my spiritual life began to change, and I surrendered my life to Christ. I was a little worried to make that decision, and in the beginning, I didn't have much faith. My two older sisters were ready to be baptized and I wanted to do the same thing, so that helped me a lot.

One day before my sisters' baptisms, with God's help, I was able to confess my sins. I began my repentance in January of 1999 and I was baptized on November 20, 1999. To give my life to Christ was the best decision that I will ever make. I lost my friends of the world, but now I have the best friend, Jesus Christ. I also now have brothers and sisters in Christ, and I love them.

I have four sisters. Two of my sisters and my mom are also Christians. My Dad is not a Christian, but I'm sure that God can work in his life so that he can become a believer in His name. I'm very happy because I have found God's way in my life, and now it is my desire to see the glory of God when He comes back and be with Him for all eternity.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Kristen Plattner**  
**Sandy Schutte**

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there

they crucified him and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father forgive them for they know not what they do, and they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God."

*Luke 23:33-35*

Christ lived among them yet they did not see. He told them who He was and they did not believe. He offered them salvation and yet they refused. His whole ministry was of love, forgiveness and service. He asked nothing for Himself. We reason with ourselves and think how could they not see, and how could they not believe Him. How could they refuse what He offered. Do we understand what He did for us? Do we believe enough that we have accepted His gift of salvation? Do we understand that Jesus suffered at Calvary? Do we understand enough to submit to His Word and to build a relationship with Christ? Bro. Bill Gerst asked us this month, "Have we asked God for a deeper understanding of His Word?" Bro. Ted implored us to open our Bibles and study His Word. Bro. Howard asked if we spend all day putting out little fires in our lives instead of putting our time into building a relationship with our Lord. These things are needful to build that understanding of the sacrifice Jesus made at Calvary. We tend to focus on the resurrection and the triumph over death, and that the grave could not contain our Lord. That was the easier part. It was the sacrifice, the humiliation Jesus endured that secured our salvation. He had to suffer for our sins, both physically and mentally. They not only didn't believe, they beat, scoffed and spit on Christ. Driving nails into His body was not the only thing He endured for us. He was without sin. He could

have saved Himself, but if He did, then where would we be? Jesus suffered unjustly, but willingly. What happens to us when we feel we have been treated unjustly? Do we take time to know God and to know His Son Jesus Christ? We are not perfect. C.S. Lewis wrote, "The Christian has a great advantage over other men, not being less fallen than they, nor less doomed to live in a fallen world, but by knowing that he is a fallen man in a fallen world." This recognition forms a starting point in undertaking a journey to know God.

We thank Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk (Athens, AL) for sharing Easter service with us. The day was heightened with an Easter program by our Sunday School children. Mark 10:15, "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall enter therein."

Many of our "Snow Birds" have returned from the South and we are thankful for their safe return.

This month Virginia Schutte celebrated her 80th birthday with a quiet family dinner with her children and brothers and sisters.

Our prayers of healing go out for Rudy Schutte and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen as both have suffered some heart problems.

The Alto church has one college graduate this month. Bro. Brett Plattner graduated from Kansas State University. May God lead him in the direction of "His" choosing.

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

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

*Luke 15:7*

The angels are rejoicing with our church here in Bay City as Elinor Knochel (Bro. Victor) has chosen to begin walking with the Lord. We pray that Elinor will feel God's love and His nearness as she continues to grow in Him.

We were very thankful to have four Elder Brothers with us this month. They are: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Gene Pamer (Akron, OH), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Aaron Steffen (and his wife, Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI). All of these brothers came from long distances and we sincerely appreciate their effort and labor of love. May God richly bless them for their willingness to serve in such a way.

We had one brother spend time in the hospital this month. Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger Sr. (Sis. Margret) experienced the frailty of these earthly vessels that we live in. We pray that he will experience a full recovery and that God's loving presence will be felt.

As we have just celebrated the precious Easter season, may each of us continue to daily walk in joy, knowing that our Redeemer lives!

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Sarah Beard**  
**Holly Barton**

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) take Communion with us. We thank Bro. Aaron as well as Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) who came to have Woodhaven service this month.

It was a blessing to have the children relay the message of Christ's death and resurrection at our annual Easter program on April 8.

We are thankful for three new babies. Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe's first child, Tyler Warren, was born March 22. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe and Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress (West Bend, IA). Bro. Steve and Sis.

Julie Dawson welcome their second child, Nicole Marie, on April 9. Big sister, Jessica, and grandparents, Kaywin Martin, Sis. Karen Martin and Allen and Susan Dawson, welcome her, too. Robert Edward was born to Annette Johnson March 27. Diane Peterson is the thankful grandmother.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeannette Allen at the passing of Bro. Pat's mother, Margret Allen.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

*Proverbs 31:28*

We wish to remember our mothers for the many deeds of love and kindness they have given over the years. May God bless each of them.

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**MINNESOTA**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Diane Stewart**

We were privileged to celebrate Easter and listen to the Sunday School tell us of Christ's death on the cross and rising in three days. May we all remember to keep these young people in our daily prayers. Special thanks to their teachers.

"Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

*1 Cor. 11:23*

The Holy sacrament of Holy Communion was served to us by Elder Bros. Leroy Messner, Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). May God richly bless them and their wives and families.

This past month our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and his wife, Sis. JoAnn, have spent three Sundays with us. We thank them for their dedication and faithfulness in serving.

We appreciated having visiting

ministering Bro. Brian Waibel and his wife and family (Champaign, IL) meditate on God's Word with us.

"And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

*1 Thess. 5:13*

In prayerful consideration and unity, Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie) was installed into the ministry. May we each remember to support them and their children, Adrian and Allison, fully in prayer and deed.

The family of Bro. Ray Schmidgall wishes to thank everyone for support, cards, prayers and acts of kindness following his death.

Also, thanks from Sis. Millie Schmidgall during her hip surgery and recuperation. She is now home.

Sis. Bernadine Miller is still unable to assemble with us. Let's continue to uphold her in prayer and deed.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Dianne Kellenberger**  
**Cheryl Messner**

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

*Romans 10:15*

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bros. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ).

Joe Koehl and Angie Hacker were united in marriage on March 17. May they look to God for guidance throughout the coming years. Parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Koehl and Don and Janet Hacker.

A dear elderly sister in faith was laid to rest on March 26. Sis. Doris Zeltwanger was a beloved sister,



aunt and great - aunt to many; her life was one of service to her family and friends. We extend sympathy to her family circle which includes four sisters, Sis. Ann (Bro. Harold) Meiss of Washington, IL, Sis. Edith (Bro. Albert) Joos and Sis. Ila (Bro. Harold) Gramm of Hancock, Sis. Vi (Bro. Floyd) Schmidgall of Morris; four brothers, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Edna) Zeltwanger and Bro. John (Sis. Mabel) Zeltwanger of Hancock, Bro. Bill Zeltwanger of Round Top, TX, and Bro. Lyle (Sis. Marilyn) Zeltwanger of Valparaiso, IN; two sisters-in-law, Dorothy Zeltwanger of Hancock and Mary Zeltwanger of Alexandria.

The death and glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was related to our congregation through verses and songs by our Sunday School children. We appreciate the efforts of our teachers as they diligently teach our children, our future church.

Bro. Ted Gramm sustained back and ankle injuries in a farm accident when he was completely covered by falling silage. We're so thankful his life was spared and we pray that God will grant a full recovery.

We are grateful that Chris Feuchtenberger has answered God's call to repentance. We pray that abundant grace and understanding will be granted from on High. Parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger.

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Carol Ann Messner**  
**Marilyn Messner**

"Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me...for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

*I Cor. 11:24-25,29*

Communion exhortation was given to prepare for the Lord's supper.

Our sympathy is extended to Darrel and Jane Redmann in the loss of his father. May the Lord comfort the hearts of the family members.

Hospital patients were Bro. Leo Messner (Sis. Georgia) and Bro. Dick VanDeest (Sis. Nancy). We also pray for the return of good health to them and Bro. Harold and Sis. Geraldine Messner.

A special day is set aside in our country to honor our mothers. We are thankful for our living mothers and thankful for memories of our mothers no longer with us.

*Since Mother Went Away*  
 Since Mother went away, it  
 seems,  
 She's nearer than before —  
 I cannot touch her hand and yet  
 She's with me more and more...  
 And years have never lessened  
 The longing in my heart  
 Then came the day I realized  
 That we must dwell apart.  
 And just as long as memory lives  
 My Mother cannot die,  
 For in my heart she's living still,  
 As passing years go by.

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

Spring is here! The signs and sounds of a new spring are all around us. We see the new green emerging from the ground and the bright color of daffodils and tulips as they bloom. We hear the sounds of spring in the singing birds, rain and thunder. We feel the warming temperatures. In Kansas City, we are truly blessed with the changing of seasons and spring is always a comfort after the winter months. Our loving God has created such marvelous ways for all of us to find comfort in a world that is

full of turmoil and strife. May the coming of spring comfort you each and every year.

Our congregation in Kansas City is rejoicing with two souls who have sought the comfort of the Lord in repentance. Bill and Jan Boge began their repentance on April 11. We were very happy when the Boge family moved to the Kansas City area from West Bend, IA, last summer and started to assemble with us. Now, we are thrilled that Bill and Jan have heeded the call and have turned to the Lord! Our prayers continue for those who are being called to repentance each and every day.

This month our dear Sis. Wilma Farney was hospitalized after suffering a mild heart attack. She is now recovering in her apartment at the AC Village in Sabetha, KS. Our prayer is that Sis. Wilma will find comfort in the Lord as she regains her physical strength.

We thank ministering Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for his labors on Easter Sunday. Easter is such a special day as we remember the resurrection of our Saviour. Is there any other comfort greater than this? The hymn writer says it well:

In my Saviour's resurrection  
 There is comfort; I am blest,  
 In His life my hopes renewing,  
 In His love my soul shall rest.  
 Everything I have in Thee,  
 Life and hope and victory.

*Zion's Harp #183*

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

On March 16, Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon Braker were blessed with a baby girl, Megan Lee. She was welcomed home by Nicole, Haley, Caleb, Corey and Tyler. Grandparents are Bob and Leda Borghardt.

Ministering Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) visited

our congregation recently. May God bless him richly for sharing the Word of Life with us.

We enjoyed a blessed Easter season this past month as we were reminded once again of our Lord's suffering and death upon the cross and His victory as He rose from the grave. May we always be thankful for what He has done for us.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

#### Rachel Schrock

This past month we all remembered the last few days that Jesus spent on this earth. How great was His love for us that He did His Father's will so that we may have eternal life. His wonderful example humbles us when we consider how often we fail to do God's perfect will for us. We were reminded also that one of the last tasks that He completed before His death was to take care of His mother. "Then said he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." (John 19:27). What a perfect example Jesus was as He made sure that He left no unfinished work or unfulfilled prophecy before He gave His life for us!

We are thankful that His work continues to be done yet today and are thankful for the ministering brothers who remind us of our duties here on this earth. This past month we were privileged to have the following visiting ministers, Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, Wolcott, IN). May God bless them for their efforts of love.

God's blessings are also felt in the family of Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger as they welcome another grandchild into this world. Kelli Renee Rinkenberger was born on April 11 to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mindy Rinkenberger (Morton, IL). May they feel God's presence and di-

rection as they endeavor to raise her in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We felt God's presence on Palm Sunday as, after services, we visited a nearby nursing home and sang hymns related to the Easter story to the residents there. Sometimes we get so busy that we tend to forget about those who cannot get about as they used to. How the residents enjoyed the song service. We pray that they might have received a portion of the blessings that we, too, felt that day.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Peg Haerr

Our church and community were deeply saddened by the death of Bobby Heimer. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Paula, and his children, Adrian, Abby, Audra and Alan. May God comfort them as well as his siblings: Bro. Stan (Sis. Dorothy), Deb, Bro. Kent (Sis. Jan), Bro. Rodney (Sis. Barb), Mary Beth (Greg) and Bro. Curt (Sis. Sue).

We are very thankful and praise God for the safe return of Sarah Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), who has been missing since August. God still answers prayers!

We at Taylor were blessed as we participated in the Lord's Supper on March 31 and then listened to the Memorandum on April 1. May God bless Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) for assisting our Bro. Roy.

The Sunday School children brought us the story of Easter on April 8 and then helped serve us at a sandwich supper which was held at the Fellowship Hall. God bless each one for each part they did!

An Easter morning breakfast was held April 15. We're thankful for each one who helped and for Bro. Kent who had an inspiring message.

### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Anna Mellnitz

Out onto Calv'ry's hill,  
Where Jesus died I'll go,  
To hear the words He speaks,  
To see Him in His woe.  
How great the pains, O Lord,  
Afflict Thee on this day;  
"My God, my God," He calls,  
"Forsake me not I pray."  
No vengeance fills His heart;  
For them I hear Him plead;  
"They know not what they do;  
Forgive them for this deed."  
Now Mary weeps for Him;  
In love He soothes her lot;  
"See, mother, thine own son!"  
"Thou friend, forsake her not!"  
The thief in penitence  
Is pardoned ere he dies:  
"Today shalt thou yet be,  
With Me in Paradise."  
"I thirst," He cries in pain,  
For there is no distress,  
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,  
Endured not at His death.  
He bows His head and cries,  
"Tis finished, all is done,  
O God, receive my soul."  
Life's victory is won.

*Zion's Harp #89*

The Sunday School had their Easter program Sunday, April 8. It was good to hear them tell of the death of Jesus on the Cross and of His resurrection, and what the dear teachers have taught them.

The Regional Elder Conference was held at Rockville, CT.

We had World Relief night on March 23.

We had visitors from Rockville, CT, on March 24-25, with a singing on Saturday night.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe (Detroit, MI) became parents on March 22 to a son, Tyler Warren. Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe are the great-grandparents of their

first great - grandchild.

Terry Farney (Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) and Tracy Sitko (Walter and Kathleen) was united in marriage on March 17. May the Lord's blessings be upon them.

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## OHIO, AKRON

### Joyce Gasser

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joanne Schar were blessed with a baby girl born March 30 and they named her LaNae Audrey. She has a brother, Joel. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

We appreciated the visits of Elder Bros. Dennis Warner, Andy Stoller and Ken Indermuhle. We thank them for their visit.

Our Sisters that returned safely from work projects were: Sis. Michelle Steidl from a medical work project to Mexico and Sis. Gerri O'Brien from a project to Jamaica. We appreciate the help they gave.

Our high school graduates this spring are: Daniel Pamer (Bro. and Sis. Steve Pamer), Tamara Soto (Sis. Susie Soto) and Sis. Rachel Steidl (Bro. and Sis. Don Steidl). We pray the Lord to direct them according to His will in the future.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Anita Steiner

Blessed, holy is the hour  
When we, Jesus, think of Thee,  
And Thy word in godly power  
Hear and in our hearts receive.  
So we pray to Thee, imploring,  
Open Thou our understanding!  
May we hear, as Mary heard,  
Sacred teachings of Thy word.

*Zion's Harp #218*

This past month we were blessed to have in our midst, Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). We want to thank these brothers for supply-

ing us with the Bread of Life. May we always remember our ministering brothers in prayer as they stand time and time again.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace!  
Coming down from the Father  
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I  
pray,

In fathomless billows of love.

*Gospel Hymns #746*

It is with gladness in our hearts that we are able to announce that three more of our converts feel this peace in their hearts. They are Cindy and Janice Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Patricia Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera).

We were thankful to hear that Travis Schlatter's (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) surgery went well.

Bailey Michael Manz came to bless the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy on March 27. Big sisters, Taylor and Audrey, are looking forward to playing with their new baby brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz and Carol Benroth and Thomas Leatherman. Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz are also welcoming home a new grandson. Levi Andrew blessed the home of Bro. Marvin and Jennifer Manz of the Latty congregation.

We so enjoyed having ministering Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) with us a few weeks ago. May God continue to be with you and bless you as only He can. Please come back and visit us again as the Lord would open the way.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Heidi Hackenjoss

### Kathy Sinn

May is the month to honor our

mothers and remember the things they have done for us. It is a time to reflect on the blessings of a God-fearing mother and the examples they have set before us.

Our congregation welcomed two precious souls into the fold. What a joy to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptism of Bro. Jonathan Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnne) and Bro. Mitch Schlatter (Gus and Sis. LeAnne). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) with us this weekend to assist. Also visiting us were Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

Also sharing the Word with us this past month were Bros. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Sid Kaufman (Cissna Park, IL) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). May God bless each one for their labor of love.

We are thankful our convert, Bob Williamson (Sis. Janet), was announced for peace. We look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism.

We welcome Jason and Carla Laukhuf and girls to our Latty congregation.

Latty had two new arrivals this past month. Bro. Chris and Sis. Rachael Laukhuf are first-time parents of Gracie May. Gracie's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marcia Laukhuf and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN). Bro. Marvin and Jenny Manz welcome home Levi Andrew. Lauren is Levi's big sister and will enjoy having a new playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH).

Another loved one has gone to be with our Lord. Our congregation was saddened at the loss of Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Sis. Martha). Bro. Merrill served as minister of our congregation for many years. May God comfort the hearts of his wife and

family, Sis. Martha (Dolly), Bro. Rod (Sis. Edie), Sis. Janice Bachtold (Bro. Herb, Forrest, IL) and Bro. John (Sis. Marcia).

Spending time in the hospital this past month was Sis. Tootie Stoller (Bro. Ralph) and Danny Sinn (Goldie).

God has blessed Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber with 50 years of marriage. May God continue to bless them.

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### OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

"Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed."

*Luke 22:7*

On March 31, we had our Communion service in remembrance of our Lord and Saviour. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL) with us that weekend to assist. May God bless Bro. Joe for his ministry. It was special to have him in our congregation before retiring as an Elder.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here this past month. We wish to thank him for bringing God's message to us once again.

"Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."

*Matthew 28:5-6*

Our Easter program was on April 8. It is a blessing to hear our children read and sing of the resurrection of Jesus.

Bro. Tim, Sis. Traci and Trent Beer welcomed a new son and brother into their family on April 8. His name is Thomas Stewart. His excited grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen Baltic and Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer.

We rejoice with Tecca Keever

(Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev) who has decided to repent of her sins. It is uplifting to see souls turn to God in repentance!

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Frank and Sis. Alice Graszl and their family in the passing of their grandson, Jeffrey Graszl. May they feel the Lord's nearness during this time of loss.

Bro. Ora Sauder was in the hospital recently. We are thankful he could return to the Rittman Nursing Home again and will remember him in our prayers.

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### OHIO, RITTMAN Beth Beery Cheryl Hartzler

Thus united and in concord,  
Let us walk the path of life;  
Hand in hand, O may love bind us  
For each other's welfare strive.  
*Zion's Harp #237*

On April 1, Bro. Joel Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Katrina Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) were joined in Holy Matrimony. May God bless them as they begin to walk this path of life together. Ministering Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) were with us and exhorted us from God's Word.

We pray for those who suffer physical illness. Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) was in the hospital this past month and we are thankful for God's healing hand upon her.

Sometimes there are those that have heavy burdens in their lives. May each one look to God during those times and feel His peace and nearness. For we know, God will not give us more to carry than what we are able to bear by trusting in His grace.

He'll lighten the load, and level

the road  
and bear thee on hands of compassion.  
He's gentle and kind, rich blessings thou'll find;  
His Word gives thee peace everlasting.  
*Zion's Harp #46*

Wishing sympathy and God's nearness to the family and loved ones of Dale Bauman. May his children, Kelly (Kurt) Gasser, Julie, Stacy, Jared and Patricia, feel the love and prayers of those around them.

On Easter Sunday many of us had the blessing of gathering with our brethren in Forrest, IL. It was a very special day as we remembered the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and also witnessed the marriage of Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith, Smithville) and Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL). May God abide with them as another family has been established by His blessed grace and will.

This month we remember Christ's willingness to come to this earth, to suffer and then to die on the cross for our behalf. We are thankful for those at this time, who also give of themselves for the benefit of others. We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) who labored in our congregation to minister the Word on Easter Sunday. May God continue to bless our ministering brothers as they proclaim God's precious Word.

Note: May is our collection month for the Silver Lining.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Alice Ramsier

We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) and their family in the passing of her father, James Starling (Rittman,



OH). May God comfort them at this time of loss.

King of my life, I crown thee  
now,  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned  
brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.  
May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
Daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share,  
Thou hast borne all for me.

*Hymns of Zion*

Visiting us on Good Friday, Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) encouraged us to be thankful for the great price our Lord Jesus paid for our sins. We thank Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell for their visit.

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#### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller  
Ruth Gasser**

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

*Hymns of Zion #89*

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for assisting our Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Merle Hartzler in serving us Holy Communion on March 17. How important it is to be reminded of the price of our salvation and God's redeeming love for us. We are thankful that the Word of Truth is available and God's mercy free for all who will come and taste and see. Serving us with the Word of God also this month were Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We appreciate their labors on our be-

half.

We are thankful to have many converts now, and are especially encouraged when they are able to find and express peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing testimonies of faith from converts, Shannon Bauman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer), Ron Marty (Tammy) and Shari Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis). May they feel our support and prayers as they are added to the fold at the proper time.

We express our sympathy to Sis. Mildred Hartzler whose brother, Bro. Merill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), was called from time into eternity after a brief illness. May the Lord comfort those who mourn his loss. Memories of his visits here, as a dear brother in faith, and as a minister, come to mind, with the realization of how short life really is.

Those hospitalized this past month were Bobby Lancaster (Boyd and Terry Nieman) and Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty). We are thankful for God's healing hand, that Bobby has returned home after rehabilitation from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, and that Bro. John is assembling with us again.

On March 24, Jaime Riggerbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Gail) and Shyla Robinson (granddaughter of Twila Robinson, Rittman, OH) became husband and wife. On April 15, Forrest, IL, church was the scene of the marriage ceremony of Bro. Brian Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith) and Sis. Alyssa Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL). May godly charity be the "bond of perfectness" in each marriage, and the Lord become the third partner. We welcome Sis. Alyssa and hope she can feel at home in our congregation.

Abigail Nicole has come to bless the lives of Bro. James and Sis. Susan Maibach and older brother Clint on April 11. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach

and Keith Dotterer and Sis. Linda Dotterer. We wish God's blessings to this family and all those entrusted with children.

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#### OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Edie Fetter

We appreciate the service of our ministers who bring the Word to us. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) both served us in the ministry. May God bless them.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Colette Harmon (Bro. Howard) would like to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy shown at the death of her mother, Sis. Minnie Fetter. Also, for the many cards and prayers for Sis. Colette while she was in the hospital. May God bless you all.

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#### OREGON, PORTLAND

**Louisa Gallup**

Last month, the Portland congregation assembled with the Silverton brethren to listen together to the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate this labor of love of the Elder brethren. It is always a blessing to attend. In today's world, we can all use the warnings and guidance. We sincerely thank our Elder Bro. Art Metz and visiting Elder Bro. Arthur Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) for their efforts and encouraging words that evening.

Sometimes words are not enough, or simply not good enough, when trying to express our thoughts and feelings. Sunday, March 25, was such a time, when the retirement of our beloved Bro. Robert Miller was announced. Bro. Bob started serving in the ministry in 1953 here in Portland. That the Lord has blessed him through the years is evident in

many ways; from his kind and humble spirit to his knowledge of the Scriptures. No doubt, we all have special memories from one time or another during his ministry. We truly thank Bro. Bob and his dear wife, Sis. Pearl, for the love and support they always have and continue to give this small flock. May the Lord continue to bless them both with good health and happiness in their retirement years together.

For the past 28 years, Bro. Garth Steffen has faithfully served the ministry side by side with Bro. Bob. We are blessed to have Bro. Garth labor for us. We sure give him our full support and prayers, even more so now that he is alone on the pulpit. The ministering brethren of the nearby Silverton congregation have been very supportive. We appreciate it very much when they share the Word with us.

On Easter Sunday, our Sunday School students presented to us the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. From the oldest to the youngest, all six did their best and it was a joy to hear their young voices sing our Easter hymns. May the Lord help them to remember what they learned in Sunday School and to grow spiritually.

We truly appreciate the many visitors we have had this past month. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all from Silverton, for sharing God's Word with us.

## OREGON, SILVERTON

### Rosa Lee Kuenzi

February brought two little baby boys to our congregation and they, in turn, brought joy to the hearts of their families. On February 16, Dallas Michael Bessey was born to Maya Dettwyler and Dan Bessey. Grandparents are Bernie and Margaret Dettwyler, all of Silverton.

On February 21, Austin James Brockamp was born to Matt and

Kristin Brockamp. Welcoming grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Jim and Peggy Brockamp, all of Silverton.

Spring is in the air here with many flowering trees and shrubs in bloom. The early bulb-type flowers have been beautiful for weeks and the sweet scent of the violet and daphnia blossoms are a welcoming call to come out and work in the yard. Whether it was this spring influence or not, we did have three engagements announced here in recent weeks.

Lyle Kuenzi and Andrea Townsend are engaged and are planning an August wedding. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barbara Kuenzi and Jim and Vikki Buss, Corbett, OR, and Bohn and Ramona Townsend of Reno, NV.

Planning an April 29 wedding day are Bro. Rick Metzger and Sis. Ruth Kuenzi whose engagement was announced on February 24. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi of Silverton.

The engagement of Craig Walter and Kristi Gengler has also been made known and a summer 2002 wedding is in the planning. Parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Joe and Jan Gengler, all of Silverton. We hope and pray that these three young couples and their families will look to the Lord in the planning of their weddings and most importantly in the planning of their lives.

We were thankful, recently, for the opportunity to listen to the reading of the Memorandum of the 2000 Brotherhood Conference. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) was here and with our Elder Bro. Art Metz read and spoke on each one of the important issues covered. This is such a privilege and benefit for us in our Christian walk. Let us be willing hearers and willing doers of what was brought forth for our edification.

The Silverton congregation is happy to welcome Sis. Elizabeth Peasley (Bro. David and Sis. Margene Peasley, Lester, IA) who has moved to our area. Sis. Elizabeth has found employment as a registered nurse at the Silverton Hospital. We know she will be missed in Lester, but we trust she will feel right at home here in Oregon.

Our sympathy to Tim and Carol Hansen and family at the passing of Tim's mother. Elaine Hansen, 81, died on March 24. We pray for God's love and comfort for her husband, children and grandchildren.

With joy we heard the announcement that Penny Hari (Dan) has found the peace with God that she has been seeking in her repentance. It takes each of us back to our own humble beginnings whenever another convert successfully leaves the world behind and joyfully walks forward with the Lord.

Hospital patients in past weeks are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi, Alice Gehring and Sis. Marian Sinn. Thankfully, all are recuperating well at this time.

On Palm Sunday, we again had the opportunity to hear the story of our Lord's perfect life and sacrificial death, clearly told by the Sunday School classes. Their songs, memorized pieces and Bible readings are so precious to our hearts. Thanks to each one of them and to their teachers and their parents for making such a lovely Easter program possible.

Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) was our visiting minister in March. It was a joy to have him and Sis. Suzanne with us. May our Lord bless as only He can with "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together."

### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone who so lovingly supported Bro. Paul and his family with prayers, cards and food during his illness and passing.

Your comfort was a heartfelt blessing.

*Sis. Esther Dettwyler and family*

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**PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and MaryElizabeth  
Gasser**

Another beautiful spring season is upon us as flowers begin to bloom, temperatures rise and children begin thinking about summer vacation! Another sure sign of spring is that we have more and more hours of sunlight with each passing day. As we read in God's Word, "unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (Luke 12:48). May we strive to use every day, short or long, to His honor and glory.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for sharing the Word with us this month and appreciate his and his wife, Sis. Linda's, visit to our area. We encourage those traveling out east to consider worshipping with us on a Sunday or Wednesday evening. We appreciate all those who gather with us.

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**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

God has spoken to us clearly in this past month through our visiting ministering brothers. We are so grateful for their efforts in bringing forth God's Word of encouragement and admonishment to keep us focused on our spiritual journey and our heavenly goal. We thank each of these brothers for their recent ministry to us: Bros. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) and Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) and Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL). Also, we have been blessed with the fellowship of brethren from several congregations: Chicago and Princeville, IL; Bluffton and Milford, IN; and Mansfield, OH.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore after a nearly year long struggle with cancer. We all need to continue to be in prayer for his wife, Sis. Doris, his family, and the entire Athens church. Bro. Lavoyd will be greatly missed, but we can rejoice that, through Christ, he has won the victory for which we all strive.

We rejoice that our son, Jordan Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica), has found the grace to come to the Lord in repentance. How humbling it is to see the Lord work in the lives of our children and to witness His faithfulness to another generation.

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. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Champaign, IL (May 27), La-Crosse, IN (June 3), Eureka, IL (June 10), Lamar, MO (June 17), and Gridley, IL (June 24). 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.

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**TEXAS, CENTRAL**

**Dan and Pam Sauder**

Ministers who have visited us and shared the Word in the past month were Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO). We are appreciative of the efforts of these brethren to bring God's Word to us and trust He will bless them for serving us.

In days of youth seek ye the  
Lord,  
His love and truth with one accord,

go offer Him thy youthful days  
and walk within the Saviour's  
ways.

*Hymns of Zion*

We rejoice that Serenity Ringger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy) could make a beginning to seek her Lord in repentance. God is so faithful in providing His saving grace to those who seek Him.

The Central Texas schedule of worship services and churches sending ministers for the month of June include: the 3rd (West Bend, IA), 10th (Congerville, IL), 17th (Leo, IN) and 24th (Goodfield, IL).

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

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. For your benefit, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder (210) 651-4996 and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**

**Mary Plattner**

**Joyce Nohl**

We were blessed to have Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and his wife, Sis. Louise, visit us this month. Thank you, Bro. Carroll, for sharing God's Word with us and may the Lord bless you for your efforts in bringing forth the message of truth.

Most of our winter residents have returned to their permanent homes. We thank God for protecting each one as they traveled on the high-

ways and hope to meet again in the fall.

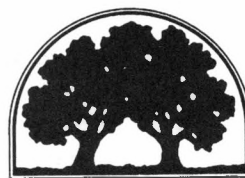
On Easter Day, we gathered together for a potluck dinner and fellowship in the evening. There were 12 in attendance. Even though we are few in number, we can feel His presence when we come together to fellowship one with another.

While I listen to the music  
Stealing on in gentle strain  
I am carried back to childhood  
I am now a child again:  
'Tis the hour of my retiring,  
At the dusky eventide;  
Near my trundle bed I'm kneeling,  
As of yore, by mother's side.

Hands are on my head so loving,  
As they were in childhood's days;  
I, with weary tones, am trying  
To repeat the words she says;  
'Tis a prayer in language simple  
As a mother's lips can frame:  
"Father, Thou who art in  
heaven,  
Hallowed, ever, be Thy name."

Prayer is over: to my pillow  
With a "good - night!" kiss I  
creep,  
Scarcely waking while I whisper,  
"Now I lay me down to sleep,"  
Then my mother, o'er me bending,  
Prays in earnest words, but mild:  
"Hear my prayer, O Heavenly  
Father,  
Bless, oh bless, my precious  
child!"

Yet I am but only dreaming;  
Ne'er I'll be a child again;  
Many years has that dear mother  
In the quiet churchyard lain;  
But the mem'ry of her counsels  
O'er my path a light has shed,  
Daily calling me to heaven,  
Even from my trundle bed.



## Gateway Woods Illinois Family Services Central Illinois Local Work Team Projects

Over the years, more and more of our people are getting involved in work projects in other countries such as Jamaica, Mexico, and Haiti. Brethren and friends, young and old, have received many blessings as a result of these work team experiences. At the same time, it has been observed that there are also many needs right here in our own communities.

Last year, Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services organized and successfully completed a Local Work Team Project of this type in an attempt to bring the work team experience closer to home without the need for traveling thousands of miles. Arrangements were made for the volunteers to stay together over night at a church family's home simulating the remote work - team experience. Other volunteers furnished the noon and evening meals. The workers had evening devotions with a minister present, just like is practiced in Haiti and Jamaica. The project involved reroofing an older woman's home that had recently adopted her two great grandchildren. The time spent working and fellowshiping was a blessing to all participants.

At the recent Elder Conference, the counseling Elders from both the Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services and World Relief met and approved a proposal for encouraging these local work projects, and the Illinois Gateway Woods Family Services program has been given permission to coordinate a local work project in any of the Central Illinois church communities. Letters have been sent to the Elders offering coordination of such projects, and Elders choosing to participate can initiate an invitation. The projects will follow the same guidelines established for the overseas work teams with regard to who can participate and the expectations for the workers.

We have already been given a van and a job trailer which we hope to fill with tools and travel around Central Illinois this summer using God's people, and our blessings to let our good works so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer and thank you in advance for your participation in this exciting opportunity.

### *Gospel Hymns #344*

As Mother's Day approaches, let us thank God for Christian mothers everywhere. May the Lord bless each one for their patience, unconditional love and prayers. Tears of

gratitude stream from this writer's eyes as she remembers her mother's words of wisdom and prayers.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

there.

The words that Brother Mike read today, that whole chapter is just an amazing chapter because it is about the Living God, who is there in our hard times and in our good times. Wherever and whatever circumstances we might come under, He is there because He is living! The amazing thing is when he read those words "abba", that has special meaning to me because we talked about it the other night in our "Feeding On The Word" class of some of the names of God. But that word "abba" is very special because it is the word much like when we would use "daddy".

The nation of Israel or the priests and that, they would never use that word in the Old Testament. It is never found there, but the translation in the New Testament, I think, there are 156 times in the book of John alone, it uses that reference to daddy. It shows me that He is like our father but He has a very close relationship between a father and son or daughter and a father. It is a very close relationship. It is because He is living. He is not somewhere far away but He is very close to us, just like Brother Mike said, "When we need Him, He is there." That is exciting because we don't always know what is going to face us this week or what is going to happen to us but we know one thing, we serve the Living God. He does and He will go before us, and that is exciting.

As we read through these things here, it shows two pictures. It shows the Old Testament way of priests going into the Holy of Holies one time a year. Isn't it interesting that he has to first make it right for himself? Then he can offer sacrifices for the nation of Israel. Then they contrast that with Christ who did it one time. This says every year, time and time again at a certain date, they would go in and do the same thing.

It is very interesting where I read once that they tied a rope to the foot of the priest, and I did not know that. They did that because if God was not happy with the sacrifice and the priest died, they had to have some way to get

him out. Just think about that. Yet, they offered blood and those sins were only covered because there was going to be a time when the Messiah would come. When Christ would come and take away all those Old Testament sacrifices, then there would be One Sacrifice. The exciting thing is you and I are now under that second system.

If you haven't given your heart to the Lord, now is the time. Later on it says, "Today is the day of salvation." (See 2 Corinthians 6:2) And we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8. You see, He is living! He is the One Sacrifice for our sins to make us worthy to worship God.

As we look at this, it says, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come;" Hebrews 9:11a. Isn't that true? We don't know all the good things because we can't understand Heaven. I don't know what it is going to be like up there, but I have a vague, very vague and probably very small understanding what that will be. But he says we have good things to come, and you know, not just in Heaven, too, but we have good things to come here on this earth. That may not be financial prosperity and it may not be that we get away from all sickness or those kind of things, but what it means to me, the good things to come are that we have a Living God who is going to see us through every day.

There is one verse that I have kind of clung to lately. It is Psalm 68 and verse 19, it says, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits! That is the good things to come — those special benefits! I guess I look at it from this way. Every morning when I would wake up, there is a spiritual knapsack sitting there for me, because God knows that I am going to leave and I am going to go out into the work place or I am going to go out into the world somewhere and He has packed it exactly with what I need.

Maybe one day I will open it up and there is a nice little note and it says, "It is bright and sunny out and we are going to have a good day and here are all the things that you need." Then maybe one day the note might say, "It is going to be stormy and raining out. I put in a coat for you and I got you an umbrella, but you are still going to have to go through the storm. Enjoy the day." Maybe it is hot, and there is extra spiritual water in there for me when I get thirsty. But whatever it is, He knows ahead of time the benefits that we need — the blessings that we need — and the help to get through.

I don't think that David just wrote that verse that He is going to load us with benefits just for a nice thing to say. I think he did it because he understood it and I think he did it because it is true. What we have to do is pick up our spiritual knapsack and trust that everything in there is what we need for that day because He is the Living God. He knows ahead of time what we need and what we need to serve Him and worship Him.

Then it goes on and says, "...by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands... Neither by the blood of goats and calves," and then later on it goes on and talks about the blood of bulls and goats. But it says, "...by his own blood he entered in

once..." Hebrews 9:11-12. That is all that it took. The priest did this year after year and think about the thousands of years that they did this system and how many animals died, and still it wasn't enough. Then Jesus came.

We sang the song, "The Love of God", this morning. Isn't that amazing? He did that and sent His Son because He loved us. There was not any other reason. It wasn't because we are good enough or that He needed us. He did it because He loves us! That to me is very humbling. Why would He love someone like me? Why would He be willing to die on the cross for something like me? He does it because He loves each and every one of us.

I like what Brother Mike said this  
*Sermon continued on next page...*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

morning, "He doesn't make junk." And that is true. But we junk ourselves sometimes. We settle for less. We want the things that rust, but He wants better things for us.

Then he goes on and talks about different things throughout this verse. I would like to (and I know we are short on time here), but I would like to just touch on one little thing. In verse twenty-seven, it says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27. We all know that is true. Somewhere along the line, unless the Lord returns and raptures us out, we are going to be dying. It said, "after this the judgment."

The thing I like about the Bible and the thing I like about God and Christ and the Spirit is that they tell us ahead of time what is going to happen. They give us a glimpse and they give us enough to know. They said, "You are going to live and you are going to die and there is a judgment." Where will you stand on the judgment? Some people may say, "Well, I haven't done anything with Christ so I guess I will

be out of luck. I am going to take my chance because I have been a good person." You know, that is not going to be good enough, because the question is, "What have you done with Christ?" That will affect what type of judgment you will have.

By all rights, all of us probably should go through a damnation judgment because of the blood of Christ and His cleansing power. Then we can give Him honor, praise and glory for all eternity. That concerns me because there might be people here today, or there might be kids in Sunday school or adults that are sitting here today that haven't really thought about the judgment. I hope we all think about the judgment because it is very, very important.

I would like to close with this verse because I thought about it this morning as Brother Mike was speaking. I think it applies now how do we win or how do we be victorious. This verse in 2 Corinthians 2:14 says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the sa-

voir of his knowledge by us in every place." Thanks be to God, which always causes us to triumph! No matter what happens to us physically, we triumph in the end spiritually.



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

Jamaica	CCCD	May 11-19, '01	Deaf Village	(* Mike Rassi	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 Rager	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/Goodfield 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%
Jamaica	CCCD	(* Jan 2-9, '02	Montego Bay	Mark Criss	Deaf School	50/60	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(*)(** Mar 8-16	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(*)(** Mar 8-16	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	0%
Jamaica	CCCD	(* May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Kevin Sauder - TBA	Work Place	40	0%

**CCCD**=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

**MEBSH** = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

**S.E.E.D.** = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

**TBA** = To Be Announced

**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

**A.W.A. - B.** = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

**A.W.A. - FRW** = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

**A.W.A. - T** = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue

**(\*\*)** = Spring Break Timeframe

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Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		

**- NOTICE -**

Repair and Distribution of  
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Books are mainly distributed to  
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Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

### **Apostolic Christian Counseling Services**

73 East Queenwood Rd,  
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309-263-5536 (local#)  
309-263-6841 (fax)

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

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ety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

### **USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC**

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Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses  
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Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
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### **Gateway Woods Auction**

Saturday, August 18, 2001

### **Call To Subscribe**

Please call the Gateway Woods'  
Office at 888/443-4283 to receive  
The Gate Post, a free newsletter  
about Gateway Woods published  
three times yearly.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Gateway Woods offers three  
\$2,000.00 scholarships to stu-  
dents enrolled in undergraduate  
or postgraduate work leading to a  
degree in a social services field.  
The scholarships are available to  
any member of the Apostolic  
Christian Church or friend who  
attends on a regular basis. A de-  
scription of the scholarship and  
application are available by writ-  
ing or calling Bill Eisenmann at  
219-627-2159. Applications need  
to be returned to Gateway Woods.

### **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

*The Bible Distribution Center which  
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*To order, contact,  
Apostolic Christian Church*

### **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.

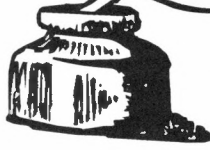


## Alternate Houseparents Needed

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 recently returned to Colorado where they are expecting their fourth child. 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

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
15417 Doty Rd  
New Haven, IN 46774  
(219) 493-6711  
lynnstieglitz@lightdog.com



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*The following are comments by Henry Michel of Switzerland who once spoke about how the church began in Europe. He focuses on the initial preaching efforts of Bro. Samuel Froehlich.*

### **Souls Respond to the Gospel**

After a year of his preaching there, nearly everyone in the congregation had come into repentance and many had found peace in the Lord Jesus. On Good Friday, two days before Easter, he was told that he had to leave quickly and go to his home town. During his evening sermon, on the day commemorating when Jesus was crucified, he spoke once more of the Lord Jesus, and then said, "I must go. I received the decision that I have to leave the church." There followed a lamenting, a weeping aloud of all, and they asked him not to go. But what could he do? He left these poor ones who really were afterwards like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he came back to his home town, Brugg, and wondered, "What shall I do?" For a whole year he was quiet there, sitting, as he said, like Joseph in his prison, until the Lord would let him out. As his diary reports, he felt as though he was being shaken through a screen or sieve, being prepared for his ministry.

### **Pondering the Future**

He wrote in his diary: "It was never in my mind to create a new denomination. My goal was to help gather the children of God. If I would not put all my trust in God, my Lord, that He has called me to preach the Gospel, I would have to regret to have started something to which He would not grant His blessing and that would not be according to His will."

But now the official church had rejected him. They did not allow him to speak. Shortly afterward, they took his license away, and it was forbidden him even to preach in homes and to travel across the country.

He cried to God, "What shall I do?" He said, "I am putting everything into the hand of the Lord that He shall decide according to His good will." Then suddenly, he had the fire in his heart again, and he had to go. "A living spring of water cannot be stopped." So he went.

### **Beginning Anew**

The first place he went on his missionary journey was to the village of Leutwil where he had preached, where he had been forbidden to go, and where many had heard the call of the Lord Jesus. He came at night so nobody would see him, but like a fire, the rumor went through the whole village, "Samuel is here." They all came (about two hundred) before the house, and he had to go out of the house and preach to them in the open air. It was a joyful meeting, and they all thanked the Lord and said, "Oh, we are so thankful that you came back; nobody took care of us in the meantime."

Evening after evening they had a meeting in the open air, and evening after evening, he preached of the Lord Jesus. The next week he baptized 38 believers. That was the beginning, the first time he baptized; these were the first who as a result of his ministry were baptized.

### **Encountering Police**

But you can understand that the authorities were not happy. Complaint after complaint came, and six weeks after he had returned to this village, the police came and said that he had to leave within 24 hours. He did so. He went from place to place, from village to village. He was chased from one to the other. No rest was given and there was no place where he could go. Everywhere someone who heard he was there told the police, and he had to depart.

One day he was preaching in a small town, and it became known, and the police came during the meeting and took

him away. He had to go for many miles and appear before a judge. The judge asked him, "Who told you to speak, from whom have you the authority to speak? Where is your license?" He answered, "I have a license." The police said, "No, your license has been taken away." Samuel said, "I have one," and the police said, "From whom?" "From Jesus." Then he said, "Ask this Mr. Jesus" (he said Mr. Jesus as a joke), "Ask this Mr. Jesus to give you this in writing." He answered, "I have it in writing right here," and he showed him his Bible. The officer wanted to put him in jail, but he could not do it, and the officer, after mocking him, after insulting him, released him and allowed him to go on. This is the way he went from town to town.

### **Sickness**

In one journey he took, he had to cross a mountain. A terrible thunderstorm came up and he had to go seven or eight hours in a most dreadful storm and rain. He arrived in the city of Bern (which is our capital) shivering from fever and so sick that he went directly to the doctor. The doctor said, "Poor man, you are in a terrible condition. I cannot let you go away." So he put him to bed in his sleeping room, and he was there for six weeks during which time the doctor took care of him. This doctor incidentally was a good friend of the President of the Swiss confederation, the President of the country. Later on, this doctor was very helpful in time of persecution. So everything that happened really was a miracle.

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein  
Gridley, IL*

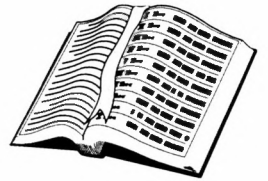
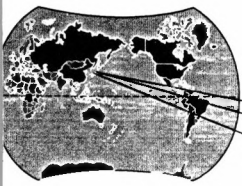
### **Next Issue:**

*Bro. Froehlich continues to preach. He faces the opposition of the State, but does not relent.*

# The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

## 希望の光



### “FORGETTING SELF”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

God made mothers with an instinct to forget self in the interest of their children. When the mother of Moses prepared the ark of bulrushes with slime and pitch, she wasn't thinking about her own safety but about the safety of her baby, Moses. (see Exodus 2:3)

The noble virtue of forgetting self in the interest of others has many applications. The Lord Jesus Christ forgot self in order to do the will of the Father. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42)

The Samaritan who helped the wounded man lying by the side of the road, probably had a busy schedule of his own, but he forgot self out of concern for others. And when he saw him, he had compassion on him."

Each of us should forget self in our daily relationship with members of our own families. We should praise other members of our families for their many good

points and refrain from any criticism, especially of our spouses. Criticism from someone near to us is painful, but loving and soft voiced encouragement to do something in a different way, or not to do it at all, is readily accepted, in most cases. To conduct ourselves in this manner requires that we forget self in the interest of others.

The women who visited Jesus' grave early Easter morning, forgot self and concentrated on what they considered to be the right thing to do out of respect for their fallen teacher, who by His resurrection, became their Saviour.

The Apostle Paul forgot self when he wrote in I Corinthians 8:13, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

In our church fellowship, we should forget self and try to be a friend to those who are lonely

and in need of a friend. We should never criticize our brothers and sisters but encourage them by forgetting self and looking for the good points in others, even while pleading with them, if necessary, to live a more spiritual and wholesome life. If anyone is living a selfish life, he or she is to be pitied. Jesus said, "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 10:39). I understand this losing your life to mean forgetting self in order to do God's will and help others.

If a baby cries during the night, the mother arises to take care of the needs of the baby. She forgets self.

Mothers, those of you who are faithful mothers, and I believe that all of you who read this, are faithful, you have much to teach us about forgetting self and not being so concerned about what we want and like. As children of God, we are called to live on a higher and more noble plain.

## 希望の光

# *The Spirit of Teamwork and the Flight of the Great Northern Geese*



**I. Formation Flying** - Flying in a V formation, the noble geese travel thousands of miles with ease and precision. As each bird moves its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. Formation flying is 70 percent more efficient than flying alone.

**III. Everyone Leads** - At a distance, the flock appears to be guided by a single leader. The lead bird does in fact guide the formation, winging smoothly through the oncoming elements. If the lead goose tires, however, it rotates back into the formation and another bird flies at the point position.

**V. Good Times or Bad** - When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. Then launch out on their own into another formation, or they catch up with their flock.

**II. Accept and Give Help** - When one of the great birds out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly rejoins the formation to the advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

**IV. Honk and Encourage** - Each flock finds its own rhythm. The pulsating sound of the great wings beating together excites and energizes the whole formation. The goose honks from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

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