

# *The Silver Lining*



*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.*

*Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.*

*Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*



## “TODAY IS THE DAY TO REPENT”

Sermon by Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller, Smithville, OH  
Isaiah 51 and 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:18

There is a great deal of comfort and a great deal of encouragement in the passage that we have read this morning where Paul was encouraging each one to find consolation and to realize that the Lord does love us. There is hope through grace that Christ will bring to us. There is comfort and we can be established in His work and in His Word. So what kind of comfort and what kind of consolation should we seek through Christ?

At some point in our lives, those of us who have reached at least an age where we know the difference between sin and righteousness, have been able to find comfort if we have taken the opportunity because when we had sin in our lives, which all of us did, there was a lack of peace. There was a barrier. We just could not get through that wall. But we, by the grace of God, were able to have that wall removed and we had free access to Christ. We had the opportunity to remove the sins from our life and had the opportunity to remove the condemnation, then we had a great deal of comfort and a great deal of consolation.

What is it that any of us would want more than that kind of comfort? What is it that would console any of us more than to know that if we faced imminent danger or if our loved one faced imminent danger, what would be a greater consolation than to know that individual or we were right with God? While we certainly don't look forward to losing our loved ones,

we do know that there is a hope. There is a promise that follows this life, if we have served God. We don't have to be separated forever, just separated for a time. We don't have to face the finality of never ever having the opportunity to be with our loved ones again. That certainly will give us a great deal of comfort.

Then he says, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" (2 Thessalonians 3:1). What is it that would prevent the Word of the Lord from having free course? I believe his concern here is that we as individuals would not place a barrier or not place a hindrance on the Word of God. But the Word of God should go out without being altered, without being watered down and that it would have a free opportunity, unhindered by whatever it might be that we might try to place in the way, that would have a free opportunity to work within the hearts and minds of mankind.

What kind of barrier could be placed there that would prevent the Word of the Lord from having free course? I think as we pause and reflect upon that for a few minutes, each one of us could find some things, at least at some point in our life, interfered. We may have tried at one point simply to be too busy. Not that we were necessarily involved in things that were wrong, just that we were involved in so many things that kept us busy that the Word of the Lord re-

ally did not penetrate our hearts and our minds as it should have. We really didn't stop and think about what we ought to be focusing our attention on.

We may have been involved in things we knew were wrong. I believe virtually at every testimony, and we heard it again last night,

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

March 2002

### Let Brotherly Love Continue

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Heb. 13:1-2). What is brotherly love, and how can we be sure that we are practicing it?

To love is to display intense fondness or deep devotion toward someone. Brotherly love is the manifestation of this fondness or devotion to our brother. In this usage of the word, brother goes far beyond those of our household. It refers to God's children, who by virtue of our having been adopted by God, are therefore our brother.

The scriptures provide us with many examples of brotherly love. Jonathan, King Saul's son, loved David "...as his own soul" (I Sam. 18:3). This feeling that Jonathan had toward David developed even though Jonathan had been warned by his father that David would be King of Israel rather than Jonathan. Jonathan did not allow earthly ambitions to interfere with, nor destroy the love he had for David. So great was Jonathon's affection toward David that he was willing to put his life in danger for the king by defending David to King Saul (I Sam., 20:27-34). David did not feel himself worthy of such love but Jonathan knew the Lord was with David and he "...made a covenant with the house of David..." (I Sam. 20:16).

Solomon expressed the value of brotherly love when he stated that it would cover all sins (Prov. 10:12). Covering of sins in this sense does not refer to hiding but rather to destroying the power of the sin. The opportunity that we have to exhibit love toward one another is from God. We may be a tool that God wishes to use to help someone else, and in the process, cover or gain victory over sin.

Many other examples of brotherly love are recorded in the Old Testament. Joseph's love for his brothers, Moses' love for his people, Ruth's love for Naomi and Elisha's love for Elijah are only a few examples of the love that God's servants had for each other.

None of these examples, of course, compare to the love that Jesus Christ demonstrated for all of mankind. The life of Christ is the perfect example of brotherly love. From the Sermon on the Mount to His prayer that God would forgive His executioners, Jesus lived and taught brotherly love.

Everything that Jesus did, from the time He left Heaven until He returned to Heaven following His resurrection, was a demonstration of brotherly love in action. Even the time when He challenged and chastised those who considered Him as their enemy, He demonstrated brotherly love. The Sermon on the Mount (Mt. Chapt. 5-7) contains numerous examples where Jesus encouraged His followers to implement brotherly love. His chastisement of those who opposed Him was out of love. He wanted them to submit to God's will.

The Golden Rule and many other of Jesus' teachings run counter to human nature (love your enemy, do good to them that despitefully use you, etc.). We find in Jesus' teachings that it is necessary to live contrary to human nature if we truly are going to demonstrate brotherly love.

No act in the history of mankind exemplified brotherly love more fully than the willingness of Jesus to give His life on Calvary and to shed His blood for the redemption of our sins. He willingly allowed Himself to be ridiculed, beaten and finally nailed to the cross. Why was He so willing to pay the debt of sin that He did not owe? Because He knew we had a debt we could not pay. He fulfilled the mission for which He was sent to earth and put brotherly love into practice.

Jesus' example of brotherly love is undoubtedly beyond the ability of human beings to match. However, there are many other examples and teachings in the New Testament that encourage us to implement the commandment to display brotherly love.

The entire chapter of I Cor. 13 emphasizes that love is more important than

many of the issues that man might think to be important. The Apostle Paul reminds us that love is more important than speaking in tongues, than the gift of prophesy, than knowledge, than giving, and that even faith without love leaves us as nothing. Many things will fail but love will not.

The Apostle Paul many times, in the face of severe persecution and extreme danger, felt the love and support of fellow believers. He wrote of the willingness of Priscilla and Aquila "Who have for my life laid down their own necks..." (Ro. 16:4). He also wrote of the encouragement he received from Onesiphorous who "...oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: ...but...sought me out very diligently, and found me:" (2 Tim. 1:16-17). Paul not only received brotherly love, but gave it as well. He was willing to "...spend and be spent for (the Corinthians); though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved" (2 Cor. 12:15). For Paul, as it should be for us, brotherly love was unconditional. He did not require it of others before he was willing to give it. For him, it was such a natural state of affairs that he wrote to the Thessalonians that they "...need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another" (I Th. 4:9).

The Scripture makes it clear that we cannot love God if we do not love our brother. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: ...and this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (I Jn. 4:20-21). Brotherly love must be more than words. It must be put into action. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him" (I Jn. 3:17)?

Brotherly love is a privilege. It is also a commandment. If we love our brother, we also love Christ. Jesus said "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Mt. 25:40).





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

## Casa de Elizabeth Orphanage

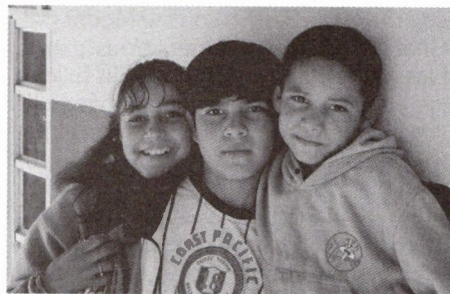
Children come to Casa de Elizabeth from all over Mexico for a variety of reasons. An eleven year old runaway slips while jumping a train and the wheel runs over his foot. A two year old baby girl is found cold, abandoned and unable to speak. A nine year old boy is in trouble with the law and is brought in chains. Siblings need a place to stay for a short time until a parent can provide for them. Other children are orphaned when parents die, or sadly, are abandoned by parents who come to the US and don't return. Some suffer from abuse at home. The needs are endless. A million children, lost under the influence of drugs, live in dangerous sewers or fend for themselves on the streets of Mexico's crowded cities.

Manuel Vergara founded Casa de Elizabeth in 1986 in Imuris, Sonora, a beautiful mountainous setting about 30 miles south of Nogales, Arizona. He and his wife Gabby serve as administrators of the home. Manuel was only 12 years old when his family visited a Mexican orphanage. He would never forget the children; unclothed, malnourished and filthy; living in an earthen hut too small for their numbers. That haunting memory became a dream for a better home for children in need. Some 40 years later, over 70 children find God's love, food, clothes and a refuge at Casa de Elizabeth.

### Working Miracles

When Children arrive at Casa de Elizabeth with emotional scars or behavior problems, it is very encouraging to see them improve under the positive influence of God's love. The police recently brought a girl who they had found living on the street with a group of boys. She looked just like

the boys, dressed like them and talked like them. But when they found out she was a girl, they told her she would be better off at the orphanage. She agreed to stay, but refused to change her clothes or her foul language. It was only a short time though before she began to conform to the Christ-like example of the staff. Our sisters, Rosa Cabrera and Claudia Gonzalez, from our church in Ixlan have volunteered at Casa de Elizabeth, and their godly example and hard work is evident in transformed lives.



### A Perspective of a Volunteer

"Our team arrives on a cool December Monday morning to start our work week. School is out for the holidays, and a few sleepy-eyed children are already shuffling about in the 35 degree chill. The sun will come out and it will warm up to 65 degrees, the kids' activity level rising with the temperature. It's not long before games of soccer, basketball or baseball break out. And you can always find some boys shooting marbles with astonishing accuracy.

Our job is to hang drywall, and after getting organized, we all, brothers, sisters, fathers, sons, and friends, dive into the work. The days are filled with challenges and improvisations, but by Friday the drywall is nearly complete.

A team member has brought a bag of chocolate bars. The children quickly form an orderly line for the "candy," an English word they all understand. I reach down and pick up a little girl. I

don't know her name, but I recognize her as one of the "twins." I ask her if she wants some candy. She smiles and nods. Then one of the boys in line gestures for me to cut in front of him. I decline, yet I marvel at his thoughtfulness. The children are meek and genuinely unselfish. And they treat each other with kindness and respect. One night the children sing songs for us. Their joy and love for Jesus is evident on their faces, and our hearts are touched. Unfortunate circumstances have brought them here, and yet they are generally happy and content.

Saying goodbye to everyone at Casa de Elizabeth was difficult. We were thankful for the opportunity to share with and serve our Mexican friends, but we too felt incredibly blessed by them. We've thoroughly enjoyed our daily devotions together, and the nightly singings at our hotel, but the blessing goes deeper than that. Our perspective on life is changed. We purpose in our hearts never to complain about our circumstances again. And we all desire to be more thankful and faithful to God."

### World Relief Involvement

World Relief Teams have built a security wall around the entire orphanage compound, and have added restrooms, showers and laundry facilities to the main building. World Relief is currently building a new administrator home, two apartments for volunteers and three apartments for mothers and children that have an emergency housing need.

Work teams are needed to finish the interiors of the house and apartments. If you would like more information, please contact:

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(520) 466-5152 FAX  
E-MAIL: jtooley@mcDavisco.com





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

### Eye Witness Accounts From Romania

In late January and early February, a team of brothers from the USA and Germany traveled into Romania. The purpose was to gather information needed to make decisions concerning our efforts to assist these needy brethren. We want to use this page to relate to our brethren at home the situation as this team found it.

#### Flying into Timisoara

Since this trip occurred during winter months, it seemed best to avoid traveling a large distance via auto. As they investigated options, the brethren found that it is possible to fly direct from Frankfurt, Germany to Timisoara, Romania. Tarom Airlines, a small independent firm in Romania has good service in modern aircraft, and the group flew via Tarom. The aircraft was a Boeing 737 that was less than 5 years old. The one and one-half hour flights were good.

#### Arrival in Arad

Brother Filip Augustinov from Arad met the brethren at the airport, and drove them to their quarters in the Best Western Central Hotel near the center of Arad. Breakfast each day was served in the hotel as a part of the normal service. Noon and evening meals were prepared by the Romanian brethren and served in their homes. This all made the stay in Arad quite comfortable and very enjoyable.

#### Visiting open markets

The travelers visited stores and open markets numerous times in order to evaluate both cost and availability of consumer goods. It became quite clear early on that the only thing lacking in Romania is money. Virtually any

product one needs is available, and the cost in dollars is cheaper than we can buy the same item for at home. It is clear that as time goes by changes will need to be made to some of our programs to accommodate changing circumstances.

As an interesting side note for anyone planning on traveling to Europe, the best means of paying for goods is by credit card. In addition to this, it is quite easy and convenient to get local currency from ATM machines, which are widely available. This does eliminate the need for carrying large sums of cash in a foreign land.

#### Medicine program with CAM

In many of our projects World Relief and the Mission Committees have worked together with Christian Aid Ministries of Berlin, OH. This organization receives millions of dollars worth of pharmaceuticals from corporations in the USA. These medicines are then distributed in many foreign lands as well as close to home.

For several years the European Board has worked to make these prescription drugs available to our brethren in Eastern Europe. There is an established system which needs to be in place before anyone can receive this medicine, which is only proper.

With thanks to our great God, by the end of the week, our brethren saw the last piece of the puzzle in place. We now have a secure cabinet in the Arad church that will serve as a pharmacy to store the medicine that will be delivered each month. One of our Romanian sisters is a nurse and is qualified to distribute these medicines.

With this system in place at last, a new means of assisting our needy brethren in the area of prescription medicines has opened up. We intend to work through this program step by step as it unfolds under God's

direction. It is hoped that the medicines can also be furnished to needy brethren and friends in neighboring countries such as Ukraine or Yugoslavia.

#### Ukrainians come to Arad

On Wednesday, March 30, two elders and two deacons from Ukraine came to Arad and brought an update on conditions in their land. Inflation and unemployment continue to stalk the land, but with thanks to God, the Ukrainians reported that to their knowledge, no one from the Nazarean faith is cold or hungry.

The European Board has numerous self-help projects in place, and also sends a substantial amount of money to be distributed as humanitarian aid. The brothers brought reports showing where these funds had been utilized. There was a list from each congregation, with the sum of money designated to each person. The recipient had signed each time they got help. This system of accounting is of great benefit and interest to both the European Board and those faithful donors who wish to help.

#### Garden tiller program

In the December Mission Committee article of the Silver Lining we discussed our ongoing program to furnish garden tillers to Ukraine. The response from our brotherhood was very generous and has allowed us to expand this program. At this time six units are due to be delivered to our brethren before gardening begins. We have also sent another \$10,000 that they intend to use to buy similar machines in Ukraine as a comparison.

The generosity of our brethren has also allowed us to send \$10,000 to Romania to buy tillers locally to be used by the Romanian brethren. Thank you very much and God bless you all for your interest and help.



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

### Part V - Mental Health Hotline

*Luke 10:36 - "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" 37 - "And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."*

Jesus gave a clear message that we are to reach out and serve those who are in need. It is easy for us to give excuses about why we cannot help. Those who were invited to the King's feast had said they had no time, had to see a field or cow, or see to their wife (Luke 14:16-24). We all have important responsibilities the Lord has entrusted to us, however, we must not use them as an excuse for not responding to His call that we "go and do likewise".

The part of Apostolic Christian Counseling Services that has been in place the longest is the Mental Health Hotline. Establishing the hotline was one of the first projects undertaken by the Apostolic Christian Mental Health Committee. A small group of sisters who are Registered Nurses agreed to provide the service by taking turns being on call and carrying a pager. The service has basically remained the same since it's beginning.

The nurses receive calls regarding a wide variety of concerns and provide a variety of services. When they receive a page, they talk with the callers about the nature of the problem and help them to assess the seriousness of the problem. The calls come from the struggling individuals, ministers and family members or friends of someone who is struggling.

The nurses help callers deter-

mine whether they need professional counseling, need to seek spiritual counseling, or just need more information about a particular problem. Often the nurses give preliminary information over the phone and then follow up with print information that is available from ACCS. If the person is in need of professional counseling, the nurse will offer to help locate a counselor in the caller's location. ACCS maintains a directory of counselors that others have used and found helpful. There are also some national directories of counselors that are used to locate counselors. If the person decides to use a professional counselor, the nurse may offer to mail out a hand-out from the counseling center office that gives helpful information about what to expect from counseling and how to interact with a counselor.

Sometimes individuals calling the hotline are already receiving counseling but would like to talk to someone about the counseling. At times it is helpful to get a perspective on the counseling from someone who understands his or her Apostolic Christian doctrine.

Some individuals who call ACCS are in situations that have no obvious resolution. They may call the hotline for support or they may call to be sure that they are not overlooking something that they could be doing.

The sisters who provide the hotline receive quarterly training from the counselors of ACCS. Because the sisters are nurses, they already have training in assessment and do a very good job of it. They receive training in recognizing symptoms that could indicate a particular problem, in how to make an effective referral and how to deal with unique situations.

Each call is documented by the

sisters and reviewed by a counselor at ACCS to ensure that an appropriate response was given. The sisters are able to consult with the ACCS counselors if they have questions about how to respond or what kinds of suggestions to give. All calls coming into ACCS are kept strictly confidential.

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## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

*Isaiah 40:28-31*

These are the words that we read at a memorial service on January 25 here at Timber Ridge for Sam Grimm, Jr. Sam had been a resident at the Home for nearly 30 years, so he was certainly a familiar part of our home. We will miss him. We saw Isaiah 40:28-31 in action in Sam's life. Though he encountered a variety of challenges in his lifetime, Sam kept on trying. In fact, his challenges may have been more difficult to overcome than most of us understood. We have many interesting memories of Sam and we thank God for the things Sam gave us while he lived here. This was evidenced in staff response to Sam's acute illness the



first week of his life. Some staff refused to leave him alone in the hospital. They spent countless hours on their own time by his bedside providing security and reassurance for him. We thank God, too, for staff who are willing to serve according to God's purpose. We saw that Isaiah 40 was a reality for both Sam and staff!

Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything. There have been several individuals who have moved to our facilities here in Morton in the past month. We welcome them to Timber Ridge, Oakwood Estate, and the house on Idlewood. We pray that life can be full and blessed for each of these new residents as they share their lives with us.

APRIL Birthday's at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Gail Kennedy (4), Jason Gingrich (7), Angela Poehlman (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steve Steffen (26), Zita Palko (27), Jon Terhorst (30). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Sonja Metzger (14), Mark Gundy (17). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Jane Kohler (1), Nancy Jones (27).

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

"Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Ninevah, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the

Lord. But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken..."

*Jonah 1:1-4*

God has a purpose and plan for each of our lives, and He has blessed us with many gifts and talents to use for His glory. He calls us to do many things; some are great, some seemingly small. Sometimes the things God calls us to do seem hard, difficult, or even impossible. When God calls, instructs, and leads, He also allows us the freedom to choose our own response. Sometimes when God calls, we respond willingly. Other times we ignore, or, even worse, try to run away.

What are the consequences of ignoring or running away from God? In Jonah's case they were many. Jonah paid fare to travel from Joppa to Tarshish. Tarshish was at the opposite end of the known world at that time. You couldn't purchase a ticket to travel any farther than Tarshish. Hence, Jonah's disobedience cost him financially. Jonah's disobedience cost others financially as well. The Word says that, after the storm arose, the ship's wares were cast into the sea to lighten the ship. Again, Jonah's disobedience had financial impact, but this time on others. Jonah's actions put both his and other people's lives in great danger. The Word says: "...there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken." When the storm came, the mariners were exceedingly afraid for their lives. Not only were they in danger, they had to deal with great emotional duress, and Jonah's actions brought about the storm that caused their fear. Finally, Jonah brought great physical, mental and emotional stress on himself. As one reads about Jonah's stay in the belly of the great fish, one reads words like

"...out of the belly of hell cried I", or "The waters compassed me about, even to the soul", "...weeds were wrapped about my head", or "...my soul fainted". The picture is of a man in total anguish.

What grief do we cause when we walk outside of God's plan for our lives? We may never know the full impact of our decisions, but if we look to Jonah as an example, we see a far-reaching mental, emotional, physical, and financial impact on Jonah and on innocent bystanders from Jonah's single decision to step outside of God's plan. What an encouragement to insure that we first, seek God's will for our lives, and second, pray for the grace and courage to carry it out.

As we think about this valuable lesson to follow the Lord's direction, we are glad for two of our on-campus residents who have moved on after learning about God and His plans for men's lives. Shannon G. and Keith C. both returned home to their families in February. We pray that God will continue to bless them and make His will and presence known in their lives. As some children leave, we also welcome new. Angie K. and Mike S. have joined the Plattner household, and Jenee L. and Shawn R. have joined the Meister home. God bless you as you get to know about Him and the marvelous plan of salvation.

In our Foster Care program, Randy and Kathy Quick said farewell to Corey as he has returned to his home. In addition, Walt and Sherry Snodgrass are glad to welcome Victor into their home this month. We appreciate your prayers as a 6-month-old infant with many medical complications was released after an extended stay in the hospital. We are thankful that he is now doing well in his foster home. We are also thankful for local couples who have shown interest in becoming foster parents. We would highly en-



courage anyone who feels led to consider foster parenting to call Gateway Woods for more information. May God bless you as you give this calling your prayerful consideration.

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Gateway Woods Illinois Representatives meeting. Your participation is an encouragement to us. We look forward to our Indiana Representatives meeting on Saturday, March 23, on the Gateway Woods campus in Leo. Anyone is welcome to attend this information day, regardless of whether or not they are a Gateway Woods' representative. Just call our office at 888-443-4283 and inform the secretary of your desire to attend.

The folks involved in all of our programs and services at Gateway Woods are grateful for your prayers. Please continue to lift up the house-parents, foster parents, teachers, counselors, and home based workers in prayer. They have opportunity to impact hundreds of lives across state lines for the furthering of God's Kingdom. In order to continue to do so, we need the prayers of those we love. God bless you!

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Melinda Matuch**

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.

*Hymns of Zion #207*

The arrival of springtime is always a big event here at the pre-

school. Warmer, sunnier days allow us to spend more time outdoors. Not only are the children able to stretch their legs and use up some of their incredible energy supply, but we have many new and exciting teaching moments to share with them. Spring is the time of rebirth. We show them the buds of flowers and the new leaves on the trees. We learn about baby animals and how and where their mothers and fathers care for them. We talk about seeds and how they grow into plants. We also teach them to understand the changes in the weather, and we've even had a tornado drill, just in case. It is so important for them to understand enough that they seek safety and don't panic.

But more importantly, we talk to the children about Jesus Christ and how we are reborn when we acknowledge Him as our Saviour and Redeemer. Our hope is that we are planting the seeds on good soil and that they will remember to seek the Lord when they are old enough to be accountable. As we teach our little ones the stories of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are reminded that we are to have faith as a little child. They are a daily lesson to us in being open and receptive to the Word of God.

Currently, the preschool has an opening for a brother or sister with a degree in education to serve as director and teacher for the coming year. The position will be open beginning June 1, 2002. Please prayerfully consider whether you are the person to fill this vacancy. Anyone who would like to be considered for the position should contact the preschool administrator, Bro. Tom Schrenk.

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Joan Reinhard  
Louise Hall**

Again this month we have had some visiting ministers here to help out while Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk have been in Zapata for the winter. On January 27, Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and his daughter were here, and we appreciated Bro. Mark ministering to us and supporting us. On February 3, Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) spent the day with us, and Bro. Ron lent himself to bring forth the Word. Bro. Ron mentioned in his sermon the many memories he has of coming down to Alabama years ago and how those trips were so special. Traveling from one church to another and meeting brothers and sisters of like mind and faith, even when the culture is different, makes us realize how valuable fellowship is and how thankful we can be that we have a church that maintains ties from state to state and even country to country. May we each do our part to keep what we have. We had other visitors from Bloomington, Cissna Park, Eureka, and Morton, IL.

Sis. Melinda Matuch had surgery, and we were thankful that her parents could stay with her for a time to help her during her recovery. Carl Haggemaker had heart surgery and we, along with the family, are very thankful for the God-given skill of the doctors to perform a successful surgery.

Sometimes we see God's healing hand so evident, and sometimes His answer is not to heal. Such was the case with Sis. Doris Moore's brother, Allen Barnett. Allen passed away after being ill for some time, and we



know that God promises to be with us and help us endure, for which we are thankful. We would also ask for prayer for another of Sis. Doris's brothers, Bobby Barnett. He has also been ill and has spent some time in the hospital.

We heard recently in a sermon how wonderful it is that we have that blessed hope of eternal life with our Lord to carry us through the darkest hours.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

*Psalm 37:4*

Our delight in our many winter visitors has been a time of love and fellowship. The weather has cooperated with sunshine and relief from the snow and ice storms in other parts of the country.

What a delight that Sis. Alma and Tugg Maibach drove from Rittman, OH, to Phoenix, AZ, with no problems or concerns in late January, to spend time with Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery during Sis. Marie's recovery from hip surgery. Romans 8:28 was the perfect scripture for the day, a few days later when Sis. Alma had a medical procedure done at the Arizona Heart Institute. She has since returned home and is doing nicely. Praise ye the Lord!

Our Elder brothers met in Remington, IN, on February 13-15 for the mid-winter Elder Conference. We pray they felt God's love leading them and each will bring a great portion of love to their home church to share. To know Him is to love Him.

Our Sunday School hosts the Tucson, Prescott, and California Bi-

ble Classes and Junior Bible Classes on President's Day weekend, February 16-18. We are grateful for parents and teachers who serve our Saviour to provide fellowship, fun and food to the many who attend. The early weather on Saturday, February 16, is beautiful and warm, like God is hugging you.

We thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ).

There is no shortage of folks to pray for. Evelyn Howley had shoulder surgery; Bro. Jim Laukhuf went in for a medical procedure; Sis. Lucille Richardson is homebound, as is Floren Klopfenstein. Sis. Linda Zollinger can bare weight on her leg since her January 8 knee surgery and was in church a half day. Let us pray for one another!

Several years ago Elder Bro. Roy Farney likened our Fellowship Dinners to the old time family dinner and songfest. We surely did enjoy such an occasion on January 27.

Be loving and thoughtful 'til next time.

*Note: Silver Lining donations are being taken at this time.*

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Our Sunday School Bible Class enjoyed a trip to Phoenix for the President's Day weekend ACYF. Our thanks and appreciation go the Phoenix Sunday School for their hard work and hospitality. As the saying goes, "A good time was had by all!" We look forward to hosting the Arizona and California Sunday School classes next year, Lord willing.

We would also like to extend our

heartfelt thanks to Bros. Ev Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) for their recent help on the pulpit. Bro. Ev was our visiting minister for the month of February on the minister rotation list. Bro. Kenny was visiting family here. We thank them both for their labors of love.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held in February with the men once again handling the cooking and clean up. In times past they have had to deal with rain as they tried to cook our pancakes outdoors; this time they were faced with gusty winds threatening their fire. They managed to get the pancakes indoors (with a few delays!) and afterwards we all settled in to listen to Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Reckemmer (Roanoke, IL) tell us of their experiences helping the Red Cross in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedies. It's hard to describe all the different emotions we felt as we listened to the different accounts of those weeks in New York City. Sympathy, sorrow, disbelief, compassion, sadness and utter amazement are only a few. We can't thank Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan enough for sharing their experience; it was obviously painful for them at times. I'm sure none of us will ever forget what we heard and how God worked in so many lives.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Jim Klotzle

Greetings from the Southwest!

As we walk out our lives day by day, it seems the subtleties of darkness never cease. This physical world that we live in creates a spiritual haze, blinding us with distractions. We who are redeemed are not left to grope in the darkness, but have been shown the Light of Life!



"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

*I John 1:7*

Ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) visited us this month. We thank them for serving us on the pulpit, and the Spirit for inspiring their words.

As a congregation, we celebrated Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl's 25th wedding anniversary. We pray that the Lord may grant them many more happy years together.

### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our dear Elder brethren as they assembled for their mid-winter Conference. May they feel the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit.

We appreciated having visiting ministering Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) with us again as they returned to our area after being in Arizona for a few days. May the Lord richly bless him for his service to us.

The Bible Class traveled to Phoenix over President's Day weekend. They all enjoyed the weekend. We want to thank the Phoenix Sunday School for hosting the annual get-together this year.

As the Easter season is quickly approaching, may our hearts and minds strive to more fully comprehend the great price that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, paid for

our salvation as He hung suspended between heaven and earth upon that old rugged cross. Let us remember that it was our sins that condemned Him and for which His blood did flow. Are we truly giving our all for Him who gave His all for us?

#### *Easter*

Oh who among the sons of men,  
By word or 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.

The blessed Paschal feast of old,  
With mystic meaning does unfold,  
For there the Paschal Lamb was slain,  
The Hebrew's safety to attain.  
When angels say the blood applied  
Upon the lintel, doorpost wide,  
Then they passed over every home,  
In mercy, where the blood was shown.

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

*Hymns of Zion #89*

### KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

#### Nathan Reutter

Greetings, brethren. This past month has brought visiting ministers, singing at nursing homes, a World Relief work night, and two singings. We appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of the brethren. We have felt the Lord's presence and a warm charity from the brethren and hope you experienced the same.

We certainly felt the Lord's presence with two visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). We appreciated hearing the Truth from brothers who have a simple faith, like the one found in Acts 8:37, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

We also sang at two nursing homes this past month. This again gave us opportunity to befriend some older and quite possibly lonely individuals and to share with them the gospel message through song. This seemed to put a smile on some faces, so I think our purpose was accomplished. Many of the Psalms talk about praising the Lord by singing. This gives us great opportunity to spread our joy to others, especially those who are lonely.

We had another opportunity to help those needing help through a World Relief work night. We helped put together medical kits. It was a blessed time of brethren and friends working together to accomplish good. We pray that it was a blessing to all who participated. Galatians 6:10 comes to mind when we have opportunity for World Relief work.

We pray that the Lord will continue to work in the hearts of man today and call many more unto fellowship with Him. May we each strive to do our part in His great



work upon earth.

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## COLORADO, DENVER

### Mike and Heather Katanic

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers and this month we welcomed Bro. Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We were also encouraged as we listened to the Memorandum brought to us by Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). We are thankful that these brothers were willing to share God's Word with us on Sunday.

January was the month for our annual business meeting. It is great to see the members working together with so many different duties. Positions filled with our election were: Bro. Bob Gonglach as trustee; Sis. Ann Gonglach for Sunday School teacher; Sis. Heather Katanic for World Relief Sewing Committee; Sis. Cindy Schmidt for Kitchen Committee; and Bro. Eric Huber for Secretary/Treasurer. Bro. Mike Katanic was appointed to be the World Relief Treasurer/Representative. We thank all who have served us in these positions.

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## CONNECTICUT

### ROCKVILLE

#### Cherie Galat

"...Oh, Lamb of God our sacrifice, We must remember Thee." (Hymns of Zion #301). Not only at this time of year, but every day, we can be reminded of His death and the resurrection. What a privileged and blessed people we are to know the truth and the way of life.

"...Take Mark, and bring him with thee; for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

*II Timothy 4:11*

Even as faithful brethren in times past were shown, the Holy Spirit revealed unto us that Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou) will be useful unto us to take the position as a minister in our church. Helping to serve us and assist our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan was Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We are thankful that God reveals His Will unto us and fulfills our spiritual needs so that the pure, unadulterated Word can be preached from our pulpits. Also serving us in past weeks was Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA). May we always lift our dear ministering brethren up in prayer that He can guide our church and our lives in a way that would be most pleasing to Him.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the Word of God today!

*Zion's Harp #52*

We are thankful that Scott Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) has heeded that call to follow our Lord and Saviour. May his steps be ordered by the Father above.

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

On January 24, precious Micah Owen was born to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Erika Bahler. His brother, Isaac, has a baby brother to love. Grandparents are Bro. Owen and Sis. Donna Bahler and Bro. Michael and Luann Hoffman.

We pray for God's healing hand upon our loved ones: Sis. Elsa Champ, Bro. Wilbur Kloter (Sis. Florence), Sis. Esther Kupfer-

schmid (Bro. Werner) and Bro. Clarence Mangold (Sis. Martha).

May God provide comfort for three family circles who have lost loved ones. Bro. Ernest Ballasy passed from this life on January 28. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Aline; his children, Diana Roddy (Gabriel), Joel Ballasy, Sis. Joanne Lanz (Bro. Sherman), Kent Ballasy (Linda), Sheila King (Darrel), Paul Ballasy (Ruthann), and Peter Ballasy (Priscilla); his brother, Bro. Norman Ballasy (Sis. Lavina); his sister, Sis. Virginia Bahler (Bro. Corbin); and extended family. Ernest Kupferschmid passed from this life on February 9 leaving his brothers, Elmer and Julius Kupferschmid; sisters, Bertha Farney and Emily Broucek; and other family. Irene Moser passed from this life on January 28 leaving her family. May each family member look unto God for the solace they need.

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

"He is not here, but is risen."

*Luke 24:6*

At Christmas we see the phrase "Jesus is the reason for the season." This is even truer this time of the year. Praise God for a risen Lord.

Our ministers the past month were Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL). Other visitors this month were from Cissna Park, IL; Rockville, CT; Bluffton North, IN; and Philadelphia, PA.

There are a few Sundays when we are unable to meet in the hotel, so please call someone from our congregation for confirmation of the location. Services are usually held the



first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call 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  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Nancy Rocke**

During the past month, we were blessed to have six visiting ministers. They were Bros. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ), Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL), Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA). May the Lord reward them for their service.

I apologize for not welcoming Sis. Sarah Crary from Rockville, CT, down here last month. She is here for a few months doing an internship and is living with her grandmother, Sis. Helen (late Bro. Roy) Luginbuhl. May she feel the Lord's nearness while she is apart from her family.

This month has been exciting for Fort Lauderdale, inasmuch as we have welcomed two new babies into our congregation. The family of Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy Rocke have a new baby boy, James Matthew. His two sisters are Jennifer and Jessica. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and

Sis. Bev Rocke (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO). Also, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Gretchen Webb have a new baby boy, their first, and named him Zachary Roy. Grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne Webb and Bro. Keith and Sis. Joan Hanson (Champaign, IL).

A farewell supper was held for Sis. Mary Ann Klaus (late Bro. Bill) who plans to move to Morton, IL. We will miss her smiling face, but she still plans to spend part of the winter down here. May she feel God's nearness.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Leslie Masters  
Mary Masters**

Our little church is filled to overflowing once again, for which we are thankful. The help and support of winter visitors is much appreciated. Our visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Bro. Bill Hodel (Sis. Betty, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN).

On Wednesday evening of February 6, our dear Elder Bros. Doug Sabo (Sis. Linda, Sarasota, FL) and Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) were with us for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank them for their willingness to serve us.

Our dear Sis. Viola Keller spent time in Port Charlotte Hospital after suffering an apparent stroke. Her husband, Bro. Roland, celebrated his 91st birthday on February 11.

On January 27, our annual business meeting was held. The main or-

der of business was to investigate a better system of getting suitable drinking water to our church. We thank Bro. Norm Schrock for his time and effort spent to come up with the best system for us.

A few of the thoughts that were left with us by our visiting ministers were the examining of our own lives by asking ourselves, "If Jesus wasn't real, would our lives seem foolish?" We were admonished to stop and realize that if our lives aren't telling about Jesus, our Christian walk has become ineffective. Will the tears that will be wiped away in heaven be tears that are shed because of someone that the Holy Spirit prompted us to talk to about Jesus and we didn't? God doesn't ask us to do much, just our little part, and He will add the increase. It's not up to us whether someone accepts the Word, but it is up to us to point them to the Word.

Many times we are asked why a loving God allows so much heartache, and we don't know all the answers, but one thing we do know is that He is still in control. We are encouraged in I Corinthians 15:58 to be steadfast and unmovable. We are also reminded that the object of our faith, Jesus Christ—not our faith—is unmovable.

And finally, we heard of the preparations being made in Jerusalem to build the temple. There are red heifers being raised in our country to provide a "fitting" sacrifice. The red heifers are said to need no more than two hairs of a different color than red to be suitable. That breed of heifers has been achieved. The woven vestments and 10 stringed harps are also being manufactured. We were reminded that all things are being put into place for our Lord Jesus' return. Let's make certain we are all ready.

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## FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

It was a spiritually uplifting weekend when we heard the testimonies of Bro. George and Sis. Betty Siladie and Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Katalin Fodor and witnessed Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Katalin's baptisms. We heartily welcome these four dear souls into our fellowship. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) was here, and we appreciate all of his labors.

Sarasota has been richly blessed this past month with many other visiting ministers and we wish to thank them: Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL).

We want to thank everyone who so generously supported our annual Sunday School auction, chili lunch, and bake sale on February 16. Once again we reached our goal, and we all had an enjoyable time together.

Sis. Esther Kupfershmid (Rockville, CT) was a hospital patient again this month. She and Bro. Werner both need our continued prayers.

### *Too Busy*

Too busy to read a chapter a day,  
Too busy, yes, much too busy to pray.  
Too busy to think of our wasted past  
In this whirlwind of life we know won't last.

Too busy to speak a word of cheer  
To the heart-broken friend, who stands so near.  
Too busy to help him lift his heavy load,  
That he's trying to carry on life's rough road.

Too busy gathering dollars and dimes,  
But for the worthwhile things we haven't time.  
The devils keep whispering,  
"Grab your share,  
Why waste so many hours in prayer?"

Too busy to heed the orphan's cry,  
And with a glance we hurry by.  
Some day we too will lift our voice to the sky  
For not one of us is too busy to die.

Perhaps when we reach the pearly white throne  
God will be too busy to call us His own.  
So let us calm down to a slower pace,  
To be ready to meet Jesus face to face.  
—selected

### *Note of Thanks:*

Thank you sincerely for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers, cookies, candy, telephone calls, singing, and other expressions of Christian love.

*Ben and Sis. Betty Rassi*

## GEORGIA, ATLANTA John Brewer

We are thankful for the visiting ministers in the past month that taken the effort to fellowship and to

be used by God to bring forth the Word on Sunday. We want to thank Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN) and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) to take the time to visit and fellowship with us. On February 24, Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) came down to read the Conference Memorandum. We appreciate the words of encouragement and love that was shared.

As always, we look forward to brethren and friends that come visit and worship with us. We start song service at 10:15. Our church is in Fairburn, Georgia off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.) 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer 770-304-8706 if you need further information.

## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord."  
*Isaiah 1:18*

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL). We certainly felt blessed by their exhortations and encouraged in our walk with our Saviour.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest."  
Our congregation was able to enjoy an evening of fellowship at our an-



nual Valentine dinner on February 9.

“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer...”

*Proverbs 15:28*

Bro. Jerry Cargill (Elgin, IL) did a Bible study on “The Blood”, and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) chose “Love” for the topic of our Bible study in Madison, WI. Having truth decay?...Brush up on your Bible.

Let us remember Bro. Bob Waibel (Sis. Ethel, Peoria, IL) in our prayers. He has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Melissa Waibel (Jeff) was a surgical patient. We pray her recovery goes smoothly.

Two couples have announced their engagements: Austin Mueller (Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene) and Kristie Reed, and Katie Schifferer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana) and Jay Flora. We wish the Lord’s blessings to them.

*A Prayer for Peace*

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope in years to be,  
Look down upon this troubled world

And see our need of Thee.  
For in this age of unrest,  
With violence all around,  
We need Thy hand to lead us  
To higher, safer ground.  
Without Thy help and counsel  
We are helpless to restore  
Safety and security  
In our hearts and homes once more.

And give us strength and courage  
To be honorable and true  
And to place our trust implicitly  
In unseen things and You.  
And keep us kind and humble  
And fill our hearts with love,

Which in this selfish, greedy world

Man has so little of.

Forgive our transgressions  
And help us find the way  
To a better world for everyone  
Where man walks in peace each day.

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

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**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
Ann Kellenberger  
Shawn Masters**

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that some new converts have come to the foot of the cross in repentance recently. Gregory Meiss has turned his heart over to the Lord. Thankful parents are Bro. Scott and Dawn Meiss. Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe are rejoicing as another one of their children began repentance. Julissa has begun her walk with the Lord. We regret that we failed to report the repentance of her siblings, Durelle and Adrian, some months ago. What a blessing these children are and will be, as they radiate Christ’s love within their families. Also repenting are Chris Hattan and Tamara Esteghamat. We are so thankful for these dear souls who have found grace to seek the Lord in repentance. May each of them feel God’s nearness and blessing as they look to Him daily for guidance and direction.

Our hearts were filled with sympathy and prayers for those in our congregation who lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Ben Gramm suffered the sudden loss of a brother. Bro. Dale Strassheim lost his stepfather who was also the grandfather of Sis. Sheryl Bucher. May God comfort each dear family at this difficult time of loss.

Little Daniel Cenaron was born on January 20 to our dear friends,

Bahman and Fariba Dehkordi. To welcome Daniel home are his happy sisters, Jaleh and Soraya. We trust that God will continue to bless their family with much joy and happiness.

February 3rd and 10th our Bloomington congregation enjoyed hosting ACYF. We were thankful for all that could come.

Bro. Ron Heiniger conducted our topical Bible study on February 6. Parents were encouraged to come and bring their children to this informative evening about friendships. Bro. Ron divided friendships into two categories, either the friendship is a treasure or a trap. He compared a bad friendship to an animal trap. He alerted our young people to the warning signs found in bad friendships and pointed out the qualities found in good friendships. Bro. Ron also taught us how we can become better friends to others, as we seek for their spiritual good and edification.

We were very thankful to have Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) visit our congregation this month. May God bless Bro. Erik and Sis. Debbie for coming and sharing the Word with us.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

We are thankful to have had the opportunity to hear the Memorandum read. Assisting Elders were Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN). Also ministering to us this month was Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Alan Stoller (Bluffton, IN) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). May they feel God’s blessings and know we appreciate their unselfish labors.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Jack Knobloch (Sis. Nancy) with the passing away of his father, Bro. Edward Knobloch



(Princeville, IL).

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

Our weather has been unseasonably warm with none of the snow, ice, or cold that we normally have during the months of January and February. Instead, we've had some spring-like rains and some very mild and sunny days. Results so far (by mid February) are that we have the signs of spring such as budding trees and the green beginnings of crocus, hyacinths, and other spring bulbs pushing through our soil. This has been nice, though we expect that the winter weather will not miss us entirely and we hope that the beauty of spring will not be diminished due to the unusual weather pattern.

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

*Proverbs 19:17*

Our University of Illinois and Parkland College students invited the Purdue University (W. Lafayette, IN) students over for a weekend in February. As part of their weekend activities, they did a work project to aid the local community. The students purchased what looked like a truckload of groceries, then assembled into individual bags the ingredients needed to make 550 individual meals. These meals included chili mac, spaghetti, tuna casserole, and beans. The meals are going to the Salvation Army Food Bank (a local food pantry) to be distributed to needy families. The following Thursday night's church World Relief work project was a mini version of this student activity, with 150 meals being prepared for elderly

people in the area.

Visiting ministering Brothers included Dwayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL). Many thanks to these brothers for helping out with the Lord's work on our pulpit.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO  
Jill Rager**

"And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."

*John 19:17-18*

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

*Hymns of Zion #161*

We may have some dear Christian friendships in this life, but none can compare to the friendship Christ offers us. He does not befriend us because of some admirable quality that we may possess. On the contrary, He befriends us because of the pitiful condition we would be in if He did not!

Although we cannot love to the depth that Christ did, we can follow His perfect example in supporting those around us, especially those in our church family.

We are rejoicing at the safe arrival of two new babies. Emma Victoria, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Heather Conrad, was born February 1. She is welcomed by her proud big brother, Alex, and grandparents,

Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki Steffen (Remington, IN).

Philip Jacob is the new son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder. He is welcomed by his three older sisters, Anna, Julia and Lydia, and grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Joann Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA).

We pray that the Lord will grant these parents much wisdom as they strive to raise their children in the knowledge of the Lord.

We extend a hearty welcome to a convert from Morton, IL; Tim Zimmerman, as he is employed in the area.

We bid farewell to two dear souls within our church. Arlene Ryan (Mike) passed away this month and although most of us could not understand Arlene's words, her warm smile spoke volumes and will be missed.

Bro. Robert Haas also passed away this month. Bro. Robert was a living piece of our Chicago church history. He was one of the first converts in our church and also served in the ministry many years ago. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Robert's daughter, Sis. Millie (Bro. Paul) Leman, and their family.

We also want to express our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm at the passing of Bro. Larry's brother, David Gramm.

For the past several years in February, our Sunday School has participated in a benefit dinner in which the proceeds are used to support World Relief activities for our Bible Class students. This year the Bible Class plans to go to Juarez, Mexico. After a delicious spaghetti dinner, we enjoyed a program put on by the students and a slide presentation highlighting the World Relief work in Eastern Europe. We pray that



many blessings can follow.

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen:"

*Luke 24:5-6*

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK**  
**Susan Waldbeser**  
**Denise Walder**

We thank our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for coming and ministering the Word to us. We appreciate each time he comes and pray God will bless him for giving of his time.

On February 10, we were privileged to have the Goodfield Choir assemble with us. In the evening there was a supper and singing. We thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger for ministering the Word to us on that day also. May God bless each one that came to spend the day with us.

We were thankful to have a topical Bible presentation led by our Bro. Ken Weerts on January 23. May God bless him for his efforts.

Our surgical and hospital patients this month have been Calvin and Kendra Gudeman (Bro. Stan and Sis. Deb), Bro. Bob Kellerhals, and Sis. Cristela Martinez. We are thankful that all are back home and on the road to recovery.

We extend sympathy to two families who have lost loved ones. Sis. Marg Kupferschmid lost her brother, Ben Feller. Bro. Eldon Steffen lost his brother, Bro. Lyle Steffen (Congerville, IL). May God grant comfort to each one who is grieving and provide the grace needed for each day.

Babies are truly a blessing. We extend congratulations to Bro. John and Sis. Jane Conrad on the birth of a new granddaughter, Emma Victoria, born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Heather Conrad (Chicago, IL). Bro.

Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser are thankful for a son born on February 13. They named him Micah John and he is welcomed home by Kaleb, Heidi and Jared. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Edelman (Sabetha, KS)

Sis. Nettie Scharlach has moved from Fairview Haven Nursing Home to Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. We pray God will watch over her and be with her in her new place.

We extend a special thanks to Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

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

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

*St. Matthew 18:11*

Allison Rapp (the late Bro. Phil and Sis. Sarah) has recognized her lost estate by coming in repentance. We rejoice with the angels in heaven that the call is still being answered.

Our thanks go to our out-going brothers and sisters who taught Sunday School and held other positions. New teachers are Bros. Bob Hartman and Mark Roth and Sisters Suzanne Hoerr, Annie Martin, and Carol Craig. We appreciate the effort put forth by our teaching brothers and sisters. Let's continue to pray that the Truth will come through in this capacity as well as our ministering brothers.

The Truth did come forth when Bros. Gary Brown and Paul Zimmerman (both of Forrest, IL) spent a Sunday with us here. We are thankful for their submission to the Spirit.

Our dear Bro. Lyle Steffen passed from this life on February 10. Bro.

Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) held the funeral service on February 14. Bro. Lyle's family here includes Bro. Ed (Sis. Mary), Bro. Duane (Sis. Lois), and several nieces and nephew. Bro. Lyle's beautiful smile will be greatly missed. Our confidence is that Bro. Lyle is now walking and leaping and praising God.

The day of Bro. Lyle's funeral was the day of Lakin Daniel Dietrich's birth. As God takes one life, He gives another. Lakin joins his parents, Bro. John and Sis. Renae, and siblings, Hannah, Logan, and Landon. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sheri Dietrich and Gary and Wanda Edwards (Goodfield, IL).

Surgery patients were Sis. Mary Steffen (Bro. Ed) and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger (Bro. Charles). We are thankful both are doing well.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Lyle Steffen wishes to thank all our loved ones for the love shown to him the 64 years he was here on earth. A very special thank-you to the brothers and sisters of the Single Group since Lyle became a part in 1959; to the staff of the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped at Morton, where he was a resident for 25 years; and to the staff at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, where he spent the last 3 years. God bless each and every one.

*The Steffen Family*

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

I wish to love my Saviour more sincerely,  
 And not to grieve Him, who loved me so dearly;  
 For this would bring much grief and much affliction



In my direction.

What shall I do? My Saviour, do  
Thou teach me!  
Let flames of love and pure affec-  
tion reach me,  
That I may be immersed with  
true devotion  
In love's deep ocean.

Thou cam'st to us from Thy  
throne in the heavens  
To bear for us our sins and ev'ry  
grievance,  
For us to die and unto all cre-  
ation  
To bring salvation.

This has Thou done, Lord, and  
should I keep silent?  
O let Thy love constrain me to  
bear witness  
That Thou, my Lord and God,  
has brought redemption  
From sin's oppression!  
*Zion's Harp #232*

We should be striving each day to become more perfect through Christ. May we all dwell in submission as our dear Lord directs our path. We often clearly feel God's direction in our lives and can take heed to our Saviour's teachings brought forth through the Word by the faithful service of our beloved ministering brethren. We have been blessed with God's inspired Word brought forth through ministering Bros. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Bro. Robert Haas passed away on January 26. May his family feel our heartfelt sympathy and prayers as they experience the feeling of loss of a dear loved one. We also extend our prayers to Sis. Marge Wewetzer's family in the passing of her brother John McNutt, Sr.

It is so important to uplift those in

prayer who are facing physical afflictions. May we remember Bro. George Schumacher (Sis. Hilde) and Sis. Evie Gudeman (Bro. Bill) as they have spent time in the hospital.

Our hearts rejoice with Sis. Stephany Welzien and Bro. Larry Knapp (Gridley, IL) in their recent engagement.

O God of wisdom, life, and love,  
Thine is the blessed plan  
In holy bonds of love to join The  
twain created man.

As they go forth upon life's way,  
Sustain them by Thy grace;  
May they Thy holy laws obey  
And live in joy and peace.

May they with holy lives adorn  
Thy doctrines, Lord, and be  
Amid life's sunshine and its  
storm true witnesses for Thee.  
*Hymns of Zion #286*

*Note:*

A ladies' long black coat was mistakenly taken from the Elgin Fellowship Center on the weekend of February 9-10. If you have any knowledge of its location, please call Sis. Stephanie Cargill at 1-847-697-2335.

## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Janet Zimmerman

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi Schumacher have been blessed with a precious baby, Cade William, born on February 15. He is welcomed home by his older brothers, Cody, Clint and Clayton. How happy they are to have a little brother to love and play with! His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp of Goodfield. May God bless this family circle.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are enduring afflictions of the body. We especially think of Bro. Bill Kempf (Sis. Clara) who is suffering from leukemia and also of Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick) who is taking radiation treatments at this time. Our prayers are with each one. "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5)

Our prayers are also with Sis. Judy Cottrell who has spent time in the hospital from a serious illness. We are thankful for God's healing hand and that she is doing better.

With thankful hearts we report that Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) has made a beginning in repentance. May God grant her grace and strength as she begins to walk this new path in life.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers who so humbly share God's Word with us. Most recently were Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Beirne Messner and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). May they each one be blessed for all their labors.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Vicki Martin (Bro. Steve) on the death of her father, Bro. Howard Heinold. He died February 9. Also to Sis. Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon) on the death of her brother, Bro. Lyle Steffen. May God be with these families and grant them comfort and peace.

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

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

Winter is just about over and springtime is almost here. God has blessed us so wonderfully with all the different seasons in a year.

As we approach this Easter time, may we each one spend some extra



quiet moments with our dear Lord and Saviour and remember the cruel death He endured on the cross so that we might be redeemed of our sins.

The winter Conference was recently held in Remington, IN. We continue to pray for our dear shepherds that they may be given Godly wisdom and courage to guide their flocks aright. May we each one do our part to help hold up our Elders' arms in these ever trying times.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank our dear relatives and friends who remembered us with prayers, flowers and memorials during my son's (and brother's) illness and since his death.

God bless each one,  
*Sis. Frieda Gerber*  
*Sis. Clara Marie Gerber*

*The Master's Touch*

In the still air the music lies unheard;  
 In the rough marble beauty hides unseen:  
 To make the music and the beauty needs  
 The Master's touch, the sculptor's chisel keen.

Great Master, touch us with thy skillful hand:  
 Let not the music that is in us die.  
 Great Sculptor, hew and polish us; nor let,  
 Hidden and lost, Thy form within us lie!

Spare not the stroke! Do with us as Thou wilt!  
 Let there be naught unfinished, broken, marred:  
 Complete Thy purpose, that we may become  
 Thy perfect image, Thou our God

and Lord!  
 —*Horatius Bonar*

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Joann Zehr**  
**Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings to all of our loved ones! Little Emily Jo Edelman was born February 20 to Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman. She is welcomed home by her sisters Jessica and Amber. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel and Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman.

Two of our beloved sisters have been hospitalized within the last month. We pray that our Lord's healing hand will be with Sisters Marquerite Lorch and Anna Steffen and that we will have the pleasure of their fellowship again very soon.

On January 20, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette Bahler celebrated 50 years of marriage. Such a milestone! What has God brought them through? Has their life been full of joy, or has it been mixed with tears and pain? How do we keep our marriages strong for 50 years? What a wealth of wisdom for those that are younger! Maybe today should be the day that we reach out to our older and wiser brothers and sisters for some of these answers. We rejoice with Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jeanette!

Visiting us in the past month was ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA).

This month held the mid-year Elder Conference. All of us at home were lifting you up in all of our prayers, secure in the knowledge that God directs you on how to better help our church stay focused on Him. Thank you for your willingness to serve and for the love you show each member. We also thank your wives and families for the time that is being spent on the behalf of our church and away from home. We

realize that this cannot always be easy on you. May God bless you!

In times like these you need a Saviour,  
 In times like these you need an anchor;  
 Be very sure, Be very sure,  
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!  
 This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One,  
 This Rock is Jesus—The only One;  
 Be very sure, Be very sure,  
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

*Gospel Hymns #231*

**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jean Knapp**  
**Linda Anliker**

"...and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle."

*Acts 15:30*

Grateful our Elder brethren uphold the tradition of the early church of reading the Memorandum, we gathered together with our Fairbury brethren on January 26. We thank Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Wayne Anliker for their kind words of exhortation.

"Teach me thy ways, oh Lord, and lead me in a plain path."

*Psalms 27:11*

We rejoice with Rachel Schlatter (Sis. Sherri) as she has given her heart to the Lord in repentance. May the Lord impart a rich measure of His Spirit that she may lay a firm foundation on Jesus Christ and recognize Satan's snares.

We thank Elder Bros. Arthur



Metz (Silverton, OR), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Dennis Rassi and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for visiting and sharing God's Word with us.

First-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Melissa Zimmerman, welcome Rebekah Ann into their hearts and home. Enjoying their first grandchild are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman.

Announcing their engagement are Jamie Aberle and Kara Stephens. Parents are Gary Stephens and Jill Braun (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Mark and Sis. LaVerne Aberle.

After a rigorous battle with cancer, Sis. Jean Aberle was laid to rest January 22. We will miss her and pray God will provide for her husband, Bro. Bill Aberle, and children, Doug (Connie) Aberle (Hudson, IL), Bro. Mark (Sis. LaVerne) Aberle, Mary Jo (Mark) Rieger (Mahomet, IL) and Sis. Dawn (Bro. Randy) Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and their families. We also extend sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Marge (Bro. Merle) Kaisner (Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Betty (Bro. Bill) Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and brothers, Ernie Zimmerman (San Pierre, IN), Bro. Perry (Sis. Dorothy) Zimmerman, Bro. Glen (Sis. Mildred) Zimmerman, Bro. Allen (Sis. Carolyn) Zimmerman and Bob (Judy) Zimmerman (Normal, IL).

May God provide healing and restoration to those spending time in the hospital, including Andrea Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie), Nathan Ifft (Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Roberta) Broquard, Sis. Marge (Henry) Friedman, Sis. Nathalia Wenger and Neva Farney.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Jean Aberle wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for their cards, visits, gifts of love, and especially their prayers during the illness and passing of our loved one. May God bless each one for their kind deeds of love and comfort.

*Bro. Bill Aberle, Doug & Connie Aberle, Bro. Mark & Sis. LaVerne Aberle, Mary Jo and Mark Rieger, Sis. Dawn & Bro. Randy Steidinger and families*

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Heather Hohulin

Callahan Ray was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bauman. Big brothers are Jed, Drew, and Levi. How thankful we are for another healthy baby.

Our congregation was saddened at the death of another "pillar" of our church. Bro. Howard Heinold went to be with our Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Vera; and their children, Sis. Bev (Bro. Glenn) Joos and Sis. Vicki (Bro. Steve) Martin; his brother, Ray (Hulda), and all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are so thankful that this is what he lived his life for and he was prepared for this day.

Robert Hess also passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Sis. Loretta; and their children, Randy, Cindy, Cheri, and Scott, and their spouses. May God be with each of them in their sorrow.

We held our annual church meeting this last month. Newly elected Sunday School teachers are as follows: Bro. Rick Bauman (Sis. Stacie), Bro. Larry Wiegand (Sis. Lori), Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne), Bro. Troy Young (Sis. Donna), Sis. Joyce Kloter (Bro. Barry) and Sis. Beth Wiegand. Our new trustee is Bro. Dave Zobrist (Sis.

Ann). The new kitchen committee member is Sis. Vermeda Freidinger (Bro. Duane). Thank you to all who have served their terms. We know it takes time and effort to do this. May God bless you.

Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) visited our congregation this last month. May he be blessed for his labors of love.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

On February 10, Sis. Maria Klopfenstein became the wife of Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). Her parents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein and he is the son of ministering Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

A host of brethren were here for this joyous occasion. They were: Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), and ministering Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bill Emch and Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) was here as well, and taught the high school Bible class.

Greetings were accorded from 27 congregations. Our sense of brotherhood is a wonderful thing for which we should thank the dear Lord.

At the end of the wedding ceremony (as guests were ushered out), Bro. Randy Kellenberger fell ill, and diagnosis revealed he suffered a stroke. He was rushed to intensive care in Bloomington and treated. By the grace of God, he has recovered. We should all be giving thanks for this recovery, which was an act of



God. May Bro. Randy be granted many years of labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) was here for our monthly topical Bible presentation on Wednesday evening, February 13.

On Sunday, February 17, two visiting ministers were present: Bros. Ken Wuethrich and Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN). We are appreciative of their labors.

Sis. Candice Stoller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine) was injured in a car accident near Francesville, IN. Her pelvis was fractured in two places and will need bedrest for up to six weeks for healing. Thanks be to God that more serious injuries were averted. Her sisters, Sis. Natalie and Sis. Holly, escaped with bruises. Sis. Candice's fiancée, Bro. Michael Dohman, was unhurt.

Bro. Larry Knapp was announced to be married to Sis. Stephanie Wellzien of Elgin, IL. The wedding date is set for March 24.

Several others have been ill or injured: Kiefer Pannier, Sharon Rinkenberger, Bro. Orlan Miller, Sis. Helen Hodel, Bro. Dave Steffen and Bro. Bill Romersberger. May God give comfort and heal each of them.

May God bless the efforts of our Elder brothers who met in council at Remington, IN, on February 13-15.

Many prayers were uttered on their behalf that God's ways may be preserved in these evil times.

We live in a time of great uncertainty, it seems. The Word teaches that we are to be "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:16).

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON Christie Zeller

We rejoiced in the marriage of our

dear Sis. Laura Mott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth) to Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan, Goodfield, IL) on January 20. May God continue to bless their life together.

Many enjoyed a blessed evening of song and fellowship as we hosted an "invite a guest" weekend on February 2.

We are also thankful for the return of our dear brothers from the Haiti work team. They were Bros. Daniel Wuthrich, Dennis Wells, and Jon Zeller. Much electrical work was completed at the domestic center in Haiti, and they all expressed their appreciation for all the prayers offered on their behalf while they were gone.

Another bundle of joy has been adopted by Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen Baum. Little Micah Keneth from Guatemala is 6 months old and is welcomed into their family by brothers Derek and Riley and sister Kinsey. May God bless their little family.

More dear souls have gone home to be with the Lord. Our Bro. Carl Rassi, who resided at Restmor, passed away January 17. He is survived by four brothers and five sisters. Also, Sam Grimm, from our Timber Ridge Home, passed away. He is a brother to our Sis. Emma Dale Baer of Morton. Bro. Ed Knobloch passed away, and he is a brother to our Bro. Bob Knobloch. Jesse Yoder also passed away, and he is a brother to our Sis. Eula Grimm (Bro. Bill). We pray for all these dear families and ask for God's comforting spirit to supply the necessary strength and grace.

We also were very blessed to have the Detroit choir here February 9-10. We enjoyed much song and praise together along with our Young Group's pork chop supper.

Our visiting ministers this

month were Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Tom Bolligar (Tremont, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). Many thanks to all of them for being willing servants for Him. May we continue to pray for hearts to be opened unto salvation. Our opportunity, as we learned, is to be lights and examples unto those around us in whatsoever circumstances the Lord would place us in.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for the love, prayers, visits, and phone calls while I was in the hospital, at Restmor, and since I returned home. I also appreciated the carolers that came to my home and the many gifts, flowers, and food. I cannot tell you how much your kindness has meant to my family and me. May God bless all of you.

*Bro. Bruce Landis*

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### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

The pancake supper on January 19 was attended by over 620 and we thank the 130 volunteers and all other supporters who made this annual event a success. The proceeds will be used for a future Jamaica trip, handicap dinner and presents, and other Bible Class activities.

The Word is one of the few books whose author we can talk to. What is your quality of reading? Do you first pray and ask God for wisdom? We need to start with mild (Jesus and Him crucified), then basic foods (not meats), followed by the more complicated. Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase (I Cor. 3:6). It's a combined effort to further the work of God on the foun-



dation of gold, silver, precious stones. Our works are going to be tried by fire and when they are based on wood, hay, stubble (12), will be burned. There is a God in Heaven ... draw closer to Him, He will guide you so no one will fall short on Judgment Day. (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 1/27).

Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) visited Ixtlan, Mexico, from January 17-22 for two baptisms, Communion and the installation of Bro. Lalo Ugalde as local minister. Bro. Lalo was baptized a few years ago in Detroit, MI, and will assist Bro. Marshall Heinold in serving the Ixtlan congregation of about 35 members.

Is there any advantage to being an Apostolic Christian? There sure is ... much every way (Romans 3:1-2): we have a goodly heritage and been shared the truth, which leads to life eternal. God's Word gives us mind-pictures and tells us to lean on Him, accomplish His will, know Him and the power of His resurrection. Grace is not a cosmetic repair to our sinful condition. (Bro. Rick Plattner 1/30).

"Do not all go to the same place?" (Eccles. 6:6). Bro. Ed Knobloch (87) passed away January 25 at the Skylines, where he had resided since January of 1999. We express our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Lucille; son, Bro. Loris; and the rest of his family.

Bro. Rich Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) served the church on February 3 and we thank him and Sis. Kathleen for their visit and ministry.

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) performed the family night service on February 6 based on "Benefits of Daily Victories" ... while we experience a daily battle against the devil, who is striving for our souls, we have the benefit of a Christian upbringing and knowing God is a

Rewarder of those who are obedient to Him and redemonstrate the love of Jesus by loving Him and His Word. Day-to-day forgiveness always works. God is in control of our lives, if we let Him. We thank Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie for their visit.

Nursing and rehearsing of problems can lead to the pity pot; positive attitudes give healing thru acceptance. Sis. Margaret Tanner spent several weeks at Methodist Hospital for a knee replacement and also Sis. Juliett Kurth was a patient; both have returned to the Skylines. Bro. Walter Geyer was a short time at Proctor Hospital; and Bro. George Koehl who underwent the third hip operation can walk now with a cane and is much improved. Sis. Ruth Huthmann, undergoing chemotherapy and later radiation, has our special prayers.

Jaret Lee (#1) was born January 14 to the delight of Bro. Rustin and Sis. Cara Ledford and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Herman and Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford (Washington, IL). On January 30, Kipling Ryan joined Tecca Joy of the family of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joy Hoerr. Our congratulations to them and grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby Hoerr and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

From January 26 - February 2, groups from Peoria (10, under the direction of Bro. Larry Herman) and Bluffton poured the foundation for a new school and feeding center (AMMAR) at Juarez, Mexico. A World Relief project originally built in 1985, it was later destroyed by fire.

Where are they now?

Randy Haefli has lived in Texas for over 30 years and has a son and daughter. He is a franchised dealer for Butler Steel Buildings and lives in Arlington, TX. It's always nice to

see him in church when visiting Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dorothy.

David Thomas (son of Sis. Lucille Thomas Beyer) is employed as electrical engineer by BeamReach Network, Sunnyvale, CA, as antenna manager. He has lived in California over 30 years and was married last year. He attends church when visiting here.

Sis. Lillian Koehl was sick recently at Zapata, TX, and has sent the following:

Word of Thanks which is long overdue, to tell all who have been so kind and gracious doing things and caring for me while I was ill. It was very humbling to have so many dear ones sharing and caring for me. Words can't express my appreciation. God will reward you.

*In Christian love,  
Sis. Lillian Koehl*

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

*St. Matthew 26:39*

We look forward to this season of the year when we remember our Lord's agony in the garden, death on the cross, and resurrection. It gives us renewed desire to walk the path of self-denial.

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

*II Corinthians 5:17*

We rejoice with Kim Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) that she



has begun upon the way of life everlasting. Our prayers are with her as she becomes a new creature in Christ.

Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) were in our midst this past month. We thank them for ministering God's Word to us. Several of our home ministers were visiting other congregations that Sunday, so we were especially thankful for them.

The way has opened recently for Brandon Graham (Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette) to move to one of the Timber Ridge satellite homes in Morton, IL. May he feel God's nearness and presence as he adjusts to his new home and surroundings.

Our congregation has experienced the loss of many loved ones during the past few months, and this month was no exception. Bro. Ed Knobloch, Sr. was called home on January 25. He had been residing at Apostolic Christian Skylines in Peoria. Our sympathy and prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Lucille, and his children, Bro. Ed Knobloch, Jr. (Sis. Frances) and Sis. Donna Gehrig (Bro. Kenny), along with their families. His brothers and sisters are Bro. Nick (Sis. Gladys), Bro. James (Sis. Helen), Sis. Esther Kieser (Bro. George), Sis. Ruth Kieser (Bro. Dave), and Sis. Lillian Elsasser (Bro. John).

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Paul Gerber of Minneapolis, MN, who was Sis. Clara Marie Gerber's brother. Additionally, our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Earl Grimm (Sis. Anna Lou) and Sis. Alvina Streitmatter in the death of their brother, Sam Grimm of Morton, IL. May each one find strength in knowing that God cares and someday will wipe away all tears, as stated in Revelation 7:17.

## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joan Leman  
Jenell Hodel**

"...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

*I John 4:4*

We thank Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) for being with us at our monthly Bible Study and speaking to us about "Knowing the Enemy". We also thank Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL) for being willing to come and share God's Word with us.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy) in the passing of her mother, Cheryl Weber, and Bro. John Koehler (Sis. Lisa) in the passing of his mother, Cydney Koehler. May they each feel God's comfort and the love and prayers of the brethren.

Our church was blessed by the singing of the Morton Choir at our monthly Hymn Sing. We thank them for bringing God's Word through song to us. We also were able to enjoy a church potluck and singing together during this last month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They were Bro. Jerry Schumacher (Sis. Jane), Jason Tibbs (Jim and Julie), Bro. Ben Hodel (Ruth Ann), Mary Beth Rebbec (Bro. Marti and Sis. Patty), and Sis. Martha Braker (Bro. Harlan).

*Note of Thanks:*

May God bless and reward everyone who showed kindness to Sis. Norene in her declining years and at the time of her passing.

*The family of Sis. Norene Herbst*

## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi  
LaVonne Wagenbach**

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff Rocke (Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Carrie Reinbeck (Bro. Larry and Sis. Barbara) as their engagement was announced. May God be with them as they take this important step in life.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert on the passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Howard Heinold (Goodfield, IL). We sympathize with Bro. Glenn and Sis. Dorothy Stuber. Bro. Glenn's brother, Lester Stuber, passed away also. May God's comforting Spirit be with the families.

We are thankful that two families were blessed with little girls. Greg and Sis. Kathy Getz were blessed with Abigail Marie. Big brother, Jesse, helped welcome her home. Grandparents are Sue Getz and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi Koch and children, Gabriel, Josiah and Charity, are overjoyed with Promise Joy. Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN) are her grandparents.

We appreciate the efforts of ministering Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). Also, Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate the care and concern of our Elders that our Apostolic Christian faith will be preserved. We pray they will be blessed for all the time they give for us.

We welcome Michelle Mueller (granddaughter of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Dorothy Stuber). We hope she feels at home in our Tremont congregation.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to express our appreciation for all the food, flowers, cards,



phone calls and expressions of love shown to our dear father, Elmer Brunner, during his declining years and now at his death. God blessed him with a wonderful church family. Thank you.

*Loren and Elise Joos and family  
Charles and Susan Brunner*

We thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, deeds of kindness and the birthday cards sent to Emma. We are in fairly good health and thankful to be in our own home.

May God bless!

*Al and Emma Aberle*

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marcia Koch  
Dianne Wyss**

Bro. Chris and Sis. Stacy Ledford became first-time grandparents this month. Jarret Lee Ledford was born to Bro. Rustin and Sis. Cara. May the Lord bless them in their new role of parents/grandparents.

We are thankful for the willingness of our ministering brothers and their wives who so often give of themselves. Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) shared with us the virtues of meekness and humility. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) also shared the pulpit this past month.

Our Sis. Clara Speck has left this earthly home for her eternal reward. We appreciated her smile and kind spirit. May the Lord comfort her family.

We are undergoing a rather large redecorating job at church. It has been a blessing to work together with our brothers, sisters, and friends. We hope to be completed within a few months.

As Easter approaches, may we all reflect on the gift of salvation so freely given to us from our Lord and Saviour.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aeschliman  
Tonia Isch**

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

*St. John 14:1*

We rejoice with our new convert Breona Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen) as she has decided to follow our loving Saviour.

We were blessed with baptisms this month as four dear souls committed their lives to God. Sis. Erica Heyerly (Bob and Mary), Sis. Amy Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen), Bro. Adam McAfee (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda), and Bro. Doug Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys) were all baptized on February 10.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers for sharing the Word with us this month. They were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). May God bless them in their service to the Lord.

We are so blessed to have three engagements this month. They are Sis. Bethany Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean) to Bro. Ryan Donaghy (Tom and Riann Donaghy, Sharon Donaghy), Sis. Brooke Dehoff (Bro. Scott and Sis. Rita) to Bro. Nick Bertsch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Shannon Compton (Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Brian Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois). We rejoice with these dear couples as they enter their engagements and prepare for married life.

Becoming one in Christ this month were Sis. Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Bro. Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and

Sis. Wanda). We wish them God's richest blessings in their new life together.

Dalton Lee entered this world January 13 to Eric and Lori Gerber. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Jenny Gerber. We are so happy for them.

Spending time in the hospital this month was Bro. Keith Baumgartner (Sis. Ruth), Chase Fiechter (Bro. Dave and Sis. June), Bro. Henry Gerber (Sis. Ada), Sis. Justine Baumgartner, Sis. Alice Geisel, and Sis. Dorothy Gerber. We will continue to pray for God's healing hand on these loved ones.

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Ann Meyer  
Rhonda Maller**

“I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!

I've been washed in the fountain,  
Cleansed by His blood.

Joint heirs with Jesus as we  
travel this sod;

For I'm part of the family,  
The family of God.”

When one part of the family hurts, we all hurt. When one part rejoices, we all rejoice. This past month, we extend loving sympathy to two families who have said good bye to their loved ones. Bro. Ken Steffen (Sis. Roberta) and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr (Bro. Vernon) bid farewell to their sister, Sis. Velma Fulkerson on February 2. On February 16, Sis. Martha Reinhard's (Bro. Dale) father passed away. Praise God for the promise of a family reunion in Heaven for those who know His Son.

We are uplifting in prayer Bro. Bob Troxel (Sis. Mary Jo) and Bro.



Keith Honegger (Sis. Nancy) who are facing treatments. May the Lord be with them and bless them with healing according to His will. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Phyllis Bucher (Bro. Nile) who is recovering from knee surgery.

We are sharing in the joy of Bro. Brian Drayer who has announced his engagement to Sis. Shannon Compton (Bluffton). Brian is the son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer. We pray that as they have followed God's leading in choosing a mate, Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon will follow His will throughout their marriage.

We all had an opportunity to grow in our marriages when Bro. Jeff Timms (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) came and taught us the "Greater Love" marriage conference – a ministry of Gateway Woods. It was a blessing to each of us, whether we were a single preparing our heart and attitude for a godly marriage or a couple with many years of marriage behind us. We were thankful that Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda and their lovely family stayed over for Sunday. Bro. Jeff was used in Sunday School in the morning and shared God's Word with us in the afternoon. It was a very special weekend and we look forward to more in the future.

Our congregation was also blessed when Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI) spent a Wednesday evening with us. We felt the anointing of the Holy Spirit as God used Bro. Hartzell to teach us and to challenge us in our Christian walk.

A special thanks to Elder Bro. Phil and to all of our Elder brothers who so diligently serve the church. Our prayers were with them as they met for the mid-winter Conference. We also pray for their wives who, with meek and quiet spirits, share

the work. May we all "pick up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow Jesus."

Praise God for the gift of new life. Bro. Brad and Sis. Lindsay Zimmer were blessed with a precious son, Evan James. He is welcomed with joy and joins big brother, Will. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Fiechter. May God bless them all as Will and Evan are raised in the "admonition and nurture of the Lord."

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another..."

*1 Peter 3:8*

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### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

We had a great opportunity to learn more about the truths of the Bible as Bro. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) shared with us about Israel as a nation. We are thankful for his studies and to know that what is taking place now, is all part of God's great plan, as shown to us throughout His Word.

Our prayers, sympathy, and support go out to many loved ones this past month as they laid to rest dear loved ones in their families. Maria Gegner, cousin to both Sis. Marion Gutwein and Sis. Margaret Gudeman (Bro. Willis), passed away on January 17. Charles Walters, father of our Sis. Linda Lemman (Bro. Dennis), went to his rest on February 12. Aldeen Taylor, sister to Sis. Amelia Schini, has gone to her reward. Joey Krulik, nephew to Sis. Bev Huber (Bro. John), passed away on January 27. May the Lord continue to comfort you.

We are thankful for the Lord's healing strength as we now have Sis. Donna Gutwein, Bro. Elmer Anliker, Bro. Walter Culp, and Sis.

Maxine Novotny at home recovering from illness and surgery. May they find comfort knowing we are all praying for them daily.

We rejoice as Bro. Phil and Sis. Amber Lemman welcome their son, Ethan Philip, to the world on January 30. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi Ward and Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Lemman. God has also blessed Cameron and Bridget Wuethrich with a daughter, Camille Paige, on February 7. Camille has an older sister, Audrey, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Nancy Wuethrich and Bob and Brenda Burge.

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

*Galatians 5:13*

What an honor to serve and glorify God in His house. As the elected brothers and sisters begin their new duties, may they find grace to help guide the way. We look forward to the year to come and will continue to pray for each one of you.

What a pleasure it was to have Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) joining us for the testimonies of Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) and Caleb Wuethrich (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne).

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

*Phil. 4:4*

There was much to rejoice for as Danielle and Caleb were baptized on February 17. May they continue to grow in the Lord.

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## INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Sue Levy  
Sandy Lichtle**

We want to thank our visiting ministers for their labors in our behalf. They were: Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Ken Lawson (Phoenix, AZ), and Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL). We thank the Lord for supplying us with His unchanging Word through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We also enjoyed having the the Kingdom Quartet and the Renew Quartet on February 10. Their songs of praise tell us of our loving Redeemer and Friend, Jesus, who willingly laid aside His position in Heaven to come and provide a sacrifice for our sins. The church enjoyed a time of fellowship with our guests during a dinner following the afternoon services and program.

Soon the church will have its "cabin fever" dinner and all are invited to come and be a part of this opportunity as we share in one another's burdens and blessings and become more closely knit to one another and to our Lord. It will be a blessing for all those who are able to attend.

## INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

This past month we had two dear sisters who celebrated birthdays. Sis. Lorene Moser turned 90 and Sis. Martha Peters turned 96. It is such a blessing to have two faithful sisters in Christ as examples and witnesses to us all!

Bro. Aaron Heinold spent some time in and out of the hospital this past month. He is back home and seems to be doing well.

Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) assisted Bro. Curt in the reading of the Memorandum.

A special thanks to both of these Elder brothers for their efforts as shepherds of the church flock.

## INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

We rejoiced with Ryan Graf and Trent Regier as they gave testimony of their faith in the death of Jesus for their sin. On Sunday, January 20, they were baptized. Bro. Ryan's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf. Bro. Trent's parents are Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier of Princeville, IL. There was a large group of family and friends in attendance, including Bro. Ryan's grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Bro. and Sis. Carl Graf (Akron, OH).

Bro. James Ramseyer had the afternoon service. His message was on baptism. Bros. Erik Givens and James Plattner (Princeville, IL) shared with us in the morning service. We appreciated the messages the Lord gave to them for our edification. Bro. Erik mentioned that the human heart has not changed; we want to serve self. Jesus brings light and if we keep this light in our heart, we walk beside Him all the time.

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz instructed us on John 13 (Jan. 27), giving insight into the probable situation at the table according to the custom of the time. The application of this chapter into the attitudes of the apostles was very enlightening. Peter's self-sufficiency, "Thou shalt never wash my feet" (this is not humility, it's pride). "Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part in me" (John 13:8). "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest" (Luke 22:24). Do you see yourself in these attitudes? I do. "...the devil, as a roaring

lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (I Peter 5:8). "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35).

We welcomed Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz and family (Indianapolis, IN) on February 4. Bro. Brace Wieland was very thankful as he would have been alone on the pulpit. We thank both brothers for sharing the Word with us.

We rejoice for the Holy Spirit's presence at the mid-winter Conference at Remington, IN. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz reported he felt our prayers.

The heart is a garden where  
thought's flowers grow;  
The thoughts that we think are  
the seeds that we sow.  
Each kind loving thought bears a  
kind loving deed.  
While a thought that is selfish is  
just like a weed.  
We must watch what we think  
the live long day  
And pull out the weed thoughts  
and throw them away,  
And plant loving see thoughts so  
thick in a row  
There will be no room for weed  
thoughts to grow.

—Anon.

## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Stacey Feller  
Paula Haab**

We continue to be fed the Living Word by our own ministers which we appreciate. In addition, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) come to help our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer share the Memorandum with us. We were happy to have Bro. Don Gudeman (Lacrosse, IN)



spend a Wednesday evening in Milford. Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) ministered to us one Sunday and the Spirit led him to speak on the tongue and how it can be used to both uplift and to hurt each other. How good for all of us to be reminded. Bro. Will Schieler took time to have a Bible study inspiring us to personal godliness through his topic, "We as Temples and Trees".

We congratulate our recent college graduate, Ryan Mikel (Russ and Sis. Pat), as he received his degree in elementary education.

Our Bible Class is planning a work trip to Mexico. They worked hard having a chili supper to help with expenses. As part of our World Relief family night, we packed treats for them to take to the children in Mexico.

We've been enjoying mild winter weather, but God showed us how He is in control when we woke up one morning to an ice storm, and many of our church family experienced power failure for a period of time. We are so thankful that the power of God never fails.

Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil) once again is experiencing serious health problems. Bro. Don Haab (Sis. Martha) is undergoing medical tests at this time. Our hearts go out to them, and we pray God will grant them physical and spiritual strength.

This month Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel announced the engagement and September wedding plans of their son, Ryan, and Nicole Fox of Adrian, MI. Then they had to let go and let God with their daughter, Lisa, and Arlo Kipfer and three sons to China.

## INDIANA, REMINGTON

### Beth Virkler Rochelle Ward

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

*Hebrews 13:2*

We are always thankful when we have visitors and we especially want to thank the dear brothers who willingly came and preached the Word of God. This month they were Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), and Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL).

Congratulations to Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara Getz on the birth of their new daughter, Chloe Grace. Little Chloe was welcomed into the world on January 21 by Sophie (3) and Samuel (1 ½). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Charlene Getz and Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller (Latty, OH).

A special welcome to Bro. Paul and Sis. Miranda Virkler as they have moved into the area recently. Their new address is 703 N. Nebraska, Remington, IN 47977. Their phone number is 219-261-2306. May God richly bless them as they make their home here in Remington.

We are so thankful for the healing powers of God, not only in a spiritual sense, but in a physical sense as well. Our prayers are with Bro. John Ward (Sis. Rochelle) as he is recovering from a recent appendectomy and Cheri Frantz (Joe) as she is healing from a fall. May they both feel a continuous healing that can only come from above.

We were pleased to host the mid-winter Elder Conference this year. We appreciated a Tuesday night service to begin the week in the

right spirit. A special thanks to all the Elders and their wives for giving of their time, energy and love for the benefit of our church. It is this very dedication that has brought us through the years, and prayerfully will lead us on into the future.

Thank you also to all those who worked hard to coordinate the week. It truly was a blessing to have things running so smoothly!

### *Lost and Found:*

Size 4T girls cranberry velveteen coat. Please contact Rochelle Ward @ 219-261-3866 if you think it might be yours.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

### Samantha Schafer Kara Beebe

When things seem at their worst,  
I will still joy in His protection,  
Who loves to bring out good from  
ill,  
And grieves in my affliction.  
His trials sent are all well meant;  
His rod, a Father's chastisement,  
Are tokens of affection.

*Zion's Harp #177*

Our small congregation has experienced many trials this past month. We were saddened by the sudden passing of David Gramm, the brother of Bro. Richard Gramm, and the son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL).

It was a blessing to gather with the Milford brethren for a Bible Study by ministering Bro. Will Schieler.

Bro. Scott Schafer was hospitalized because of an accident during an ice storm, when a tree fell on his truck.

We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) to



share the Word with us.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Sharon Flis (Bro. Ben Flis' mother) has decided to submit her life to Christ. We pray that the Lord will guide her in her new walk of faith.

We are saddened by the passing of Sis. Shirley Lehman (Bro. Wayne). After struggles with her earthly body, she is now at rest with her Lord. Our hearts and prayers are with their family.

My heavenly home is bright and fair,  
Nor pain nor death can enter there:

Its glittering towers the sun  
out-shine;  
That heavenly mansion shall be  
mine.

My Father's house is built on high,  
Far, far above the starry sky;  
When from this earthly prison free,  
That heavenly mansion mine shall be.

*Hymns of Zion #247*

*Note of Thanks:*

A special thanks to all who sent cards, words of encouragement, and love during my recent hospital stay and recovery at home from my accident. Your prayers for God's healing hand have been answered as I am feeling much better. May God bless you for your love and kindness.

*Bro. Scott Schafer*

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Darel and Janet Walker**

This past month we were privileged to have three visiting ministers. They were Bros. Chris Huber and Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Ron Heiniger (Bloom-

ington, IL). We appreciate the efforts of these brothers to bring us the Word of God. May God richly bless them and their families for serving us. Our small church always enjoys the fellowship of having visitors.

Our Sunday School children have been busy this past month with a program during Wednesday night church called "ACTIVE". They have been collecting toys, games and school supplies for book bags. The book bags will be sent to needy children in India. The children really enjoy the "ACTIVE" program and working on projects like this. We wish to thank Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher for coordinating this program.

We pray that God will comfort Sis. Lois Bucher (Bro. Garry) on the loss of her father, Bro. Leslie Gerst (Oakville, IA), who passed away on February 9.

**INDIANA**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE**  
**Diana Houston**  
**Nettie Haab**

We truly have been blessed this past month with many ministers visiting us on Sundays and Thursday evenings. They have been Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Andy Moser (Sis. Diane) and Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois), both of Valparaiso, IN, Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa) and Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie), both from Indianapolis, IN, and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). We thank them for their willingness to serve and to be used of God to bring forth His message.

We rejoice with Shawn Ames, a Purdue student from Valparaiso, who has turned his back on the world wanting to serve the true and

living God. If you are in the area, please join us at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday services. For local correspondence, contact our local ministering Bro. Neal Widmer at (765) 497-4709. Our counseling Elders are Bro. Curt Frank and Bro. Wendell Gudeman.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Luann Gerber**  
**Erica Wagenbach**

We thank Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), who came and shared God's Word with us on January 27. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers were with our Elder brethren as they met for the mid-winter Conference in Remington, IN. May God bless Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) for sharing God's Word with the Wolcott and Remington congregations Tuesday evening before the conference.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach are thankful for a son, Timothy Wade, born February 6. Welcoming him home are siblings Kaleb, Daniel, and Joshua. His grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Lana Metzger**  
**Brenda Schulz**

All who have learned to know the Lord  
Believe Him true with one accord;  
In those who on His promise build  
His Word has always been ful-



filled.

*Zion's Harp #230*

What a blessing it was to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Alan Schwartz. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall in this important work. May they all feel the blessing and guidance of the Lord.

Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell were blessed with another granddaughter. Clark and Carin Rowell and big sister Victoria welcomed home Abigail Rose.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). Elder Bro. Charles was here for our Memorandum. We pray we might remember the teachings of that night. May the grace and guidance of God be with these brothers in their labor for the Lord.

We also had our annual meeting this month. Bro. Leo Banwart is our new treasurer, Bro. Dave Schaer is our new trustee, Sis. Cindy Wiegand was put on the Kitchen Committee, and Sis. Lana Metzger is our new Silver Lining Reporter.

The engagement of Sis. Nicole Massner (Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna) to Bro. Aaron Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy, Pulaski, IA) was made known. May they look to God for guidance during this time in their lives.

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

“...For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be

saved.”

*St. John 3:17*

Where would our hope for eternal salvation be if Christ had not left His home in glory to come to this sinful world to suffer and die on the cross and to pay the ransom for our sins that we can be redeemed? The answer to that is...we would have no hope. So, are we going to turn our backs on the shed blood of Jesus and ignore His willingness to redeem us, just so we can enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season and then face eternity of regret and torment? Or are we going to turn from our sinful pleasures and seek God's mercy, forgiveness, and peace and then enjoy the pleasures that the glorified share and an eternity of bliss? The choice is for each of us to make; but after we have drawn our last breath, it will be too late—and no one is promised tomorrow.

As our Elder body has again assembled for the mid-winter Elder Conference, may it remind us of their great love and concern for their flocks, and may we be more appreciative of their labors and more faithful in remembering them in our prayers.

Hospital patients this past month were Jacob Fehr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona) and Luke and Lance Butikofer (Tom and Darla). We are glad they are all back home and thankful for God's continued healing.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Elmer Butikofer in the death of his sister, Leah Schneider.

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

We are thankful for visiting brethren—Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay

Luthi (Lamont-Gidley, KS). It is a joy to worship with those of like mind and faith, and to know the message they deliver has been prepared by none other than our loving God.

Our Bible Class students, along with their teacher, Bro. Matt Steidinger, are helping with remodeling work in a boys' home in Princeton, MO. Working to help make a home for others makes one thankful for the many blessings of home and family that we often take for granted.

January was the month for our annual business meeting. Positions were filled for trustees and Sunday School teachers.

As I write this, much ado is made about the date and time of day (20-02-2002-20-02), the twentieth day of the second month of 2002, at 20:02 (military time). Apparently a date such as this has not happened since the year 1001, and we are told it will never happen again. But is the precise moment of this day any more special than any other moment? Every day, every hour, and every minute holds opportunities that will never happen again. Those opportunities might be as small as the chance to offer a kind and comforting word, or as great as the opportunity to offer our lives to Christ, to live for Him. While it is interesting to note the unique dates, let us not wait for special days, but make the best of every moment in our lives for Christ.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

We are grateful to Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) for sharing from God's Word with us this month and for bringing his family along.

As we approach the Easter season, we are reminded of God's wonderful gift to us, and Jesus' sacrifice of His blood on the cross. God was



willing to forsake His perfect Son and Jesus was willing to be forsaken by our Heavenly Father to wipe out our sin and make salvation possible for us. But, do we really believe He did do this and that the sin we actually confess will be paid for and forgotten? Would we stake our life on it? This love from our Father and Brother seems almost too good to be true. Almost!

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**IOWA, LESTER  
Dawn Knobloch  
Dawn Metzger**

It is good for us to spend some time in quiet thinking about our Saviour's death upon the cross. And then, to let our daily walk of life display our humble appreciation for the great suffering He did endure. Always remembering that because He died for us, we can have a hope of Heaven. "Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Hymns of Zion #36)

We were thankful to hear that Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) feels at peace with God and man. May she continue to feel God's grace as she looks forward to the time of baptism.

This time of year seems to increase the chance of ill health. We have several loved ones who required hospitalization: Sis. Elaine Kellenberger, Sarah Feucht, Sis. Eleanor Popkes, Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Salome Knobloch, and Sis. Delores Metzger (Bro. Paul). Surgical patients were Ethan Metzger (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores).

Bro. Steve Warner (Sis. Liz) has completed his college courses. We wish Bro. Steve much contentment in his occupation.

January 23 brought the miracle of birth into the home of Bro. Mychal and Sis. Dawn Van Wyhe. Megan

Dawn is their new daughter. May the Word of Life be their guide as they begin parenting. Grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe, Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl (Morris, MN) and great-grandmother is Sis. Zelma Knobloch.

Our sympathy is extended to Sisters Esty Metzger, Alice Metzger and Leona Wulf and their families. Their brother, Bro. Art Banwart, of West Bend, IA, passed into eternity on January 25.

Dean and Renae Knobloch were united in Holy Matrimony on February 2. Bro. Larry and Sis. Sherryl are Dean's parents. May we always love and cherish the helpmate that God has provided for each of us. We have three engagements to share this month. Lonn Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) and Jammie Horner are planning an April wedding. Perry Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie) is engaged to Jessica Jensen. And, Bro. Harlan Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice) and Sis. Betty Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine, Latty, OH) are making plans to become one in the Lord.

On February 10, Sis. Rachel (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) Messner's proving service and baptism were held. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) were with us for this very special occasion. Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) inspired us through God's Word on January 27. We always appreciate the willingness of our ministering brothers to help us along life's way.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE  
Melody Steiner  
Debbie Wagenbach**

Our dear Bro. Les Gerst has

passed from this life and gained his eternal reward. Even though he had attained a long and happy life until age 96, we will sure miss him, and our love and sympathy is extended to the dear family, including his wife, Sis. Mayme, and son, Bro. Conrad (Sis. Roletta), of our Oakville congregation.

*Note of Thanks:*

A special thank-you to all who sent cards, food, flowers, and memorials, both before and at the time of Paul's death. May God bless you for your kindness!

In Christian Love,

*Sis. Elva Gerst*

*Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Gerst and family*

*Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst and family*

*Bro. Walt and Sis. Nola Gerst and Benjamin*

*Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst and Janella*

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**IOWA, PULASKI  
Katrina Knobloch**

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) shared the Word with us, and we thank them. We also thank the other visitors who came with them. Each time we were able to have a potluck supper and singing.

Our prayers go to Bro. Howard and Sis. Irene Musselman since Bro. Howard suffered a stroke. Also, Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy) spent some time in the hospital. May they each feel our prayers.

On February 17, Bro. Aaron Musselman (Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy) was announced for marriage to Sis. Nicole Massner (Oakville, IA). We wish them guidance as they plan their approaching marriage.



As we approach spring and the Easter season, let us be reminded of the great price that was paid.

*IN THE GARDEN OF GETH-  
SEMANE*

Before the dawn of Easter  
There came Gethsemane...  
Before the Resurrection  
There were hours of agony...  
For there can be no crown of  
stars  
Without a cross to bear,  
And there is no salvation  
Without Faith and Love and  
Prayer,  
And when we take our needs to  
God  
Let us pray, as did His Son  
That dark night in Gethsemane,  
"Thy will, not mine, be done."  
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

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

The weekend of January 27 we were thankful to have words of Truth brought to us by visiting ministers, Bros. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and also by Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) who assisted in the testimony and baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Quinn Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen). What a joy for the whole body of Christ!

Sunday evening, Bro. Jon also assisted our leadership in reading the Memorandum and expounding upon it. May we heed the words of wisdom given to us by them and may God reward their efforts.

It was a blessed weekend, although joy intermingled with sorrow, for on January 25, our Bro. Arthur (Madeline) Banwart was called from this life after enduring

an extended period of failing health. He had reached the age of 87 and we know his family is thankful he could be relieved of his suffering; but realizing that bidding farewell to a loved one is still painful, we extend our sympathy to his dear wife, Madeline, and his children, Richard (Marlene) Banwart, Ronald (Carolyn) Banwart, Sis. Patricia Banwart, Mike (Marilyn) Banwart and Dennis (Allene) Banwart of Denver, CO. Also to his 12 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and to his brothers and sisters in our congregation, Paul Jr., Benjamin, and Robert Banwart, Sis. Clara Anliker, Miriam Frieden, and Sis. Lela Banwart. Assisting in the funeral and graveside services were Bros. Dale Moore (Sis. Shirley, Elgin, IA) and Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA).

Former resident of West Bend, 60-year-old Philip L. Fisher, died suddenly on January 23. He had moved to Iowa City in 1965 after marrying Barbara Christensen and lived there until his death. We extend our sympathy to his sister-in-law, Marie Fisher.

Recently Bro. Jim (Sis. Diane) Butikofer was here from Iowa City, IA, and expounded upon I Cor. Chapter 12. We greatly appreciated the encouragement that was laid to our hearts.

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

*I Cor. 12:25-26*

Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy) and Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) have been announced as having found peace and are now looking forward to baptism.

Those announcements are uplifting to all of us.

Needing our prayerful support have been hospital patients, Sis. Shirley (Bro. Harlan) Metzger, Sis. Pearl Anliker, and Sis. Berniece Banwart.

"Contentment is not in getting what we want...it is being satisfied with what we have."

**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Toru Saigusa**

On February 11, the Brother Conference in Japan was held in our Tokyo Church. Like usual, every year, in the morning, the summary of the Brother Conference which had been held in America last year, was reported on by our Elder brothers, Willis Ehnle and Akito Inoue. The main theme was about real worship. Through the scriptures of Psalm 133, Romans 6, and I Corinthians, we thought about what real worship should be. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are not our own, but we were bought at a price. We would like to keep this holy truth in our minds. We would also like to honor our God with our body every day, not only on Sundays.

This year we have a mild winter here in Japan. In about one month, we will be able to see cherry blossoms in bloom. And soon after cherry blossoms, we will enjoy peach blossoms. Spring is near at hand.

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

Christian Greetings once again from Tokyo. We have entered the less active time of year when many people seem to catch colds! We had many sick from our congregation and it made for some very small gatherings; but as the Lord promises, even where two or three are



gathered in His name, He will be there, and those times were still very blessed.

Monday, February 11, a national holiday in Japan, is usually the day for our annual all-church gathering for reading of the Memorandum, break for lunch and afternoon discussion concerning topics related to our churches here. This year, it was held in Tokyo, with several from Shioda attending, including Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. Thank you to Bro. Willis for his part in serving us. The afternoon discussion was mainly centered on our Tokyo Church Building Project which is coming along very nicely — great news! We humbly appreciate the support and encouragement we have been given from the Elder and Mission Committees in America and Lord willing, we plan to start the construction this Spring. It has taken years of many, many prayers, discussions and patience, but we truly feel it is in the Lord's timing and are proceeding with His peace, and that is a great blessing. We would appreciate continued prayers concerning all of the constructing details to be worked out yet, but trust all will go well, according to the Lord's will.

We are very thankful that our Elder Bro. Akito and his wife, Sis. Marie, were able to safely attend and return from the Elder Conference held in Remington, IN, this year. I know they were quite thankful, too, that it was not too far from where their son, Bro. Makoto, is attending school at Purdue University.

We are looking forward to some guests from America in the near future: ministering Bro. David Steffen, (Elgin, IL) and Klopfenstein relatives (IN and TX) of Sis. Marie Inoue. More will be reported on that next month, Lord willing.

**KANSAS, BERN  
Lori Baumgartner  
Sally Strahm**

So take my pledge, O Lord,  
Too long in sin I've bided;  
I'd live henceforth for Thee,  
By Thee, my Savior, guided!  
O do Thou hold me fast;  
From sin, O make me free,  
So that henceforth my heart  
Thy temple pure may be!

*Zion's Harp #45 vs. 7*

We rejoice with Emily Strahm who is repenting of her sins. May God give her grace and guidance as she begins to build a solid foundation. Thankful parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm.

Levi Ryan joined the family circle of Robbie and Gail Nutter of Manhattan, KS, on February 3. We pray God will be with them as they raise their precious gift from Heaven. Levi's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter and great-grandfather is retired Elder Bro. Lester Hartter.

With thankful hearts, Bro. Brian and Sis. Denise Rokey welcomed Rachel Joy on February 12 into their family circle. We pray God will also be with them as they raise and nurture their precious gift from Heaven. Rachel's grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL).

When pure and upright hearts,  
By flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of faith  
More firmly yet united,  
The light of hope beams forth  
In radiance far and nigh,  
Invites us to partake  
The blessings from on high.

This covenant shall then

Endure and stand forever;  
There neither grief or pain  
Shall come to part or sever.  
There God shall e'er abide  
With us our truest friend,  
Our hearts in Him unite  
Forever, without end.

*Zion's Harp #79*

It fills our hearts with joy when we see two souls joined together in Him having faith believing they are to be one. Bro. David Edelman and Sis. Shari Braker (Kansas City, MO) exchanged vows on January 20 at the Kansas City, MO, congregation. Sis. Shari's parents are Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. David's parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman. We warmly welcome Sis. Shari to our congregation.

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers in our congregation. Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) was with us on January 20. We thank him for giving of himself on our behalf and sharing God's Word.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Dan Edelman and Bro. Joseph Rokey (Sis. Lila) as they have spent time in the hospital. May God grant healing and restoration.

We heard the reading of the Memorandum on January 26. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) were with us helping to assist Elder Bro. John Lehman and Ordained Deacon Bro. Galen Rokey. Many warnings and kind words were given, so may we strive to be that faithful soldier of the cross.

"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks and look well to thy herds."

*Proverbs 27:23*



Our prayers have been with the Elder Brothers as they met in Remington, IN, for the mid-winter Conference in February.

Our Sunday School students worked on kits for World Relief on January 18 and February 8. We pray they can receive a blessing as they work together.

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## KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

### Ruth Bahr

We held our annual business meeting January 23. May each one that is holding an office feel the importance of his duty. A willing, faithful, organized worker is a blessing to the church body.

Words of encouragement were brought to us from the Word through Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). Our thanks go out to them.

Sis. Lucille Schurter spent several days in the hospital, but thankfully she is able to assemble with us again.

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## KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

The annual business meeting was held Sunday afternoon, January 20. Our support and prayers are with those who have been elected to offices.

Sunday, February 3, was the funeral of Sis. Hannah Grimm. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her daughters, Sarah Grimm and Ilene Rogers, and her son, Arlie. Sis. Hannah had been a resident of the Madison Manor approximately three years, but attended church when she could. We will certainly miss Sis. Hannah's presence in our small congregation.

Our sympathy and prayers are

with Bro. Rudy Bahr (Sis. Eileen) in the passing of his brother, Ernest Bahr.

Several from our congregation traveled to Gridley, IL, for the wedding on Sunday, February 10, of ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Bro. William and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Maria Klopfenstein (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together.

Ministering Bro. Edward Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was with us one Wednesday evening this month. May God bless him for bringing us the Word of Life.

Our prayers were with the Elders as they gathered the past week in Remington, IN, for the mid-winter Conference. May the Lord bless our church and bless and reward our Elder brethren as they strive to preserve our precious faith.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone for all of their cards, phone calls, prayers and kind words during the loss of my mother. My heart was certainly touched by each and everyone's act of love and kindness. May God richly bless you all.

*Bro. Max Burnham & Family*

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## KANSAS, SABETHA Mary Kay Wenger

We were blessed with a Sunday evening service from Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN).

"...and there is nothing too hard for thee"

*Jeremiah 32:17*

Our annual business meeting was held January 22. We appreciate the work put forth by each one and especially the prayers for each other.

Joshua Krogmann (Frank and

Sis. Julie) and Diane Weins (Don and Doris of Kensington, KS) have announced their engagement. A June wedding is planned.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) assisting our Elder brothers to sound forth the warnings at our Conference Memorandum at the Bern church on January 26. We are not completely isolated, whether we find ourselves at school, work or home. There are dangers we need to be aware of. Even in the church, we are not alone, because Satan can find ways to sow seeds of discord and disturb our unity.

We had a visit by ministering Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). There was an example given on how the children in the home will quickly answer the telephone expecting their friends to call. God also calls to them and repeatedly waits for a response. Someday it will be the last call He makes.

We are thankful for all our visitors. We appreciated Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) visiting one Sunday.

Sis. Evelyn Wysong recently has been hospitalized. We are thankful to have Sis. Sharon Strahm (Bro. Carl) back in church with us after an extended illness.

We think of others that may be going through difficulties and we pray for each one.

Congratulations to Sis. Marjorie Edelman on the birth of a grandson, Colby Robert Buser, born February 4 to Steve and Loretta Buser.

We welcome the new addition of Kody James Beyer, born to Bro. Klint and Sis. Kara Beyer on February 7. Grandparents, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer, welcome their new grandson, as well as great-grandparents, Sis. Lois Grimm and Bro. Sam and Sis.



Jeanette Huber.

It was our privilege to host single groups from various congregations February 16-17.

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## KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

Our area escaped much of the devastation of the late January ice storm, which spread through much of the Midwest. Even so, we suffered loss of power, tree damage, and hazardous road conditions. The older established trees that had been routinely pruned weathered the weight of the ice much better than did the others. I compared this to the pruning necessary in a Christian's life. If our shortcomings are not dealt with, they will soon enslave us.

After the storm passed and the sky cleared, I looked out on what I first termed a "Crystal Prison". On second thought, I saw the power of God's love warming and restoring us. Also, we received much needed moisture that soaked into the soil. "In all things, give thanks."

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## MEXICO, IXTLAN

**Gloria Gonzalez**

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

*I John 3:1*

On January 19, we rejoiced to hear the testimony of some precious souls: Mario Cabrera and Javier Avina. We could see God's grace and mercy in their lives. The next day our congregation witnessed baptisms. We enjoyed having Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for this special day.

After baptisms, we participated in the Holy Communion of our Lord.

We can see God's love, how He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your sins and mine.

"But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God:"

*Isaiah 61:6*

Our church has been blessed with the help of another minister, Bro. Eduardo (Lalo) Ugalde. We can see Bro. Lalo's desire to minister God's Word. We pray that God will give him much grace for his daily walk of life.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Dennis Rassi and his wife, Sis. Diane (Fairbury, IL), with us this past month. May God bless him for sharing the precious Gospel with us.

*Meet Bro. Eduardo (Lalo) Ugalde:*

Dear brethren, it's a beautiful thing to see the love and mercy of God in our lives. I am thirty years old. I grew up in a home with Catholic teachings. In spite of many difficulties, my family has always shown their love to me. There were always problems within the family. My parents were separated for many years, my two sisters are single mothers, and I had to experience the death of my brother. My life was without spiritual meaning, without direction, and without support. The help and advice that I did receive was never in the appropriate direction. At last I hit "rock bottom". My family had problems, my friends turned their back on me, I lost my job, and I had taken refuge in alcohol. My life was in serious condition. All this combined with my sins led me to seriously consider taking my life.

But God is faithful. In my weakness, God showed me that only He could take care of my spiritual and physical needs. The Lord showed me

Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." I said to God, "Lord, in all these things I have not had success. If you want to help me, please help me to give my life and service to Thee." Within one week, things started to change. I began to feel God working in my life. Soon the time came that I asked God for a church with which I could serve and feel at home. The Lord led me to our Apostolic Christian Church in Detroit, MI, where I was living at the time. I was baptized there January 31, 2000. I then was sent, by the will of God, to Ixtlan, where I have been for almost two years. Since then it has been a great blessing to be here in this church.

Now at this time the Lord has given to me the great gift to help in the ministry. I am very thankful to my God for His mercy and grace. There is nothing better than to live in Him. Life is necessary so that there can be growth, development, and finally maturity, to produce fruit in our lives. To be alive in God means that He will show us His will.

May our Lord always bless us and may His grace be manifest in our hearts. May your desire and mine be to always proclaim Christ in truth and in Spirit.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

*Philippians 3:13-14*

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**

**Rose Watson  
Terri Huber**

We are thankful for the mild weather this winter, as it eases the way for people to get out to church and other activities. It is encouraging to see Sis. Margaret and Sis. Christine Wingeier in the assembly each week and we continue to pray for their health and good spirits.

Another face we are seeing at church is a new one – the latest addition to the Stoller family. Ivy Marguerite was born this month to Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi. “Big” sister, Ellie, will be glad for her built-in, lifelong friend! Local grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb.

Sis. Sue Daniels (Bro. Wes) and Ramona (Gerst) Humphreys are recent surgical patients who have had occasion for awe and thankfulness to God and the abilities He has given the modern medical community.

We continue to have Wednesday evening services at Michigan State University once a month, with Detroit, Bay City, Alto, and Leo, IN, taking turns sending a ministering brother.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Rhonda Knochel  
Peggy Jackson**

Our congregation really had occasion to celebrate this month. Alan Schlatter (Vicki) felt God’s call on his life and heeded that call in repentance. We rejoice greatly with his family and pray that Alan will experience a daily joy and peace in walking with the Saviour.

The word about Alan’s repentance came on a Saturday evening when we were blessed to hear the testimonies of two dear sisters, Sis. Elinor Knochel (Bro. Victor) and Sis. Sandi Knochel. What an absolutely blessed weekend we had! We rejoice

with our two new sisters and pray that they will continue to feel God’s powerful presence in their lives.

One of the extra blessings of a weekend like that one is all the visitors. Several ministering brothers came to be a part of it. They are: Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Mark Bahr (Sis. Beverly, Detroit, MI), David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), and Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann, Smithville, OH), and Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN). Later in the month we were also privileged to have Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) come and help out one of our ministering brothers who was to be alone on the pulpit that Sunday. We are thankful for the loving efforts of these brothers and pray God’s blessings on their ministry.

Two brothers spent time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Winsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) and Bro. Gary Meylan (Sis. Marilyn). We are thankful that they are both doing better and pray for their complete recovery.

May God be near each one in the month ahead!

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Sarah Beard  
Holly Barton**

Our prayers are with those who have suffered bodily afflictions and those who have lost loved ones. Recently hospitalized were Sis. Ann Tacher and Dorothy Lamén (Charles). We are thankful they are recovering well.

Sis. Kay Rauhe’s (Bro. Warren) mother, Sis. Velma Faulkerson of Bluffton, IN, passed away.

Also, Bro. Ben Belsley (Sis. Lois) has gone to be with the Lord. Their children are: Larry Belsley, Sis. Linda Reardon (Bro. John), Sis.

Jeannie Allen (Bro. Pat), Steve Belsley (Patti), and Sally Bluszezyk (Ron). Also surviving are Sis. Sorene Marireih (Bro. Ben) and Bro. Bob Belsley (Sis. Mabel, Morton, IL). Our prayers go out to all the families.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz were in Haiti to do the Lord’s work this past month.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Mark Bahr returned safely from the mid-winter Conference. We appreciate the Elder body meeting to discuss the needs of the church.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Diane Stewart**

Recently an exhortation received was to abide in Christ. That is, not to passively sit by but to actively work in our Christian walk of life.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). May God richly bless them.

Let’s remember the word “believe” in the Greek translation is an action word – to do!

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**

**Dianne Kellenberger  
Cheryl Messner**

We were truly blessed to hear our Elder Bro. Art and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) read the Memorandum. May we strive to be obedient to God’s Word and to our Elder brethren’s exhortations that each of us may someday be ushered into those Heavenly realms.

Several of our congregation spent time in the hospital. They included Sisters Emma Feuchtenberger, Stella Moser, Mabel Schmidgall, Marian Moser (Bro. Chris), and Dawn Moser (Bro. Doug). Children



were Ty Feuchtenberger (Bro. Craig and Sis. Paula), Tory Schmidgall (Bro. Trevor and Sis. Jody), Greta Schaefer (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kristen) and Valerie Messner (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi). We're thankful for God's comfort and healing.

Eric Wilson and Janae Kellenberger (Sis. Dianne) exchanged marriage vows on February 2. May they seek guidance from the Lord.

The engagement of Sis. Melinda Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Loren Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) was made known on February 3. We rejoice with them and their families and we pray that God will grant His love and guidance to this dear couple.

#### *In His Time*

I wait on God to bring to pass  
All He has promised me,  
And as I wait I rest in faith  
In what I cannot see.

For in His way He will provide  
At just the perfect time,  
Everything that's good and right  
To bless this life of mine.

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### **MINNESOTA, WINTHROP** **Carol Ann Messner**

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, make full proof of thy ministry."

*II Timothy 4:2*

Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena) was called to be a minister in the Winthrop congregation. We pray God's grace and guidance be given to this couple and their family in this new ministry of God's Word.

"And I, came not with excellency of speech of wisdom, declaring unto you the testament of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power."

*I Cor. 2:1*

We were blessed to have Bro. Don Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN) share the Gospel with our congregation. We thank them for their visit.

Results of recent voting: Bro. Derick Schmidt (Sis. Ruth) as Sunday School teacher; Bro. Wes Schmidt (Rhonda) and Bro. David Messner as recorder - ushers; and Bro. Ed Stoll (Sis. Ginny) as Sunday School superintendent.

Dan Lind and Ann Messner have announced their engagement and plan to be married in September. Parents are Sis. Julia Messner and Ellen Lind of Winthrop. We wish them God's blessings.

Surgery patient this month was Ben Schmidt (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou). We pray for God's healing touch.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank our dear family, relatives, and friends for sharing our 60th anniversary. May God bless all of you.

*Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner*

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### **MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY** **Garry and Marty Rokey**

"The spirit of the Lord God is

upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

*Isaiah 61:1*

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them."

*Acts 8:5*

Just as the apostle Philip preached Christ and Him crucified, so did six visiting ministers to our congregation in the past month. They are Bros. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) Glenn Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS) and Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). Many thanks to all for their labors, and a special thanks to Bro. Darrel for laboring all day on February 10 while all of our ministers were gone.

On January 20, we celebrated the wedding of Sis. Sheri Braker (Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen) and Bro. David Edelman (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene, Bern, KS). We pray for the Lord's guidance in their lives as they go hand in hand down life's pathway. We'll certainly miss Sis. Sheri, but feel it is the Lord's will she join Bro. David in Bern which is not far away.

Also united in marriage on February 10 were ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Sis. Maria Klopfenstein (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). Most of our congregation traveled to Gridley to witness and rejoice in the three-fold cord with the Lord being formed. A heartfelt welcome to Sis.



Maria is extended.

Just after the wonderful wedding ceremony, we of the Kansas City congregation were dealt a blow, which at the time seemed inconceivable. Our ministering Bro. Randy Kellenberger suffered a serious stroke and had to be taken by ambulance to Bloomington, IL. As the shock reverberated through his family and us, we turned to the Lord and many, many prayers were offered on Bro. Randy's behalf. Blessedly, it was the Lord's will that he recover completely, and in one week was back with us, even ministering God's precious Word. Sometimes we don't appreciate enough the efforts and the sacrifices of our Elders and ministers until they are nearly taken from us. Praise, honor and thanks be unto the Great Physician for His healing hand. We are reminded of Psalm 23:4-6.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Kristen Braker**  
**Becky Marti**

We appreciate all the visitors we've had this past month. We thank Bros. Beirne Messner and Paul Schmidgall (both of Morris, MN) for their willingness to minister the Word of God to us.

We are thankful that Andrea Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) has found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing her testi-

mony. And we rejoice that her sister, Emily, has found the grace to seek the Lord in repentance.

Betty Thiebaud (Jack) has been able to return home after some time in the hospital. Sis. LuEtta Braker (Bro. Raymond) had surgery recently. May God continue to heal and mend according to His will.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

Mild weather this winter has made travel easier for our guests to come to St. Louis. But major construction on the road in front of our church has caused some—both visitors and those who live here—to wonder how to get into the parking lot! Sometimes it changes every week. We will be thankful when the new road is finished, but we are sorry that several large trees were removed in the process.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL), and Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL). Several visitors accompanied them, and we are thankful for each one with whom we could worship and fellowship.

Grace, mercy, and peace—Paul often lists these three together. With these gifts from God, we find ourselves able to overcome sin. Physicians can often make a diagnosis of illness without even being able to cure it. Thus it would be in a spiritual way if we had knowledge but no mercy or grace. We would understand our problem, but be unable to find forgiveness and victory. Thank God for His marvelous gifts.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Susan Haerr**

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge Gerst and their family in the death of Bro. Arnie's father, Bro. Les Gerst (Oakville, IA). May God bless and keep them and walk with them in the days ahead.

We had a number of individuals who spent time in the hospital during the last month. They included Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona), Sis. Emma Hoerr (Bro. Robert), Vernon Huber (Sis. Judy), Deb Barkley, Mary Hastings, Pauline Shoemaker, and Samantha Herald. We pray for God's healing.

Our Bible Class students, teachers, and a number of parents enjoyed the ACYF hosted by Bloomington, IL, on February 3. Thank you to all who worked to make that special time possible. Thanks also to the students who took the time to be present with us.

We look forward to our "Invite a Friend" weekend scheduled for February 23-24.

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**NEW YORK**  
**CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**  
**Hope Graves**

Our prayers were with the Rockville, CT, congregation as they sought to place a brother into the ministry and we were thankful that the Lord was with Elder Bros. Duane Farney and Ben Wiegand as they traveled to help with the work there. Our prayers and support will continue to be with Bro. Dan Goric and his family as they carry out the will of the Lord in His work.

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

*II Timothy 4:2*



We also remember the Rockville brethren in the passing of Bro. Ernie Ballasy. Many here have fond memories of the time Bro. Ernie spent with our congregation years ago and our sympathy extends to his family.

Come, come sweet rest  
us from distress,  
From cross and sorrow to deliver.  
Eternity where we shall be  
united  
With eternal joys forever.

*Zion's Harp #147*

Our church got together for a World Relief work night on January 25 and we spent the evening rolling bandages. We look forward to these times we can fellowship together and thank the Lord for this avenue that we can give to those in need.

Our prayers were with Bro. Lowell Virkler who had hip surgery on January 24. We are thankful that the Lord has provided for him in his recovery and that he was again able to assemble with us.

We were also thankful that the way was opened for Bro. Duane Farney as he traveled out to Remington, IN, for the mid-winter Elder Conference. May the Lord bless the meeting and each Elder brother that gave of himself to further this most important of works.

We were blessed to have visiting brethren from Rockville, CT, assemble with us on the weekend of February 9-10 and held a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. Our small church always receives such a blessing when we have visitors in our midst. We were thankful that the opportunity opened to sing to Bro. Ted Herzig who was hospitalized at the time and has since returned home. We also sang for Grace Briot and Gladys Lomber in the nursing home. Gladys passed away a

week later on February 17 at the age of 91. Our prayer for comfort goes out to Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) and their family in the passing of his grandmother.

We had a visiting minister with us on the weekend of February 16-17 from Sardis, OH. Bro. Mark Ramsier and his family assembled with us and we held a potluck after church on Sunday before they left for home. We ask the Lord to bless them and thank them for sharing of the Gospel of Christ with us.

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### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in various church offices and duties and thank those retiring, and welcome those coming on: Sis. Joan Greenbank retires from the kitchen committee and Sis Rosanne Graf comes on; Sis. Amy Palitto retires from Sunday School teacher and Sis. Diane Jarrett comes on; Bro. Joe Miller retires from an usher and Bro. Doug Demiter comes on; Bro. Mark Palitto retires from a Sunday School teacher and Bro. Dan Graf comes on; Bro. Dan Reljin retires from the recording room and Bro. Eric Maibach comes on; Bro. Art Graf and Bro. Andy Steidl will share in the opening of the church; Bro. Bryon Palitto and Bro. Andy Steidl will share in the temperature control; and Bro. Dan Graf and Bro. Mark Steidl will share in snow removal.

Others will continue in their particular duties. Some duties are defined by positions described, but there are many kind deeds that are done for which we are thankful. I Corinthians 12:28 mentions "helps", which are very much appreciated.

We rejoice with our new converts who wish to allow the Lord Jesus Christ to direct their lives. They are Samuel Greenbank, son of Bro. Glen

and Sis. Joan Greenbank and Stanley Katanic, who is a brother of Sis. Susie Katanic. We pray they will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf to receive the testimony of Bro. Peter Bodrogi, who came from Hungary.

Bro. Peter Bodrogi became united in marriage with Sis. Laura Ramsier of Rittman, daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier. May God bless them as they serve the Lord together.

Gina Soto, daughter of Sis. Susie Soto, was united in marriage to Bobby Flippo. We commit them to the Lord for their guidance and help.

Our Akron congregation had "Family Night" in which everyone at church was invited. Some went during the day to work on World Relief projects. A supper was served and then there were many projects to work on, so that everyone could have a part in helping with doing something for World Relief.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Anita Steiner

A World Relief night was held on February 1. Our work was followed by refreshments and fellowship. May we realize how truly blessed we are.

The weekend of February 16-17, an Invite A Friend weekend was held. On Saturday evening we had a supper and singing. On Sunday, we met together to worship our Lord. We want to thank each one who made the effort to come.

Also visiting us this month were Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We want to thank these brothers for lending themselves.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

February 10 the engagement of Bro. Chad Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Heidi Refener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori, Rittman, OH) was made known.

We certainly wish them God's blessings and direction as they make plans for their future lives together as husband and wife.

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) with us on a recent Sunday. May we all with humble hearts apply the good Word we heard to our lives daily. We trust God will richly bless them for their labors of love on our behalf, and we hope they will visit us again as the Lord opens the way.

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## OHIO, LATTY Heidi Hackenjosh Kathy Sinn

Our congregation was blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. Sharing the Word with us were Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), John Grimm (Columbus,

OH), and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Tara Laukhuf (Bro. John and Sis. Marcia) was united in marriage to Bro. Lane Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda, Bluffton, IN). May the Lord bless their life together.

We rejoice with Sis. Betty Klopfenstein (Bro. Raymond and Sis. Catherine) as her engagement to Bro. Harlan Wulf (Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, Lester, IA) was announced. May God direct them in their planning.

We enjoyed a weekend of blessings as we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Aaron Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam).

Cris and Sis. Amy Hopkins welcomed a new addition to their family. Carli and Josi are happy for their new little sister, Darci Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant and Kurt and Laurel Hopkins.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Stoller celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We are thankful the Lord has blessed them with many years together.

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD John and Marci Pfeiffer

We are thankful to have had visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) willingly brought God's Word to us.

Hannah Joy Beer was born on January 21 to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy Beer. She was welcomed home by Wesley, Johanna, and Wade. Her grandparents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Recent hospital patients from our congregation have been Bro.

Tony Eichof, Sis. Lucille Groh, Sis. Elisabeth Betsch, and Sis. Melinda Matuch (Athens, AL). We trust God will be near each one and grant healing according to His will.

God has blessed our assembly with two additional families. Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller and their son Brad have moved from Florida. Robert and Diana Malone and Bro. Ben Beer are from Columbus, OH. (Bro. Ben is Diana's father). We want to welcome each one!

"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."

*St. Luke 15:7*

We are grateful that Jason and Nora Sabo have decided to seek the Lord in repentance. Their parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo and Carl and Lila Schuster.

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## OHIO, RITTMAN Anna Schar Sandy Zollinger

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

*Psalms 145:18*

We are thankful to report that two souls have called upon the Lord in repentance. We hope Hannah Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda) and Kelly Blough Barker (Jacky) feel the Lord's nearness and grace as they have begun their new walk with the Lord.

On Sunday, January 20, we welcomed three new souls into the brotherhood: Bro. Shane Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Bro. Amos Maibach (Bro. Alpha Jr. and Sis. Denise), and Bro. Marlin Miller



(Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene). May God bless Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in this work of faith.

We gathered Saturday night, January 26, for the reading and exhortation of the Memorandum. May the Lord remind us of the instruction and encouragement given by our Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler, Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and all who labored to put the Memorandum together.

On Sunday, February 10, Bro. Peter Bodrogi (Hungary, Akron, OH) and Sis. Laura Ramsier were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier and Mrs. Peter Bodrogi (a Sister from Hungary). On the same day the engagement of Bro. Chad Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen, Junction, OH) and Sis. Heidi Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) was made known. We should be so thankful when hearts are brought together by God's leading solely.

May the Lord strengthen Bro. Charles Winkler (Pat) as his brother, Eugene Winkler (Debby), has passed on.

We were privileged to have the Word brought forth by visiting ministers, Bros. Ron Palitto and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and James Emch (Phoenix, AZ).

Our Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler traveled to Remington, IN, for the Winter Conference this week. We trust the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt among our watchmen.

May the Lord heal where it would be His will those who were hospitalized, Sis. Martha Beery (the late Bro. Robert), Glenn Miller (Sis. Ella), Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel), Tom Troyer (Rhonda); and Joseph Schar

(Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki) who was admitted February 15.

### OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"With good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

*Ephesians 6:7-8*

Our business meeting was held on January 20 with Bro. John Figel (Sis. Paula) and Bro. Andy Figel (Sis. Cyndi) finishing their obligations as trustee and usher, respectively. The new trustee is Bro. Dennis Miller (Sis. Doris), and the new usher is Bro. Matt Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam). Appreciation is felt for our brethren who work for the Lord to keep our church operating smoothly.

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

*Proverbs 22:6*

Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer will be teaching their new little daughter, Kaitlyn Rose, born on January 22, the way to love the precious Lord Jesus, as well as Kara, Kaitlyn's older sister. The grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake.

"Come, ye little children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

*Psalms 34:11*

The weekend of January 26-27, Sardis Sunday School invited the Junction Sunday School for the

weekend. What a blessed time! The children of several ages spent time getting to know one another, hopefully making new friends, and possibly renewing old friendships by visiting, singing, and eating together. We would like to thank the Sunday School teachers and parents that made this blessed weekend a wonderful time for all.

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward."

*Isaiah 58:8*

The loved ones that were hospitalized this month were Jordan Indermuhle (Trent and Christy) and Baylee Figel (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi). Both are at home now and recuperating.

"Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

*Acts 2:38*

Sardis has a new sister-in-Christ. Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris) gave her testimony and was baptized on the weekend of February 9-10. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) was kind enough to come and aid Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle with this service.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"

*Ephesians 4:12*

The visiting minister for this month was Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH).



"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

*Titus 1:5*

Prayers for our Elder brethren in regards to the mid-winter Elder Conference in Remington, IN, were on many lips recently. To keep our faith and our church intact, we need our Elders. Let's not falter with praying for our dear shepherds, that they can lead us and we can be as lambs and follow.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Edith Miller**  
**Ruth Gasser**

"Thou shalt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of glory..."

*Psalms 16:11*

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler and Andy Stoller in reading the Memorandum at Rittman Church on January 26. We appreciate these brothers who watch for our souls and direct us on the path of life. May we follow with a submissive spirit.

We thank Bro. Ervin for staying to minister to us at Smithville on Sunday. We pray for God's blessings also on the labors of Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) who visited us this past month.

With joy we heard that Katie Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth) has repented and found peace with God and man. May her faith continue to grow as she waits to give her testimony. We rejoice that Zachary Pertee (Ron Pertee and Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin) has an-

swered God's call and is seeking to work out his soul's salvation.

Another kind of joy is experienced when a brother and sister followed the Lord to become husband and wife. The engagement of Bro. Kirby Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta) and Sis. Carrie Miller (Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller) was announced on January 20. May the Holy Spirit guide and direct them as they prepare for marriage.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin with a little daughter, Sophia Ann, on February 1. Her siblings are Zachary, Morgan, Amanda, Lauren, and Matthew. Sophia's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH). May she bring joy to the household as they strive to teach her the ways of the Lord.

In sorrow and pain  
 Thy trust do retain  
 In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

*Zion's Harp #46*

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Charlene Winkler and Bro. Charles Winkler (Pat), whose brother Eugene was called suddenly from this life. His wife and three children also survive. We pray the Lord will be their refuge and strength.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Lou Riegenbach (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez), Bro. Gordon Greenbank (Sis. Emily), and Bro. John Zollinger (Sis. Marge). We trust that the Lord will uphold and strengthen according to each need.

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

Greetings everyone!

Even in the gray days of winter the Lord can make things beautiful.

The Willamette Valley was covered with snow in late January, making everything look clean and white. Even though it only lasted a few days, it was beautiful to look at.

We continue to pray for Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginny) who is suffering from a heart condition. May the Lord give them both hope and strength for each day. We miss seeing Bro. Ray in church and hope he will be able to join us again before too long.

We have had the privilege to listen to sermons from Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) who came to Portland from nearby Silverton to share the Word with us. May the Lord bless them for their efforts on our behalf. Their support to our small flock is truly appreciated.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Kelsey Kuenzi**

Seeds of goodness we are sowing  
 In the hearts of man today.  
 Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,  
 And bear fruit for harvest day.  
 Hasten gladly to the labor.  
 Consecrate to God your heart.  
 Say this day unto your Saviour,  
 "Lord, I'll gladly do my part."

*Hymns of Zion #46*

On January 19, we had our annual business meeting where we elected new brethren to replace those who have completed their terms. Bro. Aden Kuenzi (Sis. Becky) was chosen to be our secretary replacing Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn); Bro. Richard Kraft (Sis. Marianne) is our new trustee, picking up after Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Edith); replacing Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) as usher is Bro. Todd Haun; Bro. Kevin Dettwyler (Bro.



Loren and Sis. Marlene) was given sound system duties as Bro. Eldon Metz (Sis. Alice) finished his term; and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Bro. Loren) will be serving as one of three heads for our dinner committees replacing Sis. Diane Kuenzi (Bro. Myron). We wish to thank all those who are finished with their duties for their countless hours of labor on the behalf of our congregation. We also want to lend support and prayers to those that have been elected to fill their positions of service.

This month we are sharing joy with Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth Metzger. On January 24, they had their first child, Lee Allen. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA). Our prayers are with them as they raise their child. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

January 27 was a beautiful snowy day for Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori Kuenzi as they joined their hearts and lives in marriage. Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi. May God always be the center of their lives and marriage. "...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matt. 19:6)

The weekend of February 3 brought great rejoicing as two new babes in Christ were added to the fold. Sis. Cathy Stadel (Chad) and Bro. James Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra, Forrest, IL) made their covenants with God in the waters of baptism. Our prayers go with them as they begin on the path of our Lord.

This past month we also have experienced the sorrow and loss of a dear sister-in-faith. We fondly remember and will miss Sis. Verna

Bolliger and will remember in prayer her husband, Bro. Elmer. Bro. Elmer wished to express his thanks for all who have helped his wife over the past few months as her health declined. He also expressed an appreciation for all the prayers, cards and love he has received and felt.

We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and family in the loss of Janet's father, Leroy Rush.

We were thankful to have many visitors this month, including Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS). We appreciate their labors to bring the Word to us.

Reminder to the Silverton congregation: March is Silver Lining month. You may put any contributions in the box marked for the Silver Lining. This would also be a good time to let your correspondent know of any address changes, additions, or deletions.

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## PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA

### Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we were blessed to be able to partake of Holy Communion, and to remember the sacrifice our Lord made when He died for us. We thank Elder Bro. Curtis Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and his wife, Sis. Lyla, for being with us for this special evening.

We also were grateful for the opportunity to welcome Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for a mid-week service. We encourage those who are traveling through our area during the week to join us for Wednesday evening services. The worship and fellowship we enjoy on Wednesday evenings helps strengthen, encourage, and sustain

us through the week.

Finally, this month we organized an invite-a-friend weekend and had the opportunity to fellowship with a number of visitors to our small congregation. We thank all those who made the effort to be with us, including Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and their family.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

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

*III John 4*

We were privileged on the weekend of February 2-3 to witness the provings and baptisms of two precious souls, our new Sis. Mahlia and Bro. Jordan Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica). What a blessing it was for our congregation to share this joy with the many brethren and family members who were able to attend.

We are deeply grateful for the Word of Life brought to us in the past month by our visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA) and Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL). Through the Word, we were encouraged to greater faithfulness to God as we follow His leading and praise Him with our very lives.

We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Athens, AL; Atlanta, GA; Eureka, Forrest, and Peoria, IL; Bluffton North, Francesville, La-



Crosse, Leo, and West Lafayette, IN; Sarasota, FL; Smithville, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bluffton North, IN (3/24); Lamont-Gridley, KS (4/7); Leo, IN (4/14); Chicago, IL (4/21); Burlington, IA (4/28). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (3/31). We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

### TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Dale and Amy Ringger

It is good that we can commemorate as a church, and individually, Christ's death and resurrection at Easter time each year. May it be a time of reflection, gratitude and acknowledgement of Christ as Saviour for each one of us.

Bros. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) were here to serve us in the pulpit ministry during the last month. We were blessed with additional visitors from Bluffton, Peoria, and Rockville.

The schedule of ministers for April is the following: April 7 - Wichita, KS; April 14 - Mansfield, OH; April 21 - Bradford, IL; and April 28 - Latty, OH.

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 southwest side access road.

We extend a welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. Contacts are Bro. Bill Zeltwanger (979) 249-5102; Brian and Terri Kaisner (512) 266-0178; Dale Kaisner (512) 255-7583; Bro. David and Sis. Shella Brummitt (512) 360-3379; Sis. Dorothy Martin (210) 658-1968; and Bro. Dale and Sis. Amy Ringger (512) 933-1380.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA Joyce Nohl

Should I restrain the Spirit's  
course

For fear of man so feeble?

Though Satan's hosts are raging  
here,

Should I not be more faithful?

Awed by a mortal's frown, Shall I  
Conceal the Word of God most  
High?

*Zion's Harp #113*

We are so thankful for our faithful brethren that visit us and bring us the truth. This month they were Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). May God bless them for their faithfulness and we pray they will never restrain the Spirit's course for fear of man so feeble.

On January 26 we enjoyed a church dinner and after the dinner assembled together to hear the

Memorandum read. What a fortunate people we are to have brothers who love the church so much they are willing to take of their time to gather together and discuss their concerns for our spiritual lives and then bring the results back to us. We thank our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner for their labors of love.

Come then to the feast of His  
New Covenant,  
Members of His Church, your  
faith renew;  
Thank the Founder of this pre-  
cious Covenant  
Through the chalice He pours  
out for you.  
Here your hands in faithfulness  
uniting  
And the fire of brother-love new  
lighting,  
Let your common prayers rise to  
His throne.  
Thank and praise Him who hath  
made you one!  
*Zion's Harp #26*

Holy Communion was held on Sunday, January 27. Once again, Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner served us in this Holy Feast.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Norman and Sis. Lavina Ballasy in the passing of his brother. May God be with them in this time of sorrow.

A busload representing 15 congregations left from Zapata to tour Mexico. We spent the weekend of February 9-10 in Ixtlan, Mexico. We wish to thank the congregation there for all the hospitality and love they showed us. Even though there is a language barrier, we could feel God's presence. May God bless them.

*The following was written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer*



*Kellenberger:*

The past month has been a busy one for MCCS down here in Rio Bravo, Mexico. We had three work teams back to back and that definitely kept us hopping. We praise God so much for the willing servants that He sends our way that give of their time and money to help in the construction of our school. Our main focus this year is to complete the children's dormitory. It is a 17,000 square foot building that some day, Lord willing, will be home to 150 deaf students. The first floor is complete and we hope to have the second story added by the end of this year. How exciting it will be to have our deaf students actually living on site.

There are two Apostolic Christian teams scheduled for March and we anxiously await their arrival. There is a team coming down March 2-9 that will be led by Bro. Josh

Johnson (Remington, IN) and the team minister will be Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL). Then on March 30-April 6 we will have another AC team here. Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Washington, IL) will lead the team and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) will be the team's spiritual leader. We truly thank God for the AC teams that continue to support the ministry of ICCD/MCCS. If you would like to lead/join on a work team or if you have any questions concerning the ministry, please feel free to contact me at .

On February 14, all of our missionary staff headed down to Monterrey, Mexico, to look at land possibilities for a second campus. Then some of us took a second trip down on February 21 to meet with some Mexican officials and to pursue the possibility of having the land

donated. God continues to open doors and if the Lord wills it, we may be able to begin our second campus some time in the near future. Please pray for the ministry of ICCD/MCCS as we seek God's clear direction about expansion. We know He has a perfect plan and we continue to seek His guidance.

On February 24, we had a special appreciation dinner for all of the Mexican officials and businesses that have been supportive of our work here over the past few years. It is such a blessing to have the support of the local community as well as the support of so many different churches and individuals back in the States. We thank all of you who have given of your time and/or money to further the ministry of ICCD/MCCS. May we all continue to labor together so that the deaf may know Christ.





*Sermon continued from page 2*

that there were times when those souls and each one of us, was involved in things that we knew we shouldn't be doing but we just didn't have the power to do anything about it. Try as we would by ourselves, we just couldn't allow the Word of God to guide us. We heard again last night that for a time, they tried it on their own. They just tried to do better. On the surface, that sounds pretty good, doesn't it? They tried to do better. They tried to do away with the things in their life that they knew were not right. What do you suppose would have happened when we tried that if we would have succeeded? We knew we were doing things wrong so we just thought we would do things better, and we would have succeeded. What would have happened? Would that sense of accomplishment have deceived us to the point where we would have thought, "Well, I am doing better so I really don't need the Word of God. I really don't need the conviction of sin. I am doing better and things are going okay, so I don't need to repent."?

When the Word of the Lord has free course, we find out real fast that it doesn't work to try it on our own. A lot of that may not seem a lot of fun when we are young and unconverted. What a blessing it is from God that He does not allow us to overcome these things by ourselves. Because if He allowed that and we could overcome things by ourselves, I doubt that we would really recognize how badly we need God. Most of us come to the conclusion after trying that for awhile and maybe a number of times while it works for just a little while, it doesn't take very long until we are at least back where we were and possibly even worse. It

is really a blessing of God that He does not allow us to do that on our own.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us." (II Thessalonians 3:1). Do we on a daily basis pray for each other that the Word of God can have complete free course if we are willing to listen to whatever it might be that God would have for us on that particular day? Most of us get up in the morning with a sense of what we plan to do for the day. We plan to do this and we plan to do that and plan to do whatever. We think we have things pretty well under control but how many times does something intervene and we have to realize, "Well, that isn't the way it is going to go today." Then we alter our plans. If we have prayed in the morning fervently that God will really direct us in whatever way that He wants us to go, we should not even be too disappointed, should we, if we really feel God's leading and God's direction?

Then He requests, "That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." (II Thessalonians 3:2). There are those in the world who just do not trust God at all. They have no use for the Word of God. They have no use for the life style that the Lord would teach us to have and they just don't see any reason for it. We might say, "Well, there are some people that are that way that really do not seem to be so wicked. Nice people. Pleasant to be around. Helpful in many ways." What is the definition of a Christian, and what is the definition of a wicked person? Is there anything in between?

I am sure that at one point in our life we thought there was. But either we are a child of God or we are not. We can try to make all kinds of degrees, but if we haven't submitted ourselves to the Lord, if we haven't repented, if we haven't allowed Him

to convert us, or if we are not working on it and if we have not recognized that there are things in our lives that have to go, then are we in fact a Christian? We can come up with all kinds of definitions of a Christian, but very simply a Christian is one who leads a Christ-like life. Not once in a while, not on Sunday morning, but one who leads a Christ-like life to the best of their ability every day. We have to be just a little careful about saying to the best of their ability because without the help of Christ and without allowing Him to change the attitude that we have, we really would not have much ability, would we? So to the best of our ability only counts when we have allowed God to take control of our life. Even then we are going to make plenty of mistakes.

"But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the

things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." (II Thessalonians 3:3-5). Often when I read passages like this, I think of the individual who had a vineyard or an orchard. He went out and found this fig tree that it had not bore any fruit and I think it was a couple of years that it had not borne fruit. He said, "...cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?" (Luke 13:7). The vine dresser said, "Give it another chance. Let me give it a little special attention. Let me dig about it and dung it and let us see if we can encourage it to produce. Then if it doesn't, then cut it down." As I recall, and I might be wrong in the number, but it seems to me it had been either two or three years that he was seeking fruit and didn't find any, and he was going to give it one more.



How many of us resisted God for more than four years? How many of us waited a lot longer than that knowing that we had things to change in our lives? We waited and we waited more than one year, more than two, more than three, more than four. If God would have cut us down at the end of the fourth year when we knew the difference between right and wrong and continued to choose wrong, where would we be? We can take a look at that third verse and be thankful. Also look at the fifth one, the Lord is faithful and He is willing to be patient waiting for Christ.

I sometimes have to wonder now what are we waiting for if we haven't yet turned to the Lord? Or if we have some kind of barrier and even those of us who have some time ago by the grace of God been able to repent and there is this thing maybe we kind of hang on to. What are we really waiting for? Maybe some people will consider it unfair to say this, but it is less than a month since we faced one of the greatest disasters in our nation. Thousands of people were killed instantly or within a very short period of time. But for the grace of God, those disasters could have hit any place. It could have been where some of us happened to have been. We are fortunate enough to be in a small area that I guess most of the time people don't pick on. But I guess I kind of thought when that was going on, that surely there would have to be souls who would be thinking pretty seriously.

Maybe, just maybe, God is calling a little more clearly than He has for a while. He really wants to get the message across that the times are evil and that there is no promise for tomorrow. I don't mean to use scare-tactics. Those simply don't work. What would have to happen—and each one of us needs to an-

swer this question for ourselves—what would have to happen in order for us to finally say, "That is enough. I have resisted God long enough and I want to give in."? What will it take? What if we had that happen in our community or in our nation in the last year?

We have been very thankful and very fortunate that we have had a number of converts the last year. It seems that it goes on one here and one there and it doesn't seem like a lot until you count them up. I think at one point, we had nineteen here, which is a wonderful number. But it is not enough because any time we see one soul who has reached the age of accountability who hasn't repented, we are just not quite satisfied. I guess I would like each one of us to think what would have to happen in my life and what would I expect God to do to really convince me that today is the day, not tomorrow, not next week, not next month, not next year? I guess (and we have a little time left) that last January first, there are souls who are sitting here today who have said, "I will not allow another January first to come without repenting and turning to God." If you made that promise, don't let it become December thirty-first before you think about it again. Don't wait that long. God is patient. God is faithful. There is a time when He might just say, "That is enough," and call someone home unprepared. I can't think of anything that would be sadder.

When we think of the terrible deeds that have been committed and then we think of heaven and hell. We think of the Word of God where we are told that we will either spend eternity in one place or the other. We read the descriptions of hell. Is there really anybody-anybody!-that we would want to spend eternity there, even though they may have commit-

ted the most horrible of crimes? I don't think that we would want anyone to spend eternity there. Certainly we would not want any of our loved ones there.

Last night at the supper table we were visiting and one of the brothers mentioned a family that has a very, very large family — nineteen children. Eighteen of the nineteen are converted. There is one missing. There is still one missing. I don't think it matters if we have nineteen children or if we have one, if there is one missing, we are just not quite satisfied. Oh, it is a comfort when one, or two, or three have, but as a child of God, we can never ever look at a family and say, "They have four out of five. That is pretty good. We will stop worrying now and stop praying for that family." We can't do that. This is one area where we are never quite satisfied.

I think if we would be told today that by next Sunday at this time, we would have twenty-five converts in this church, we would just be thrilled. I guarantee you that next Sunday morning, we kind of hope for number twenty-six or twenty-seven. There isn't anyone that we want left out. There isn't anybody that we want left behind. God doesn't either. That is why He is faithful and that is why He is patient. That is why He is willing time after time after time to offer the opportunity for salvation. A lot of people do not have that opportunity. They possibly hear the Word of God a couple of times and that is it.

For you and I have had as easy a time, most of us, getting into the house of the Lord as what could be humanly possible. I don't know of a way that it could be easier for us to come to the house of God. We have good transportation. We have a comfortable place to sit. In the winter, it

*Sermon continued on next page...*



*Sermon continued from page 45*

is warmed and in the summer, it is cooled. Probably most of us have cars that are the same way. There really isn't much excuse, is there? We all have excuses. We all had excuses, but do any of us have reasons that really will hold up on the final Judgment Day?

I know I have said this before but I think it is valid. Think about your favorite excuse for not repenting, and I don't care what it is. Think about your favorite excuse for not repenting and imagine yourself standing in front of Christ on the cross and saying, "I didn't repent be-

cause..." and then you fill in the blank and see if that really makes sense. To see if it really justifies not turning to the Lord after He paid the price that He did. If our excuse didn't make sense there, do we think it will make any more sense when we are standing in front of God?

He says to us, "I sent my Son. I paid the price. I preserved My Word. I sent people to tell you about salvation and you had everything you needed, why didn't you come?" Will that excuse make any more sense then? If it doesn't, then we probably need to come up with a new excuse

because that one isn't going to work. I haven't found any that will hold water. I've heard a lot of excuses but I have not heard one excuse that God would say, "Oh, yes, why didn't I think of that? That is okay." There are not any of those.

By the grace of God, may each one of us seriously consider our standing. Are we ready? Do we have an excuse that will hold water the day we become accountable?





## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002

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).

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
MEBSH	Mar. 14-22, '02	Les Cayes	Jim Walter	Grade School	9	100%
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	100%
MEBSH	May 16-24, '02	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9	0%
AWA-FRW	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Duane Schieler	Voc. School	4	100%
AWA-T	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5	100%
AWA-B	May 9-17, '02	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Voc. School	2	100%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16, '02	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40	(*) 100%
CCCD	(**) Mar 8-16, '02	Deaf Village	Nate Wiegand	Work Place	40	(*) 95%
CCCD	(*) Mar 23-3, '02	Deaf Village	(4) Wolcott Bible Class	Deaf School	40	50%
CCCD	Apr 1-8, '02	Kingston	(1) Roanoke Bible Class	Deaf School	50/60	95%
CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	(*) Tim Lehman	Work Place	40	(*) 80%
CCCD	May 31-June 8, '02	Deaf Village	(2) Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50/60	100%
CCCD	(*) June 1-8, '02	Montego Bay	(*) Jon Knapp	Deaf School	40/50	(*) 10%
CCCD	July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40	80%

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
(1) Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
(2) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	<a href="mailto:janheimer@hotmail.com">janheimer@hotmail.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
(*) Jon Knapp	309-359-4213		<a href="mailto:jkplan@hotmail.com">jkplan@hotmail.com</a>
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		<a href="mailto:redemed1@aol.com">redemed1@aol.com</a>
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	309-923-9154	<a href="mailto:tbmiller@mymailstation.com">tbmiller@mymailstation.com</a>
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	<a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>
Duane Schieler	765-567-2922	765-567-2922	
Jim Walter	815-692-3158	815-692-2851	
(3) Pete Webel	419-756-2587	815-692-2851	
Nate Wiegand	(*) 309-645-1104		<a href="mailto:NATEWIEG@hotmail.com">NATEWIEG@hotmail.com</a>
(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		<a href="mailto:jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com">jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com</a>
(*) Tim Lehman	913-648-3069		<a href="mailto:tlohman99@yahoo.com">tlohman99@yahoo.com</a>

**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

### Volunteers Needed

World Relief construction teams are currently accepting volunteers for work at the Case de Elisabet Orphanage in Imuris, Sonora, Mexico. Teams are scheduled March 18th, and March 25th. The orphanage is located approximately two hours south of Tucson, AZ. Activities planned for these two teams include: plumbing, electrical, drywall, carpentry, painting, and general labor. Please contact Bro. Jerry Tooley (480)460-4531 or Bro. Mike Leman (303)751-9361 for more information.



**- NOTICE -**

Repair and Distribution of  
Worn Bibles,  
Bible Story Books,  
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Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn  
Books

WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S  
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Please get your books to us or  
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ter.

Books are mainly distributed to  
India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
Box 181 C, 307 W. First St.  
Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

### Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,  
Morton, IL 61550  
309-263-5536 (local#)  
309-263-6841 (fax)

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

*Counseling for depression, anxi-  
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

A free eye clinic is being established in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros. Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr. Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses are needed to support this effort. Please send your used prescription eyeglasses (with cases if available) to:

Bryan Stoller  
817 S. Locust  
Pontiac, IL 61764

### 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.



### Gateway Woods Auction August 17, 2002

### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible Distribution Center which  
was formerly in Leo, IN has been  
moved to Bluffton, IN.*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

*To order, contact,*  
Apostolic Christian Church  
**Bible Distribution**  
PO Box 30  
1254 S. Main Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587  
E-mail: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)



**World Relief Child Sponsorship Program**

In 1998 the World Relief Child Sponsorship Program was established by the National World Relief Committee to give the members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches an opportunity to be directly involved in the lives of children that are born in economically distressed areas of the world.

At this time the program offers students for sponsorship in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. The Lord has blessed this work and we now have approximately 550 students and 63 schools sponsored through this program. The small monthly donation enables the student to receive a Christian education and learn a basic academic curriculum. The donation helps with the student's school tuition, school uniforms, supplies, and more, depending on the country.

An important part of the sponsor's contribution is to pray for the student on a regular basis. The students, in turn, are encouraged to pray for their sponsors. Blessings are received by both the students and the sponsors.

We are thankful our God has blessed this work. If you would like information on sponsoring a child, please see the Child Sponsorship Brochure made available in your church. Or you may write, Child Sponsorship Board, PO Box 36, Morton, IL 61550 to request a brochure.

**Mexico Work Teams 2002**

*Granjas Community Center & School (Juarez, MX)*

Date	Coordinator	Home Phone	Work Phone	Project
Mar 16-Mar 23	Mike Fiechter	260-565-3402	260-565-3412	Finish details
Mar 23-Mar 30	Jay Grube	260-597-7330	260-820-0335	Finish details

*If you are interested in helping with this project and there is no coordinator listed, please call Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr.*

**Mexico Work Teams 2002**

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Imunis	March 23-30, '02	Construction	Jerry Tooley	480-460-4531 jtooley@medavisco.com
Juarez	March 23-30, '02	Construction	Jay Grube	260-565-3402 grube@adamswells.com
Rio Bravo	March 30-April 6, '02	Construction	Ron Kellenberger	309-383-2325 kberger@mtco.com
Juarez	April 3-10, '02	Medical	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Juarez	June 5-12, '02	Construction	Milford Bible Cls	260-831-4684
Rio Bravo	June 22-29, '02	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Juarez or Copper Canyon	October 23-31, '02	Medical	Cheryl Hermann	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com

*If anyone would desire to go to Imuris at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Jerry Tooley*



**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Gateway Woods offers three \$2,000.00 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by writing or calling Joe Gerber at 260-627-2159. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods .

**GATEWAY WOODS (IL) SUMMER WORK TEAM COORDINATOR**

Gateway Woods Family Services in central Illinois is accepting applications for two 2002 Summer Work Teams Coordinators. We are seeking two brothers, led of the Lord, to coordinate work teams in the central Illinois area throughout the summer of 2002. Last year, Gateway Woods Family Services was blessed to complete 10 work projects in 10 cities throughout Illinois. The positions are full-time and paid. Experience with construction is preferred. These positions offer a chance to work with fellow brothers and sisters, use construction and organizational skills, and serve those in need. For further information, please contact one of the following brothers to request an application or job description.

Jeff Thames  
24710 Allentown Rd.  
Tremont, IL 61568  
309-266-0767 (work)  
209-266-0783 (home)  
309-360-9399 (cell)

Kent Kloter  
18848 Zimmerman Rd.  
Deer Creek, IL 61733  
309-965-9008





*The life of Isaac Gehring continues. He was an Elder of the church at Sardis, OH. He arrived in America in 1848, and passed away in 1896.*

Bro. Isaac Gehring was only 29 years old when he came to America. Sardis, OH, was the second church of our faith to be established in the United States.

Sardis was strategically located on the Ohio River, so the church became a "passing through" and a "feeder" church; many European emigrants spent time in Sardis before settling in other areas where congregations were formed. Gehring, as a minister and later as an Elder, made a significant contribution by ministering to these many newcomers.

He worked closely with Elder Joseph Bella. Because Sardis was a hub of church activity, these two men exerted a wide influence in establishing the faith in America. Gehring was ordained Elder in approximately 1868 and served until his death in 1896.

Gehring is remembered for his kind and gentle disposition. He is remembered as a brother who had a sincere love for everyone and once said, "One cannot catch fish by striking in the water." One is more successful by luring the fish and furnishing an appeal to them. In the realm of salvation, this is true because people cannot be coerced into repentance, but instead will respond more readily to the gentle and appealing message of love, and also to the radiant example of a believer.

In 1855, Gehring learned there were individuals in the Rittman, OH, area who were interested in their soul's welfare. The matter of providing a ministry to the Rittman area was of no small consequence since it was nearly 140 miles from Sardis. Gehring, full of youth, vigor, and zeal, set out walking to Rittman. In 1928, John Ott of Lamont, KS, recalled an incident that he, along with Andy Yost and Isaac Gehring, experienced during Gehring's first walk to Rittman. The ac-

count was told to Rudolph Graf who recorded it:

"He then told me a long story. At seventeen years, he with a young man named Yost, were baptized by Elder Isaac Gehring. The next day on Monday he joined this Elder Gehring who started for what is now the Rittman area. This trip they made on foot taking six days. Father Gehring made this long trip three times during his life. Must have been his first trip for near New Philadelphia they made inquiry as the shortest way to their destination. This they said was along a new laid railway. About two miles further on they met a woman with a bag of groceries on her arm. They bid her the time of day in their Swiss dialect, walked on but soon were called back by this woman, also speaking Swiss. The conversation was pleasant. The woman asked their destination and reason for such a long walk. Then Bro. Gehring revealed the whole matter. There were seeking souls where they wished to visit. This woman then asked about the faith and doctrine Bro. Gehring preached. Then she also related to them of a deep soul's conviction which she made eight years before. Repentance and heart's conversion followed by peace of heart, which she had never experienced before though baptized as a babe and confirmed in the state church in Switzerland. She lived nearby and asked these brothers to stop on their return way. She said her name was Katherine Wingeier and that she had four children then, all boys.

The visit to Rittman area was blessed by the Lord. It was the beginning of the large assembly there at this time. The brothers returned during the week following. They were heartily received by this Katherine Wingeier. In the eight years this woman said she had never found anyone of like experience as was her conversion. The Wingeier home was near Stone Creek. About a year later, a second walk was made to the Rittman area, Bro. Ott again accompanying Bro.

Gehring. They called at the Wingeier house. It was empty, also none of the neighbors had any idea where this family had gone. One said it had been rumored that they had left for Michigan. It was a grave disappointment. This was Bro. Ott's story. He had never heard any more for his family soon moved to Kansas. Also mentioned that after the baptism of he and Andy Yost, he had not seen nor heard anything of this Yost."

During one of his early trips to the Rittman area, he was visiting a home of prospective believers. A young son in the home where he was visiting sat with his feet perched up on the dining room table. He somewhat casually or disrespectfully asked Gehring, "Where are you staying tonight?" To which Gehring replied, "Wherever the Lord opens the door." Such a forthright statement tends to symbolize the faith and trust exemplified, not only by Gehring, but by other forefathers of the faith. The Lord and the church were first in their lives, and they served both with all diligence.

The young boy who irreverently asked Gehring this question, and had previously scoffed at his preaching, was Daniel M. Steiner who soon became converted and was the first minister of the Rittman congregation.

While Gehring experienced many wonderful times preaching the gospel, he also had his share of setbacks and danger. One of these incidents occurred on August 30, 1866, when he and Elder Henry Geistlich of Switzerland were driving home from a church service at Sardis, OH. Geistlich recounts the incident in his diary, "Gehring and myself were driving home. The horses became frightened and ran away, throwing us both out of the wagon. I was slightly injured."

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**Next issue:**

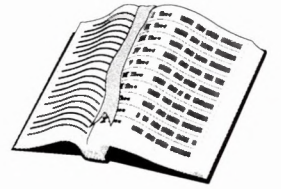
The life of Bro. Joseph Bella





# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean



# 希望の光

## “Heaven”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

Everybody want to know about Heaven. It is God's home office. God travels a lot and can be everywhere at one time because He is Spirit and not confined to time and space. Psalm 20:6, "He will hear from His holy heaven." This indicates that God hears our prayers from His home office, although this reception may not be limited to His home office.

But what kind of a place is this Heaven? There is another meaning for Heaven which is the sky or outer space. We are talking about God's dwelling place, His main dwelling place. To get ready to go there is the most important thing in life.

We can read in I Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Surely this preparation has taken place in Heaven, and if we aren't capable of understanding it in our human bodies, we might as well

give up in that regard and wait until we get there. However, the Bible attempts to describe Heaven with earthly vocabulary to give us some idea of what Heaven is like.

First let's consider the things that are not in Heaven. Revelation describes the heavenly city as the Apostle John saw it in his vision. Verse 4 reads, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." I can imagine tears of joy and maybe God will let us keep those tears, but tears of sorrow will all be wiped away because there will be no more death and no more sorrow. No more funerals in other words. Also there will be no more crying nor pain. This means no more disease or illness of any kind, including mental illness. That is very good. Revelation 22:5 adds, "And there shall be no night there."

Next, let's consider the things

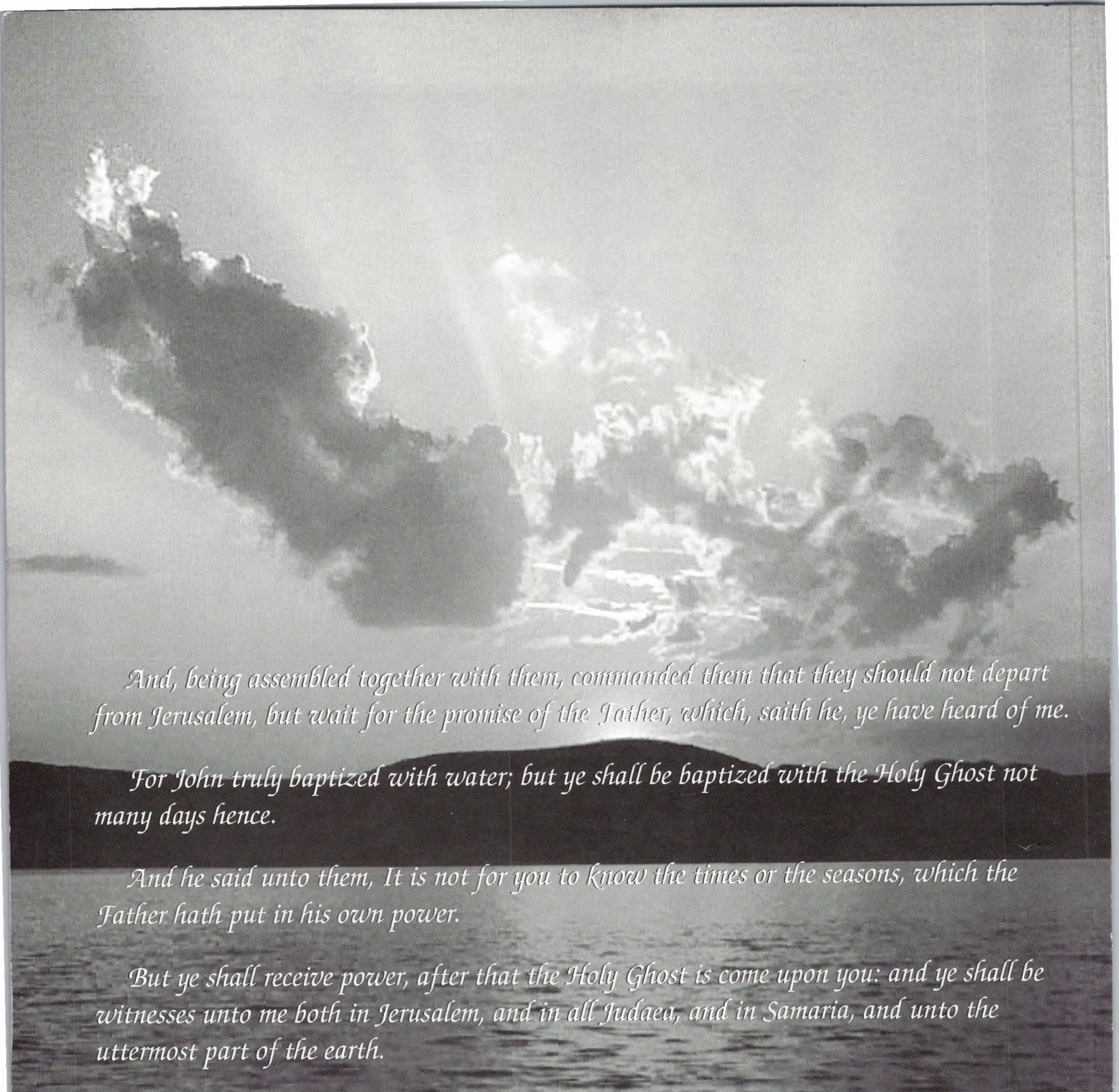
which are in Heaven. In Revelation seven angels are mentioned who "Stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb." This indicates that the angels sing in Heaven. Perhaps the believers from Hungary will join in as their singing is quite angelic. I better just listen.

There seems to be no shortage of gold in Heaven. Revelation 21:18 reads, "And the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." I have been corrected for equating the heavenly city spoken of in Revelation, with Heaven itself, but let me persist in thinking that what applies to the heavenly city probably applies to Heaven itself.

There are also many precious stones in Heaven, which we shy away from here on earth, in order to comply with scriptural teachings for modesty and humility. Revelation 21:21, "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls." A nice home office.

# 希望の光





*And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

*For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

*And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

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