



The Silver Lining

Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters...

April 2002

“JESUS CHRIST GAINED THE VICTORY”

Sermon by Bro. Beirne L. Messner, Morris, MN

Isaiah 66 and I Thessalonians 5

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” The apostle continues to tell us, “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” I Thessalonians 5:1-3.

I think it is important for us, dear ones, to be living each and every day in the earnest expectation that the Lord is going to reappear. The Lord Himself, when He was upon this earth, said that He did not know the day or the hour. But in this Scripture, He tells us of the times and seasons we are not to be ignorant.

There has always been sin in the world, hasn't there? When the Lord was upon the earth in those days, it was considered the last days, nearly two thousand years ago. The apostles wrote, He “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;” Hebrews 1:2. So we are and he also spoke of the perilous times that would come in the last days, how that men would be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, and listing those sins of the flesh (see 2 Timothy 3:2) that men would be involved in.

The apostle also wrote, “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past...” Ephesians 2:3. A manner of living is not right for the dear ones. We are so thankful that God saw that condition from the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden. He saw the need of a Saviour to

be sent into this world to become the atoning sacrifice for the sins of man. He did it because He loved us, didn't He, dear ones? He so loved the human race, we can read there in John, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. I think tonight, we are mostly made up of those who believe, here this evening hour.

So we talk about love. The love of the Father to His people, which is manifested in His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. True love always draws forth a manifestation of that love. God manifested His love towards us by the sending forth of His Son into this world. How do we manifest our love to God? We read that we love Him because He first loved us. Love is defined better by that which is manifested by the actions that it prompts. If we love God, we are going to keep His commandments, aren't we? His commandments are not grievous, but they are a blessing because we know that God commands those things for our good to keep us in the way of light.

We read of the darkness here, and the whole world lies in wickedness and in that darkness of sin. Because of sin, condemnation is passed upon men. The eternal judgment waits beyond repentant sinner. We are so thankful that we can read here, “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” I Thessalonians 5:4. How does a thief come? He comes very unexpectedly. He sneaks in and he takes the things that are precious.

We believe the Lord is going to come as a thief who is going to come very unexpectedly in a day when we are not looking for Him. Yet, if we are children of God, the day is not going to take us unawares because we have been given the command to watch and to pray. Watch, like the guard at the tomb; they were to stay

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)*

April 2002

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

The Beauty of Holiness

To be holy is to be spiritually pure and to be deeply reverent. To be holy requires one to be untainted by evil and to be dedicated to serving God. There are many passages of scripture that encourage us to strive for holiness. Some of the passages offer encouragement by telling us of God's holiness. "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory" (Is. 6:3) Other passages entreat us to strive to be holy as God is. "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16).

Surely as His children we recognize the privilege and duty of holiness toward God. "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (I Ch. 16:29). Although this is a very short verse, it contains many very important messages.

First, it is our duty to strive toward holiness to God. Because of His goodness and His greatness, the glory of holiness is due Him. It is a commandment, not a suggestion. The name of the Lord is worthy of glory. As His children we have the opportunity to give the Lord what is due unto Him. King David recognized that giving glory and honor to the Lord was a special privilege. "Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy" (Ps. 99:9).

Holiness toward God is a condition of beauty almost beyond the comprehension of the human mind. In numerous places of the scripture, the servants of God tried to pen into words a description of God's holiness and they seemed to recognize that His holiness is so great that their descriptions were inadequate. Job, in his darkest hour, recognized man's inability to fully comprehend God's greatness. "...therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I know not" (Job 42:3).

After the children of Israel escaped

the destruction and oppression of the Egyptians, Moses sang the praises of God's holiness as a thank offering. "Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness..." (Ex. 15:11). Moses had seen the futility of serving idols and recognized that among all the gods of the universe, there was no god that demonstrated the holiness of the God of Israel. Of all the gods of Egypt and of all of the gods of the heathen whose lands they passed through, none displayed holiness toward those who worshipped them.

After the death of Eli, the children of Israel were defeated by the Philistines because they had forsaken the Lord. The Philistines captured the ark of God and took it into the house of Dagon. They suffered terrible plagues because of their sin toward God. They wanted to send the ark back to the children of Israel because they recognized the God of Israel was a holy God. "...the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy Lord God..." (I Sa. 6:24)? Although they gave their god Dagon credit for delivering the children of Israel into their hands, they later came to recognize that Dagon could not stand before the holy God of Israel.

Isaiah wrote "...Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Is. 6:3). He then recognized his inadequacy when he said "...Woe is me! for I am undone;..." (Is. 6:5). Isaiah felt that he was of unclean lips, unable to fully express the holiness of God.

Another important concept in recognizing the Lord's holiness is that it gives us the opportunity to bring the Lord an offering. Before Christ's sacrifice on Calvary's cross, the offerings brought to God were generally animals sacrificed as a temporary atonement for sin, which fulfilled the requirements of the old law. The offerings of man were incomplete. The blood of animals was not pure, and therefore not really

worthy of the holiness of God. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ has brought to mankind the opportunity to "...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1).

As a result of the suffering of our Savior on the cross, we have the opportunity to give our entire life to God. We sing in a hymn "Let your whole life be an offering" (Zion's Harp #159). Jesus emphasized how important it is to be completely submissive to God and to dedicate our lives to Him. He said "...No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62). A partial submission to God's will and looking back to the things of the world would be to pollute the holiness of God and make "...the latter end ...worse with them than the beginning" (2 Peter 2:20).

In what other ways can we recognize the beauty of God's holiness? We need to recognize that the beauty of God's holiness is not a description of physical appearance. Outward beauty does not assure us of holiness. It is more likely that it will prevent holiness. Solomon taught us that "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain:..." (Prov. 31:30) and Isaiah wrote that "...when we shall see him (Jesus), there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Is. 53:2).

From these instructions we can recognize that we must look beyond appearance for holiness. God was willing to send His Son to die for our sins. Jesus was willing to sacrifice all for the benefit of mankind. This willingness to show His love for us demonstrates holiness that is far more valuable than the beauty that pleases the eye.

The holiness of God and the beauty that it radiates goes beyond what the natural eye can see. Sin clouds our vision of holiness. However, a clean and purified heart allows us to see in His holiness, the God who "...was, and is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561.



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

Projects in Haiti

We are thankful that the work in Haiti continues as a viable project that draws considerable interest among our brethren. In past issues we have reported that coordinators have been sent by World Relief to help not only our teams but to assist Haitians and missionaries that oversee the projects.

Bro. Eric & Sis. Rhonda Tonner (Bluffton, IN) are serving their third year full time, Bro. Jan & Sis Val Gutwein along with Tess, Alisha & Mark (Francesville, IN) are serving their third year short term. These brothers, skilled in many areas but especially appreciated for their maintenance expertise and transportation of teams around the country. Work teams and support team continue to offer assistance for approved projects.

Constructon work teams

We send six construction teams per year to build school roofs. These teams usually consist of eight to twelve people. Lumber for these projects are purchased in Miami and sent by ship to Haiti. The quality of material is much better than can be purchased in Haiti, making the work easier and the construction better.

The teams are transported to the guest houses and to job sites by vans purchased with World Relief funds. The largest group we work with in Haiti is known as M.E.B.S.H. This is a group of Haitian churches that also has many projects to help their people. Eris Labady is a Haitian we have been helping with construction of schools and water projects.

Water Wells

In addition to our construction teams we assist in drilling fresh water wells. This project is under the direction of a

group of brothers from the Tremont, IL church. Supplies and equipment are sent on sea containers and teams travel to Haiti several times a year to assist and teach drilling procedures and help with maintenance problems.

Trade schools

We have been involved with three trade schools that teach mostly young men, but includes a few women. Skills of carpentry, masonry, welding and tailoring are taught. We supply tools and materials and they provide the teachers, some of who are German missionaries. These projects are supervised by brothers from Francesville, Remington, Wolcott and Bluffton IN.

Medical mission

The medical aspect of our work in Haiti is quite extensive, including support by sending material aid to Hospital Albert Schweitzer and Grace Children's Hospitals. We also are one of the main supporters of Hospital Lumiere located in a remote mountainous region of South Haiti. This facility serves a large area and in addition to inpatient services has an outpatient clinic, community health programs and nurse's training. We provide assistance to these programs as well as helping support their operating costs and pharmacy inventory.

Our World Relief funds support a handicap program for young women, which includes housing and teaching general schooling and a trade to make a living on their own.

One of our favorite places to visit in Haiti is a home for the elderly. We have constructed several buildings that serve as living quarters and supply monthly funding for operating costs. When we visit they are always ready to sing for us to show their appreciation. It is a time to reflect what God has done for

each of us.

King's Hospital is located in Port-au-Prince and serves the needy and destitute. They also provide an area that serves as an orphanage with children under ten years of age who have been abandoned or dropped off because their parents could not afford to take care of them. We are told that parents do this as an act of love, knowing that the children will be better taken care of.

Material aid

Material aid is sent in sea containers on a regular basis to supply these projects and help them obtain materials that are difficult to get.

Veterinarian and agriculture assistance

We work with S.E.E.D. to teach veterinarian and agriculture skills to Haitian students in south Haiti. They have many outposts where work is done. Our work teams go to numerous villages to treat and vaccinate animals. We also help them do research on plant diseases, seed varieties and animal diseases. Bro. Bob & Sis. Sue Beebe and daughter, Sis. Kara (South Bend, IN) spent a month at the end of last year doing veterinary work and teaching agriculture skills.

We are also involved with several other organizations that serve the people of Haiti. Schedules of work team dates and numbers for team leaders are published in this issue.

We will have additional articles on individual projects and also on our support of projects in Jamaica in future articles. Contributions to help support these projects can be sent to:

Jerry Bauman
Apostolic Christian World Relief
9652 Sterling Road
Rittman, OH 44270
(330) 925-6163



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

Apostolic Christian Publications Serves Our Brotherhood

We wish to use this month's page to outline some of the services the Mission Committee provides in making wholesome and spiritually edifying items available to all.

Bookstore in Eureka

Apostolic Christian Publications, located in Eureka, Illinois was created with the following purpose. "To create, print and distribute religious material and publications relating to the needs of the Apostolic Christian Church of America and to disburse the funds we receive from brethren and friends who wish to share their blessings with others. The focus of this nonprofit corporation is to promote the spiritual growth and religious training of the Church."

Our bookstore is located on the south side of highway 24 on the west edge of Eureka. There is a sign saying "Apostolic Christian Publications."

Bibles and hymn books

Bibles in the King James Version, which is the one embraced by our fellowship, are in stock in a number of different styles, sizes, and type size. Versions of this translation are sometimes limited in other book stores, and this is kept in mind as we stock our inventory.

Hymn books are also kept on our shelves. Most of these cannot be found in other book stores. We stock Zion's Harps, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle Hymns, Gospel Hymns, and Hymns of Christmas. The leadership of the church has a strong desire to continue to have these traditional hymnals available to our brotherhood in a time when they could not be procured elsewhere.

Sunday School materials

Over the years our brethren have gone to great lengths to prepare and publish materials that would be acceptable to our heritage of faith. Each of these have been approved, and are offered in our bookstore as a service to our local congregations.

These items include our Sunday School Curriculum, Sunday School lessons, Bible School materials, and other supplementary items. Every effort has been made to keep the costs low. Some of the materials are furnished with no cost.

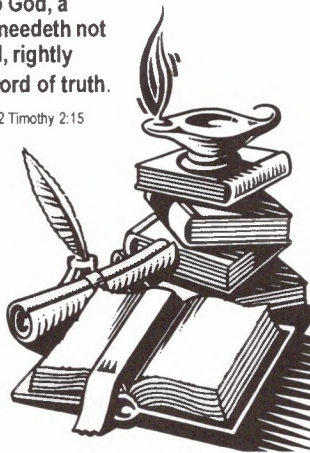
Bible story books

In recent years we have received permission to publish and print Bible story books for young children, suitable for home use as well as in Sunday Schools. As with many other traditional publications, these became unavailable commercially when more "modern" versions appeared.

We thank God that He opened the way for us to be able to continue to have these books available to our brethren and friends, and we encourage you to use this as a source for literature that has stood the test of time and continues to be edifying.

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

2 Timothy 2:15



Cassette tapes

Over the years, brethren have done research and carefully prepared talks or Bible studies on specific issues and needs. A catalog of titles is available on request.

Froehlich material

We also stock books and tapes taken from the writings of the founder of our church, Bro. Samuel Heinrich Froehlich. The original translations of some of his writings have been redone to make them easier to read.

Stop in and visit us

Our hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. We wish to extend a sincere and friendly invitation to anyone who is in the area to stop in and visit us. In the world in which we live, it seems that those values which served believers so well in the past are diminishing. It is our hope that we can help keep a supply of scripturally based items which will help preserve the foundation of our precious faith.

Ordering policies

Orders are received via mail, phone, or in person. At this time, we do not have a fax machine. Orders are shipped via UPS daily. Payment is made by cash, check, or money orders. We do not accept credit cards. Invoices are sent with each order. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for easy payment.

Price lists are sent once a year to all congregations in care of the elder or lead minister. If you would like a price list, please call or write to the following mailing address.

Apostolic Christian Publications
805 W. Cruger St Box 52
Eureka, Illinois 61530
(309) 467-3611

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

Part VI – Telephone Consultations with a Counselor

“When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 43:2

God did not promise that our lives would be easy or that we would always feel good. However, what He did promise is that when we pass through the difficult times in our lives that He would be with us and we would not be consumed. There are times that as fellow believers, family and friends we would like to be able to ease another person's burden. Even if we cannot solve other person's problems, it may be possible to support, listen, encourage or offer ideas of instruction to them. At times, it can be very helpful to talk with someone as we search for answers to the challenges we face. When going through a struggle, it is important that we stay true to God's Word, obedient to His calling and submissive to His will. Finding someone that we can trust and who will be supportive when we are going through emotional or relationship struggles can be instrumental in helping us be overcomers.

Previous Silver Lining articles have discussed the Mental Health Hotline and professional counseling available through Apostolic Christian Counseling Services. This article will describe telephone consultations with the professional counselors at ACCS. These consultations are initiated when an interested person calls the ACCS toll free number: 877-370-9988. All phone calls are received by the ACCS an-

swering system. The system then provides the caller with options for which counselor he or she would like to speak with. For example, if the caller has questions pertaining to children or adolescents, they could select that option. If a caller does not know who they should talk to or does not have a preference, there is a general option that can be selected. Once the caller leaves a message in the selected mailbox, the appropriate ACCS counselor is paged and the call will be returned.

The consultation service is available to people who are experiencing struggles, family or friends who are concerned about someone who is struggling and to Elders and ministers who are working with someone who is struggling. Some of the requests for consults are for people who need specific information about a current struggle. This may involve discussing the need to seek professional counseling, the need to seek spiritual counsel, what type of services to seek, the need to be assessed for medication, etc. This information may be given directly to the person struggling or someone who is supporting them. ACCS counselors do not provide counseling or assign any diagnosis over the phone.

Sometimes the calls come from individuals who are already receiving professional counseling. They may be calling with questions about the counseling they are receiving or someone they know is receiving. ACCS can help them to understand more about the suggestions or interventions they are receiving from their counselor or make suggestions about how to use the counseling more effectively.

At times there is an ongoing situation involving a difficult mental health or relationship issue. This may involve several people who are family, friends or people from a particular church. An Elder or minister

may also be involved in trying to assist. An ACCS counselor may be asked to help sort out the involvement of the different parties and to make suggestions about how they can work together effectively.

Telephone consultations are often helpful for Elders and ministers who are working with struggling individuals. This is especially true during situations when trying to sort out how mental health issues impact a struggling person's spiritual life.

Whether for gaining support or information, it is often helpful to seek help from an outside party during a difficult time. The counselors at ACCS are committed to doing what they can to help struggling individuals.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee, but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”

I Chronicles 28:9

Man is always inclined to be intolerant toward the thing, or person, he hasn't taken time adequately to understand.

—*Brown*

One of the challenges at the Home for the Handicapped is to truly understand what the residents and family are going through. Though we will never be able to fully comprehend what is going on in their heart or mind, we must take an adequate amount of time with a

full measure of patience so we can have an appropriate love and understanding of both the resident and their family.

What comfort we can take knowing that the Father above can and does search the hearts of men and understands the thoughts that cannot be expressed in words.

We are thankful for those of you who remember us in prayer. Please pray for us that we might more fully understand the thoughts and feelings of the residents and their families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Lester Miller (resident at Timber Ridge) and Ken Kennedy (parent of Gail Kennedy – resident at Timber Ridge) who passed away this past month.

MAY birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Yvonne Arbuckle (1), Judy McRoy (2), Terry Stoller (6), Steve Slagel (13), Allison Given (14), Ray Virkler (17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Marlene Moser (22), Chip Terhorst (22), Garth Boyer (26). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Kristi Knapp (29). At Detroit CRS, 650 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Jackie Barton (26).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Joe Gerber

Perhaps the greatest of all the spiritual disciplines is prayer. Time and time again in the Scriptures, we see God asking, encouraging, and even pleading with His people to pray. Time and time again in the Scriptures, we also see God's people respond initially and then later fall back into prayer complacency. Why is this so? It's because prayer represents the ultimate act of faith.

For example, when we read the Holy Scriptures, we are actively reading something, touching some-

thing, and gaining new information; our eyes read across the page and our mind is engaged with the text. When we go to church, we are actively singing, listening and fellowshiping. Both reading the Bible and going to church are sensory experiences and therefore much easier for us to do. But what about prayer? We are asked to quietly pray (commune) with a God that we cannot see, cannot hear, and Who does not respond to us in a sensory way. It is an act of sheer faith. Only through faith (and through seeing answered prayer) can we be motivated to pray. For this reason, our prayer life is an effective measure of our faith. How are we doing?

The Bible says, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17) and "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for the saints" (Eph. 6:18). Our lives, churches and spiritual growth will only be as powerful as our prayers. It is a spiritual law. Isn't it interesting that most of us probably spend more time in church on Sunday than we do in prayer throughout the entire week, even though prayer is mentioned far more often than church attendance (and even the church is called a "house of prayer"!). May we continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer!

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Gavon D. to the Meister House. We pray that God would show Gavon His will and purpose for his life. Please pray for him.

In Foster Care, we would like to welcome Melinda R. Please pray for her spiritual and physical well-being (she has cystic fibrosis). We are also working on several other foster care placements. If you are interested in learning more about Gateway Woods Foster Care, please call us at 1-888-443-4283. In addition, we have recently com-

pleted an international adoption home study for a Christian family who wishes to adopt a girl from Russia.

The bulldozers have really been working hard in the past month, as our school building is finally under construction! Please be looking for opportunities to help with our school building, including the "Equip-a-Room" campaign and an opportunity to buy books for our library. You can watch the progress of our school building on our web-site at www.gatewaywoods.org and in the Spring issue of The Gate Post in April or May.

Gateway Woods Family Services is again operating the Summer Workteams program in central IL. Please call (309) 266-0767 if you are interested in volunteering or if you are aware of anyone in your local community who needs assistance with building, landscaping or remodeling.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Susan Meister will be leaving their positions as Houseparents to return to Illinois. We offer our warmest thanks and prayers to the Meisters for their years of service and sacrifice at Gateway Woods. We pray that God will bless them as they follow the Lord's leading. If you are interested in Houseparenting, please call Bro. Ed Graf at 1-888-443-4283.

We would like to offer special thanks to all who attended our Rep. Meetings in both IN and IL. We were very encouraged by the attendance at both meetings as well as the enthusiasm and support shown. We would also like to welcome Bro. Mike Prevo (Gridley, IL) to our Board of Directors and offer our gratitude to Bro. Eldon Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) for his wonderful service on our Board of Directors. May God bless all of our Reps, Board Members and supporters as you labor with us to "turn lives around" through the power of Jesus Christ!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Melinda Matuch

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of
the world.

Our Bible story today was about separating the goats from the sheep. We learned that God doesn't separate us based on how we look or what we wear. He looks inside our hearts to see what kind of person we are and whether or not we truly love and serve Him by doing His will. We learned that we are to love with God's eyes and not our own. We are blessed with a wonderfully diverse group of children here at the preschool and are privileged to be allowed to care for each and every one of them.

Our enrollment is up! We have welcomed six new little people in the last few weeks, including a set of twin boys. Our lunch table is full from one end to the other.

This month will be the spring school board meeting. Please keep our board members in your prayers as they travel and seek the Lord's will. Also, we wish to extend a welcome to anyone who would like to be a volunteer this summer. Please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037 so that we can make plans accordingly.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Joan Reinhard Louise Hall

Our thanks go to Bro. Randy and Sis. Evie Mogler (Washington, IL), as they spent two weekends with us, and Bro. Randy taught us from God's Word. We are always thankful when we can spend time with

those we have known for many years, and it was blessing to renew our bonds of friendship and love. We also had Sis. Monica Price's grandparents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy Steffen (Milford, IN), here with us for a Wednesday evening, and Bro. Walter was willing to have the service for us. Others that visited here this month were from Forrest, Goodfield, Roanoke, and Washington, IL, and Leo and Milford, IN. We are thankful to God for the freedom of travel in our country.

We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter and David and Carolyn Siniard, and great-grandparents, Sis. Ola Mae Barnes and Sis. Dessie Siniard, as on March 20, Walker Kawliga Kyle was born. He is welcomed at home by his big brother and parents, Steven and Beci Kyle.

We have had many in our small congregation who have been sick this month. Sis. Dessie Siniard spent some time in the hospital and is now in the Athens Convalescent Center. If anyone should care to send a card, the address is 611 W. Market St., Room 30 N., Athens, AL 35611. Sis. Ethel Haggemaker fell and broke her hip and spent some time in a nursing home. She is home now, and we pray God's healing hand would be upon her body. There has also been some of the typical winter-time sicknesses here, and others who have been sick are Bro. J.R. Hall, Sis. Ola Mae Barnes, Bro. Don and Sis. Ruby Ross, and Kendra Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara).

We welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk back from Zapata, TX, and even though Sis. Joan was not feeling well, we are thankful to have them home and feeling better now.

On March 13, a Wednesday evening, our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and his wife, Sis. Roberta, were here, and we had the Memorandum

from the Elder Conferences read to us. There was a good turnout that night, and we do appreciate the effort put forth by the Elders on our behalf.

The following Sunday was our Sunday School Easter program. It was good to hear the songs and story of Easter again. Our two youngest classes recited the following poem:

Do You Know What I Know?
I know He was born in Bethlehem.
I know He lived among earthly
men.
I know He died like a Roman slave.
I know He was buried in a rich
man's grave.

I know He rose from the dead.
I know He walked again as He
said.
I know He's alive in Heaven today.
I know He's in my heart to stay.

My friend, do you know these
things I've said?
He promised in His Word,
"I'll come back again for you."
Are you ready for Heaven, too?
—*Iris Gray Dowling*

The children ended with the question said in unison: "Are you?" What answer to that question do each of us have? Are we ready for Heaven, too?

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Draw nigh to God, and he will
draw nigh to you."
James 4:8

What a comfort in these times of war and unrest, that our Father Who art in Heaven is ever so close beside us and we can share this strength with one another!

We are enjoying new arrivals of visitors every week, including

Kitchener, Canada, to Mexico, and sure are glad our weather is so pleasant.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Ken Wuethrich and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS). Our thanks to you. We did hear "every one has a gift".

Some of our folks went on a work trip to Jamaica and Mexico and some of our folks volunteer weekly to do World Relief work. Thanks to you.

Our sympathy to Sis. Verna Peuschel on the passing of our dear Ray on February 16. He was awaiting baptism. Also, our sympathy to Sis. Frances Martin, his sister-in-law.

Sis. Jan Elsasser cut her hand on a candle jar and needed five stitches. Sis. Ruth Baer was hospitalized due to a fall. Sis. Lucille Richardson needs prayers. Bro. Earl Roth had an outpatient medical procedure.

Our monthly fellowship dinner and songfest were February 24 and March 17. Make way for our Easter program and also Easter Sunday.

Sis. Jan Elsasser was presented with a gift of baggage as she bids us farewell to move to Illinois.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you very much for the many prayers, cards and gifts I received during my shoulder surgery. I appreciated it very much. Your kindness and love meant a lot to me. God bless you all.

Evelyn Howley

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Bro. Henry Volz has been able to fellowship with us again after two months. We are thankful to have him worshipping with us again. Sis. Elena Kornja and her son, George,

continue to have health problems and need our prayers.

At this time, our Communion service is scheduled for April 28.

Since the February reporting was missed, there are several ministering brothers to list and thank for serving us the last two months. They include Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). Also, Bro. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) was here two Sundays before being called back home to be with his father, who went to be with the Lord shortly after his return.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Bob Haas (Sis. Carole), whose father, Bro. Robert Haas, passed away in Illinois. We ask God to be with Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole and their family here in Arizona during this time of loss.

We thank Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) for sharing the Memorandum with and serving Holy Communion to the Tucson church recently. We appreciate their efforts to travel to Tucson, and we ask God to add His blessing to them and their respective wives, Sis. Nancy and Sis. Connie. We enjoyed our fellowship with them all.

We were also served on the pulpit by Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), and Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) this past month. Our thanks and appreciation go to these brothers also for their love and efforts. May God richly bless them.

We happily welcome Sis. Krista Banwart to Tucson from Illinois. We are excited to have a wonderful young sister added to our little

church. We hope she's as happy to be here as we are to have her.

As I write this, we are entering the week when we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and we are anticipating a beautiful week of sunshine and 80-degree weather. Hopefully we will all soak up the events leading up to and including Easter Sunday in the Bible as much as we like to soak up the sunshine and balmy weather.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

We often speak of what Christ did for us on the cross. This time every year we remember His death in Scripture and song. What some people overlook is the utter commonness of how this happened. Literally tens of thousands of Jewish men, some claiming to be the Messiah, were executed in this manner during the course of the Roman rule. The miracle of His resurrection separates His death and His life from all others. It also gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2

"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Revelation 1:17-18

What a comfort to know that the keys of hell and death are in the hands of the One whom we trust for life itself.

Ministering Bro. Doug

Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and his family visited us this month. Our ministering brothers appreciate sharing the pulpit with those who travel to our area. We are grateful for each visitor to our congregation.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

We were blessed to host the Building Advisory Committee this past month. Those present were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and ministering Bros. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), and Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL). We want to thank these brethren for their service to us in the ministry and for their service to the brotherhood in advising and guiding our new church buildings. Also, we appreciated having ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) with us. May the Lord bless each of these brothers for their willingness to be used in God's service.

We rejoice with Brent Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian) as it was shared with us that he has found peace with God through a true repentance. We look forward to having him share his testimony with us in April. Elder Bro. Peter shared Communion exhortation with us, and we look forward to partaking of Communion the same weekend as Brent's testimony.

We surely want to extend a warm welcome to convert, Taylor Wine, of the Gridley-Lamont, KS, congregation. He is here on a work internship. We appreciate having him in our midst.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Greetings brethren. This month has brought us three visiting minis-

ters. It has also brought singings at church. Otherwise it has been a fairly quiet month here in Kitchener. We are sometimes thankful that the Lord slows us down and gives us time to pause and consider how we are doing. It gives us a chance to look into the mirror. We are also thankful that the mirror is God's Word, first because it does not change, and secondly because it gives a very accurate picture of our situation in God's eyes. Finally, we are thankful also for grace that gives us the power to make changes to be more like God in our ways of life.

Our visiting ministers this month faithfully provided for us God's Word through preaching. We are thankful they were willing to preach to us. It gives us a good feeling to walk into church and have the expectation of hearing the Word of God in truth, spirit, and power fulfilled. The visiting ministers were as follows: Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH). We are thankful to brothers who are willing to explain the way more perfectly to us. It is good for us then to follow the more perfect way.

We also, as a church, took the time to minister in song to those who live in a local nursing home in Kitchener. We primarily sing to an old sister from our sister church, but we sing to her in a big common area where there are usually many people. We make Johanna happy, and we hope that others are inspired to think heavenward also by our singing. This should always be the purpose of our singing.

We pray that God would be with you in the days following and especially as Easter time comes. May we remember at Easter time the great events that transpired so that we could have a hope of life eternal. May God watch over and protect you

from the world and its evil spirits.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Precious Christina Joann was born to Todd and Sandra Gottier on March 4. Grandparents are Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier, William and Donna Fecko, and Elizabeth Coughlin. May they seek His guidance to bring up their child in the ways of the Lord.

Believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. Walter Limberger and Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl was made known unto us. As they prepare in the days ahead, may they look unto Him for answers to other decisions that are to be made.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Ephesians 5:25

We rejoice with two dear couples that were united in marriage. Dan Fehr and Melinda Ryan, both of Fairbury, IL, were married February 23. Parents are Ralph and Martha Fehr (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. Bro. Derek Reutter and Sis. Darla Schupbach were married on March 3. Parents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA). We pray for God's nearness as both couples walk as one.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

Psalms 121:1

We lift dear ones up in prayer for God's healing: Sis. Helen Gottier and Bro. Clint Webb (Sis. Eloise).

Faithful unto death remain!
For the crown of life be striving.

Zion's Harp #105

Bro. Wilbur Kloter passed from this life on February 26. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Florence; sons, Dean Kloter (Bonnie) and Merrill Kloter (Christine); daughters, Marcia Kupferschmid (Wayne), Sis. Joan Moser (Bro. Roger), and Terry Kupferschmid (Dan); and extended family. May God also provide sympathy to the family of Ed Isch who passed away on March 14. He leaves a son, Nicholas Isch, and other family members.

May each dear family be comforted at this time of loss.

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks to all for the cards, gifts, visits, and especially the prayers during Clarence's surgery and recovery. May God bless each one.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all the love shown us in many ways during Wilbur's illness and passing. Phone calls, cards, gifts, and prayers were very much appreciated. We shall always remember it. God bless you all.

Sis. Florence Kloter and family

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We, like much of the country, have not had much winter this year. By the end of February some of the early Spring flowers and trees were already budding. We hope we will have lots of visitors to enjoy God's beauty during this season.

Our ministers the past month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN). Other visitors this month were from Champaign, IL, and Rockville, CT.

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.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Nancy Rocke**

As spring quickly approaches, many of our winter guests are starting to head back north to their respective congregations. Our visitors are a blessing to the Ft. Lauderdale church, and we always encourage our brothers, sisters and friends visiting the area to join us for worship services.

Joining us for worship services were several ministering brothers. They were: Bros. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN). May the Lord bless them for their labors.

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

Throughout the month of March our numbers have remained strong. Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Gary

Maibach (Smithville, OH), Neil Widmer (Wolcott, IN), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL).

Serving us Holy Communion on March 17 were Elder Bros. Doug Sabo (Sarasota, FL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). We thank each one of these dear brothers and their wives for ministering to us.

Sis. Viola Keller has been released from the hospital, but still covets our prayers. Sis. Ann Frautschi, one of our regular winter visitors, was also released from the hospital and we will continue to pray for her strength and healing as well.

On March 24, our monthly barbecue was held. We will soon be bidding our winter visitors farewell for the season and look forward to seeing them again next year, Lord willing.

How strong is Satan? One of our visiting ministers told us of a soul who went to visit his Elder with the desire to repent. It took three hours after his arrival to say the words, "I am a sinner, I want to repent!" Let us never underestimate the hold that Satan can have on us. We need to utilize the tools that God gives us and put on the whole armor of God as spelled out in Ephesians 6:10-18. Another thought left with us by a visiting minister is that the letters of faith can stand for Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him.

As we put our focus on Christ (not our crisis), we can enjoy our pilgrim journey and display the joy that only He can give.

We were saddened by the loss of our precious little Paige Brianne Masters who was born and died on March 6. Bro. Rick and Sis. Shawn Masters (Bloomington, IL) are her parents. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters (Bloomington, IL/Ft. Myers, FL) and Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari

(Bloomington, IL).

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

We wish to sincerely thank our winter residents for the lovely appreciation dinner they had for us. Bro. Ed Graf (Leo, IN) gave us a lot of interesting information on Gateway Woods. All donations went to the building fund for our new fellowship hall.

In February, Sarasota was privileged to host the annual Florida men's choir, followed by a potluck in the dining room.

It was with great joy that we learned of the engagement of Bro. Virgil Kaeb and Sis. Suellen Ott, both of Sarasota. Their parents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Darlene Kaeb (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn Ott (Goodfield, IL).

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Vic Beer (North Ft. Myers, FL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Dan Beer (Milford, IN), and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN). We appreciate the unselfish labors of all our ministers.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Ben Maibach (Smithville, OH). He has been transferred to Sarasota for a year.

Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Roche were privileged to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary recently. They attended Gridley church their first year and then the

Tremont church for 30 years. They lost their first child at birth in 1942, and five years later had a son, Kenneth (Carol, Sarasota). Eighteen months later, a daughter, Vickie (Steve Sauder, Sarasota), arrived, followed by Diane (Bill Alexander, North Carolina) in 1960. Two years later they had another daughter who died from chicken pox at age six months. They have

three great-grandchildren.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our gratitude for all the cards, gifts, and dinners from all our dear friends. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Orval and Sis. Doris Roche

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

As spring rises from the winter past, the many visitors this past month coming back from their sojourn in Florida was a welcome blessing to our congregation. We are thankful for desire to stop to worship and fellowship with our congregation. We were also blessed to have Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) to be able to share the Word with us.

When sickness and ailments fall upon us (for we are indeed are only human), we are thankful for God's grace and will to allow us to heal and recuperate. Kelly Camp (Chris and Sis. Peggy) had to be hospitalized for appendicitis surgery this month and are thankful that the patient is doing well and has fully recuperated.

As the spring starts and summer being just around the corner, if you are vacationing or plan to be in the Atlanta area, we would invite you to worship and fellowship 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

Doreen Moser

Shelia McCoy

"I've got peace like a river in my soul."

Our monthly Bible Study in Madison this month was on Peace. Bro. Ted Schock spent the evening with us. If we have chosen to live for the Lord, we are blessed to have peace here on earth, a peace the world knows nothing of.

"I've got joy like a fountain in my soul."

Our friend, Peggy Bartz, has found the grace to begin her repentance. There is joy in heaven and here on earth when a sinner comes to the foot of the cross.

"I've got faith like a mountain in my soul."

Our Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), shared the reading of the Memorandum on a quiet Sunday afternoon. We were reminded of our faithful Elders who meet twice every year and who labor to keep our precious brethren on the right track. Although Satan may shake our faith, the Lord can remove all mountains, if we only have the faith to believe and listen to the counsel of our Elders. It will then be well with our souls.

"I've got love like an ocean in my soul."

As a congregation, we were blessed to share a couple of hours in the presence of our Lord as we shared Holy Communion. We were reminded it is a commandment to gather together to share the bread and wine. It is a special invitation that is extended only to the Lord's

elect. It is a very special, uplifting time and binds us as a congregation more closely together. Our Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), with their precious wives, spent the evening with us. We appreciate our Elders and all the time they spend traveling to and from all of the churches. May the Lord bless all your efforts.

"I've got Christ as my Saviour in my soul."

We have had many in our small congregation sick or recovering from surgery. Bro. Dean Steffen has been sick. Bro. Chad Kaeb is recovering from knee surgery and Taylor Nazarezuk is on the mend from getting her tonsils out. Bro. Bob Waibel was thought to have a brain tumor but the latest tests showed no sign of any tumor. As the Lord has been with each of these souls and brought them thus far, they can certainly praise the Saviour of their souls.

May your Easter season be a blessed one and hopefully will find spring on its way.

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible...that God should raise the dead?" Each Easter morn the lilies bring this message to mankind. Each year the miracle unfolds before our blind, unseeing eyes. Each year the spring again proclaims life's immortality and writes with nature's pen, "The Christ is Risen!"

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Ann Kellenberger
Rebekah Kaufmann**

We were grateful to have visiting minister, Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), this past month. We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL)

here to assist in the reading of the Memorandum.

Joe and Carrie Kieser were blessed with little Emma Katherine, born March 1. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser and Hank and Becky Brandt (Atlanta, IL).

Our church family was saddened by the passing of Bro. Rick and Sis. Shawn Masters' little infant, Paige Brianne. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters and Elder Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari. May God's comfort be their strength during this time of sorrow.

Bro. Lynn Young recently had shoulder surgery and is now recovering at home. Sis. Mildred Vogel also underwent surgery and is recovering at Heritage Manor in Bloomington. Sis. Ann Frautschi was recently hospitalized in Ft. Myers, FL, for an infection. May the Lord be with each one as they regain their health.

On February 24, the engagement of Sis. Diann Kieser to Bro. Marc Grim was announced. Sis. Diann is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser. Bro. Marc is the son of Earl and Jan Grim of the Bloomington area. We rejoice with all of them and pray God's blessings as they plan a June wedding.

March 6 was our Family Night. Bro. Kevin Knapp spoke to us about surrendering our will to God. He gave us many examples throughout the Bible of those who did and did not surrender their will to the Lord. He also gave six evidences of a surrendered heart. We were all encouraged and challenged to examine our own lives and seek to come to the point of complete surrender to the Lord.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Chad and LauraLee Plattner**

Our hearts always rejoice and find courage with the news of a soul turning to God in repentance. Our

prayers are with Janelle Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn) as she seeks to begin building her life on the Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ.

On February 18, Jacob Matthew Ehnle was born to Jim and Cindy Ehnle. After 16 days of struggle with a heart defect and spina bifida, he died. Siblings are Ryan, Kristyn and Courtney. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole. Our sympathy and prayers are with the family.

We are thankful to have had the following visiting ministers with us this month: Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL).

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

"Home—that blessed word, which opens to the human heart the most perfect glimpse of Heaven, and helps to carry it thither, as on an angel's wings."

—*Lydia M. Child (1802-1880), U.S. abolitionist, writer*

"Home" seems to be a theme this month. We have three paragraphs of what I consider newsy material, and the traditional listing of visiting ministers. Those three paragraphs of news all relate to people being at different stops on the way to "home." Two paragraphs relate to those at different stages in their lives establishing new dwelling places here on our whirling little earth, and one is about a believer who left this home for a heavenly mansion. We all have our idea of what home is—whether it's my student who lives with three other people in a small hotel room that is perhaps 200 square feet in size (and has no kitchen, of course) or it's the person who feels sorry for me be-

cause I live in an old house where all the floors aren't level and rain runs across my basement floor. We all have our own perspective and we could do better or worse with our housing situation. My student is thankful that he has a roof, a bed, a bath, and safety with his family. I'm thankful I have those things, too, but I doubt that I'm as grateful as he is because I've never been without those things as he has. I'm more pleased that I know that my house is pretty solid and it has actually stood for 100 years, it has character and charm, and it's a refuge I share with people I love. Whether we live in a motel, apartment, a typical old or new house, or a great big showplace on a lake, we have the confidence that we can have a home in Heaven not made with earthly hands but by the Master Builder God, and that will be the perfect home.

We're accustomed to some of our Champaign-Urbana residents being transient. People come here for jobs or education, then move on. Occasionally, we have those who are here, move on, then return. Such is the case with Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer. They were one of the Urbana church's early families and were here into the late 1980's when they moved to Bluffton, IN. Now they have returned and are once again with us. We welcome them back "home".

"In my Father's house are many mansions..."

St. John 14:2

Sis. Wilma Blunier (Bro. Ben) has lost her twin brother, Bro. Bill Kempf, of Eureka. Though she will surely miss him, it is reassuring to know that he is home with the Lord awaiting a grand reunion. Sis. Wilma expresses her sincere thanks for the love and support shown to her over this difficult time.

It seemed somehow appropriate that it was on one cold and windy

Sunday evening that a nice number of people filled the new home of Alan and Theresa Miller to "warm" the house they moved into a few months ago. The Millers' nice new home is in LeRoy, which is a bit more driving than most of us generally do to go to church. We do appreciate them so very much and are thankful that they make the effort (and the drive) to come to worship with us.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and ministering Bros. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Greg and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) each spent some time with us to labor in the Lord's work. We appreciate the fact that these brothers and their families are willing to take of their time to minister the Gospel to us. May they each feel our sincere appreciation and the blessing of the Lord upon their work and their lives.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

This month has been a reminder for our congregation of the blessing of new beginnings and that of bittersweet farewells.

The home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm has been abounding with new beginnings. Twin baby girls, Jasmine Amber and Cassandra Leigh, were born on February 19. Although all hands are busy, this family is doing well. Big sister, Nikki, and grandparents, Bro. Edward and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp (Cissna Park, IL) are all very happy and thankful at the safe arrival of these two precious bundles.

On February 23, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) joined us to assist our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the reading of the Conference report. Prior to our

gathering, our new brother, John Koehl (Lucille) was baptized in his home. We praise God for the miracle of Bro. John's conversion, as just two weeks later the Lord called him to his heavenly home. We express sympathy to Bro. John's children, Judy Goist and John III, and their families, as well as his wife, Lucille, but know that she too can join him some day, as she began her repentance in the days between his baptism and death. What an encouragement this couple has been to us to never give up praying for those who are lost!

In contrast to Bro. John's experience, we also said farewell to Sis. Louise Knecht on February 24. Sis. Louise had been living for the Lord for over 70 years and was truly a blessing to the Chicago church. We express our sympathy to her children, Penny France and John and their families, and yet rejoice in a life well lived for God.

We rejoice with Bill Art (Natalie) as he has also made a beginning in his walk with the Lord, and we want to encourage him and support him with our prayers.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) as well as Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) who shared a topical Bible study. We express gratitude for the efforts of all of our visiting ministers.

Finally, we bid farewell to Bro. Troy and Sis. Bonny Reimschisel and their children, Jordan, Jenna, and Kayla, as they feel the Lord directing them to the Leo, IN, area. We wish them God's blessings as they move on, but feel the loss of a valuable family in our congregation.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder

Susan Waldbeser

What a blessing it was to have

our church filled February 24 as we witnessed the vows of Bro. Curt Wiegand and Sis. Amber Walder. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder. Jenny Hoffman (Merle and Elsie Eisenmann) and John Heaton were also united in marriage this month. We pray that both of these couples will feel God's nearness and guidance throughout their married lives.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month and pray that God will bless each one who provided for us. They were Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Robert Walder (Congerville, IL) and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

We thank Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer for assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading the Memorandum March 2. We also thank Bro. Wayne Laubscher for having the Topical Bible Presentation this month.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp are enjoying a double set of blessings, Cassandra Leigh and Jasmine Amber. They were born February 19 to Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm (Chicago, IL).

Our prayers have been with several in our church family who have had surgery or been hospitalized. They are Sis. MaryLou Kaeb, Sis. Mary Anderson and Sis. Nettie Scharlach. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Laura Bauer as she is now residing at the Hoopeston Community Nursing Home.

On March 3 we heard the engagement of our Sis. Bethany Frank (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita) to Bro.

Monty VanWyhe (Bro. Peter and Sis. Susan) of Lester, IA. May this couple feel God's nearness as they plan a June wedding.

"He will swallow up death in victory: and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;..."

Isaiah 25:8

We extend our sympathy to the Kaufmann family over the loss of their dear sister, Sis. Bertha "Tootie" Stoller, of Latty, OH.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Glenna Rinkenberger

March has been a month of blessings. We had several visiting ministering brothers here with us. Our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) assisted our Elder Bro. Bob in the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) served us Holy Communion beside Elder Bro. Bob. Other brothers to occupy our pulpit were Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR). We would like to sincerely thank all these brothers for allowing the Spirit to inspire them.

February 24 was the wedding day of our Bro. Curt Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) to Sis. Amber Walder (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon) at Cissna Park, IL. We warmly welcome Sis. Amber to our congregation and trust she will soon feel at home.

We would also like to welcome Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi and their family from Lamar, MO, to our area and to our church family. We hope that Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer, Matt, Jacob, Mark, and Mary will soon make friends here and also feel at home.

And yet another addition for Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy, Samuel, and

Aaron Steiner, is Silas David, born March 6. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Steiner (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign, IL). May God bless all of us as parents to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of His Word.

Holly Knepp (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynnette) and Harold Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Kay Kellenberger

On March 16 our congregation gathered to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) came to assist Elder Bro. Ron. Other ministers who visited this month were Bros. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL). We thank these brothers for their willing service.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Leola Schambach (Bro. Charles) in the passing of her brother, Milton Rein. May the Lord be especially near at this time.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

St. John 14:27

We rejoice with Chad Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peg) who has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism.

On March 17 the Sunday School students brought forth the Easter story to us at our annual Easter Program.

We are happy for Micah Bachtold and Dawn Edwards who have announced their engagement. Micah is the son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
St. Luke 13:3

With thankful hearts we rejoice with three souls who have begun their repentance. Quentin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda), Trent Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) and Holly Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon) have taken this most important step in life. May God grant them a rich measure of grace.

"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."
Psalm 119:2

The death angel came quickly on Wednesday evening, February 20, to our Bro. Ernie Fehr. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Mary, and to his children, Bro. Ken (Sis. Sandy) of Eureka, Bro. Steve (Sis. Deb) and Betty Colclasure of Goodfield. Also to his brother, Bro. Leroy (Sis. Wilma), and sister, Sis. Edna, both of Eureka. Bro. Ernie was 95, a pillar in our faith. We will miss his quiet and meek example.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Mary Fehr and Sis. Salome Schumacher on the death of their brother, Art Walder, of Eureka.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Roger Bradle (Sis. Ila) on the death of his father, Bro. Chris Bradle, of Roanoke.

Bro. Bill Kempf was called from this life of pain and suffering into all eternity the morning of Wednesday, March 13. We sympathize with his wife, Sis. Clara, and children, Sis. Kathy Knapp (Bro. Rick) and Karen Phelps (Ed) of Goodfield, Bruce, Ron (Donna), Sis. Carol (Bro. Art) and Bob (Becky), all of Eureka, and Bro. Gary (Sis. Gina) of

Peoria. He also leaves one brother, Marvin (Becky), of Yates City, and one sister, Sis. Wilma Blunier (Bro. Ben), of Champaign. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) conducted the funeral service. May God's Word bring comfort to all who are grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Ryan Carr and Kandi Bauman were united as husband and wife on February 23 at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman.

On March 10, Bro. Leland Zimmerman and Sis. Barb Ringger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola) exchanged marriage vows. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) was with us along with Bros. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR). May God richly bless these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judie Knecht welcomed a new grandson into their hearts. Mickinley Joshua was born on Monday, March 18. His parents are Josh and Shannon Knecht of Danvers.

Merle Blunier and Amanda Starkey became engaged recently. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier of Eureka and Ray and Kay Starkey of Goodfield. A May 18 wedding date has been set.

On February 24, Sis. Katie Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) of Latty, OH, made their engagement known. They are planning on a June 16 wedding. May each couple seek God's council and direction as they plan for their wedding.

Bro. Gary Wettstein (Sis. Elna) was hospitalized recently. We are thankful that he is doing better.

And though upon the raging sea
By storms thou shalt be driven,
Thine anchor, guard and shield is

He;
His love to thee is given.
He is thy Light in night and grief,
Thy sword the vict'ry to achieve.
He never will forsake thee.
Zion's Harp #107, vs.7

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Tammy Hinrichsen Joann Zehr

Two homes were blessed with new babies. Corbin Jeffrey was born on February 14 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser. His sisters are Myrna, Martha, and Esther. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana Knapp welcomed Megan Grace on March 11. She is baby sister to Lexi and Seth. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Paula Knapp and Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart. We rejoice with these families, and may God provide His help and guidance to these two couples as they raise their children in God-fearing homes.

We ask for God's healing strength and mercies to several from our congregation who have had either surgery or illness. They are Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne), Sis. Arlene Kilgus (Bro. Duane), Sis. Vi Moser, Brandon Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra), and Jeremey Steffen (Bro. Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen). How thankful we are that God hears our prayers.

We have had one couple united in marriage and another celebrate 50 years of marriage. Melinda Ryan (Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) was married to Dan Fehr (Ralph and Martha Fehr) on February 23. May God bless their new life together.

Willard and Arlene Walter were married 50 years on March 8. They

are parents of Dale (Dorothy), Tampa, FL, and Carol Glotfelty (Tom), Lawrenceville, GA and have been blessed with 3 grandchildren. We rejoice with them for reaching this milestone in life, and may God bless their future years together.

It was very touching to hear that our dear friend, Salome Knapp, 97, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her God's grace and are so thankful that God hears prayers and sends His mercy, regardless of age.

A special thanks to Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) for visiting our congregation and bringing us God's Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jean Knapp
Linda Anliker

We are thankful that God's Word is freely spoken by willing servants. Sharing the pulpit with our home ministers this month were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), ministering Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), and John Stoller (Leo, IN).

We rejoice that David Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) has been granted the grace to turn his heart to the Lord in repentance. We pray that he may firmly anchor his ship of faith on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Our congregation has been blessed with two baby girls. Thankful first-time parents are Bro. Joel and Sis. Lana Brown with the birth of their daughter, Alexandria Jane. Her grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Jolene Mueller

welcomed Kylee Janine into their hearts and home. Her sisters, Bailee and Jessica, and her grandparents, John and Edna Haas (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller, are happy she has arrived.

March 3 was a special day for Bro. Lucas Nussbaum (Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Raya Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) as they were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they walk hand in hand through life.

Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia), Bro. Ben Traub (Sis. Irene), and Andrea Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie) have been hospital patients this past month. We are thankful they have been able to return home and pray that God will continue to bless them with health and strength according to His will.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Roger Honegger, who passed from this life into eternity on February 20. We extend our sympathy to his sister, Sis. Marilyn and Wally Leman (St. John, WA) and their family.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin

We welcome with open arms our new Sister in Christ, Mary Currier (Art). May God richly bless her and her family.

God has blessed us at Goodfield with a new Elder, Bro. Bruce Hohulin. We are so thankful to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene for consenting to "lead our flock". We hope they can feel our love, prayers and support. Elders that assisted were Bros. Earl Ringger, Charles Sauder, Wayne Anliker and Ervin Knecht.

Along the same line, we are so very thankful to Elder Bro. Wes and Sis. Millie Knapp for their years of service. Words can't thank them enough for all they have done on our

behalf. May God bless them richly.

Our prayers are with Bro. Steve (Sis. Deb) Fehr in the passing of his father, Bro. Ernest Fehr; and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Rick) Knapp in the passing of her father, Bro. Bill Kempf. May God be with them and their families.

Jeremy Zacha (Bro. Gary and Sis. Connie Allen) and Joni Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vickie, Eureka, IL) have announced their engagement. May God be with them as they plan a wedding and a new life together.

Bro. Denny Martin was in the hospital this past month. We hope he can feel the healing hand of God, and the prayers of his brothers and sisters.

Notes of Thanks:

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone for the many cards, visits, gifts, love and prayers extended to us during the illness and death of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

May God bless every kind thought, deed and prayer offered.

The family of Robert Hess

We want to thank everyone for the expressions of love through prayers, cards, flowers, food, memorials and kind deeds. Each one was so appreciated. May God bless you for your uplifting support.

The family of Howard Heinold

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

A special congregational joy was evident on Wednesday evening, March 20, when we took Holy Communion in Gridley. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) helped with this occasion.

The general sobriety and quietness manifesting itself during these times surely creates an aura wherein God's presence is profound. The suffering and dying of

the Saviour surely comes into view.

Although the assembly was full, Bro. Dan noted how we wished so many more (i.e. unconverted souls) could be present. He said we could go back and forth from row to row and each person could make a list of dear ones we know ought to be present.

Indeed, our souls ache for the many who remain outside the fold, and who persist to linger in unbelief. May our prayers ascend daily, and even hourly, for souls who are lost in sin.

We rejoice over the baptism of Bro. Eric Kiefer and Sis. Amanda Dohman on January 6. It is so beneficial to hear testimonies of faith and conversion. May God richly bless them, now and always.

The wedding of Bro. Larry Knapp and Sis. Stephanie Wellzein (Elgin, IL) was held on March 24 at Elgin. May God bless this dear couple.

Bro. Dennis Rassi was a visiting minister on March 10.

Illness continues to persist in this earthly life. In varying stages of recovery are: Bros. Dave Steffen, Orlan Miller and Bill Romersberger, and Sisters Helen Hodel, Candace Stoller and Kathy Taylor. Sharon Rinkenberger has been suffering blood clots.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Mark Knapp to Sis. Kathy Bradle (Roanoke, IL) was announced on March 17. He is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp (and the late Sis. Rosella), and her parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Bradle (Roanoke, IL).

ILLINOIS, MORTON Christie Zeller

We are always thankful for the loved ones who come to visit and worship with us. Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) was here February 17 and we appreciated him being used by God in sharing

the Word with us.

More dear loved ones have gone to be with the Lord. Bro. Ben Belsley (Detroit, MI) passed away. He is a brother to our Bro. Bob (Sis. Mabel) Belsley. Sena Crump (Pekin, IL) passed away. She is the mother of our Sis. Barb (Bro. Dennis) Stoller. Gladys Oswald passed away February 21. She was a sister to our (deceased) Bro. Ervin Kahler and resided at Apostolic Christian Restmor for many years. Bro. Howard Musselman (Pulaski, IA) passed away February 27. He and his wife, Sis. Irene, worshipped with us for many years before moving to Iowa. Sis. Ann Sauder (Bro. Jerry, Roanoke, IL) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Mary Lou Grimm (Bro. Henry). We pray for all these dear families in their loss.

Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) had a powerful message for our family worship on "The Rock...Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord...our Foundation." May God bless him for his labors of love unto us.

Many also enjoyed and appreciated the "Greater Love" marriage talks, Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL).

God's richest blessings go out to our dear Bro. Tate Kaiser and Sis. Melissa Criss on their wedding held March 10 in Peoria, IL.

"Ring the bells of Heaven, for a precious soul is born again!" Truly we are thankful for our Bro. Ray Huette and his family for his repentant heart, conversion, and baptism on March 13.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all very much for remembering us with your love, prayers, cards, and memorial gifts on the death of our mother and grandmother, Sena Crump.

Dennis and Barbara Stoller

Todd, Marcy, Jessa and Marissa Stoller

Jeff, Stacey, Madison and Hollie Stoller

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Peter and Mabel Weber

"A chapter a day, keeps the devil away" ... even when just reading about day-to-day activities in Israel, as described in I King 5, when Solomon bought cedar wood from Hiram for the temple. We have a need for daily work and worship: what's in the DASH between the dates on our tombstone? ... that's where we came to pass. We cannot afford to let one wolf into the flock to consume sheep. When attacked, they just bleat and stomp their feet. Eskimos have a technique to deal with natural wolves. They put layers of blood, which freeze, on a sharp knife. The scent attracts wolves and after they have licked the blood from the blade, cut themselves and eventually self-destruct (Bro. Tim Funk 2/17).

It all started in a little manger with sounds of sheep and donkeys. Now He invites us to come and see, and hear the most important words in our lives: "Thy sins are forgiven." We have no opportunity to praise God like the 24 elders of Rev. 4:10, but we can do a little better. "Who is worthy to open the book? No man in heaven, nor in earth" (Rev. 5:2,3); John says: the Lion of Juda (5). Suffering and glory go together. Christ chose to be sacrificed on the cross and became worthy to redeem us so we can escape judgment. The Lamb, becoming the Lion, is touched by our infirmities and gives us eternal life (Bro. Dave Obergfel 2/24).

Elder Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington, IL) assisted on February 27 with reviewing the conclusions of the Elder Conference of Remington, IN, and Brotherhood Conference of Roanoke, IL. It was a reminder that "We are laborers together with God" (I Cor. 3:9) for the battles we face in the Church and in-

dividually. We thank Bro. Everett and Sis. Beverly for spending the evening with us.

BEATITUDES... what should our ATTITUDES BE? Blessed (happy) are the poor in spirit, that mourn (over the sins), are meek, hunger and thirst (spiritual appetite), merciful, pure in heart (washed by Jesus' shed blood), peacemakers, persecuted (prepare us), reviled. Like salt, we are to be preservers, a light in the world, which is our sole purpose in life. What is yours? (Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Matt. 5, 3/10). Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) spent the day with us, also many guests who assembled with us for the wedding of Bro. Tate Kaiser (Morton, IL) and Sis. Melissa Criss. Holy matrimony is the culmination of many prayers over many years. Both give 100% (maybe 110%) and are willing to be yielded and submit to the Lord and each other. We wish them the Lord's blessings for their life together. We thank Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig for their visit and service to the Church.

Once again, we were presented with two choices. Why wouldn't we turn over our lives to God, Who created the earth and all things? We need the heavenly vision to look beyond this earthly life. Everybody can go to Heaven if they fulfill the requirements and get serious about their salvation. We thank Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller (Gridley, IL) for their visit and ministry on March 3.

March 6 brought the presence of Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann (Mansfield, OH) for our family night service. Our hearts were stirred to appreciate anew our faith and our country. At times of trials, we draw closer to God and can experience sorrow and joy at the same time. We thank Bro. Mike for a blessed evening and hope they will visit us again.

We congratulate Bro. Brandon

and Sis. Cassie Schock on the arrival of Saige Rose, welcomed home by Creighton. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Carl II and Sis. Debby Hoerr and Bro. Rich and Sis. Jan Schock.

Bro. Larry Riggenbach was a patient at Methodist Hospital for several days and we are glad he could return to the Skylines on March 14 and trust the therapy at the Home will restore full mobility.

Death is the end, but also the beginning of eternal life. Our convert, Ray Pueschel (90), passed away February 16 and we extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Verna, and their family. They had lived in Sun City, AZ, for 25 years and moved to a Skylines duplex last May. Alton Merkle (85) passed away February 23 at Eureka; he is the brother of Sis. Margaret Tanner and Bro. Walter Merkle, who have our sympathy. Ron Hermann (63) passed away at Carmel, IN, on March 10. Our condolences to his mother, Sis. Lydia Hermann; brother, Bro. Rich; and his family. Sis. Ann Sauder (75) of Roanoke, IL, met her Maker on March 10 and we express our deep sympathy to her husband, Bro. Jerry, and their family. She is a sister of Sis. Gladys Haefli. Ann Fisher (89) passed away March 7 at the Skylines and we express our sympathy to her son, Rainard, and his family. Bro. William Kempf (74) went to be with the Lord on March 13 at Eureka, IL. He is the father of Bro. Gary and we express our deep condolences to him and his family.

While in Florida, Fred Rieker had to be hospitalized for a week. We are thankful he is back in Peoria and well on his way to good health again.

Where are they now?

Bro. John Brewer has lived near Atlanta, GA, for over 15 years, works at a local K-Mart store and attends Atlanta church. His sister,

Jennifer, who works at a waffle house, shares an apartment with him.

After 15 years in Texas as professor of business at Northwoods University, Todd Wieland is relocating to Naples, FL, where he will be marketing online accredited courses for Bachelors and Masters degrees from Aimes Christian University. We always enjoy visiting with Todd when he is here and wish him well in his new endeavor (e-mail: .

Apostolic Christian Skylines has enjoyed an area-wide excellent reputation since 1965 as a quality full-care retirement center in a Christian environment. At present there are a few openings in the apartment and shelter care sections. You may wish to call the Admissions Committee (309) 691-8091 for further information if you are interested in our facility.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Phyllis Knobloch** **Crystal Streitmatter**

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death."

Psalm 48:14

Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser spent some time in the hospital. We missed them. It is comforting to know the Lord is in control and will not forsake us. A few weeks later, our dear retired Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Sis. Ruth) broke his arm. Our prayers are with all of them.

Three dear little souls have been added to our congregation. Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold were blessed with another sweet little girl, Cassie Rebecca, on February 24. Her happy sisters are Lynelle, Rhea, and Claire. Grandparents are Bro. Vernie and Sis. Joan Berchtold and Bro. Larry and Sis.

Becky Endress (Bradford, IL). Also, Bro. Brent and Sis. Debbie Graham found a place in their hearts for little Alaina Sheridan, who was born March 9. Sis. Debbie spent many days in the hospital previous to Alaina's birth, so we are thankful that both mother and baby are doing fine. Happy siblings are Tanner and Ellie, along with grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Jeanette Graham and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl. Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach welcomed a little baby girl, Brenna Marie, into their home, born March 11. Brother Alec is excited along with grandparents, Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin (Peoria, IL).

Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Julie, Bloomington-Normal, IL) was here on February 22 for a Bible study on the Middle East. We appreciate Bro. Ron sharing his knowledge of these war-torn countries and how it correlates with Scripture.

Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) shared the pulpit with our ministers on March 3. We are thankful the Lord allows His spirit to reach us through our dear faithful ministers.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) helped our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller read the Memorandum on March 9 and also shared the Communion exhortation on Sunday. We thank him for his kind words, which are so needed and meaningful to us. Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) was a visiting minister that day, too, and we thank him.

Recently I was an out-patient at the hospital. Before the surgery, the nurse read the notes, "ten surgeries following a car accident in 1971." She wanted me to tell her more in detail about this. As I told the story, I said that we were living in Iowa at that time and had come to visit Princeville friends. Then I told her about the doctor that did exten-

sive reconstruction on my jaws and face. He is still practicing here in Peoria. I told her how I yearned to see him again sometime. She then said, "This is really a coincidence; he happens to be doing a surgery right next to you about the same time you will be waking up in the recovery room. I'll get your message to him." Sure enough, as soon as I opened my eyes and was fully aware of everything, this doctor was beside me in his surgery clothes. He introduced himself and said, "You look great!" It was so wonderful; I could hardly believe the happiness I felt within. No, I didn't think it was a coincidence. God had had His hand in this...after 31 years! He is still causing many joyful moments to be a part of my life. It makes me think of these words from a poem by Helen Steiner Rice:

And every happy happening,
And every lucky break,
Are little gifts from God above
That are ours to freely take.

On February 16 the National School Meeting was held at our Fellowship Hall. On March 9 we had the big World Relief Meeting here also. Thank you for all the love and concern that was put into these meetings. We were reminded many times that we have work to do, no matter what our age may be.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman**

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

Hebrews 13:17

We thank Elder Bro. Charles

Sauder (Tremont, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Tom in the reading of the Memorandum. How thankful we are for our Elder brethren who are concerned for our spiritual welfare. Let each of us be more diligent in striving to live an obedient life in Christ.

Other visiting ministers who shared the Word of Life with us this past month were Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), who spoke at our monthly Bible Study on the topic of "Christ-like Communications", and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT). We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

Follow me, the Saviour calleth;
Come to me, I am the way!
What is lacking I will give you;
Trust in me and watch and pray!
Follow me in true submission;
I have borne all your transgression;
Learn of me; both great and small,
Meekly, humbly hear my call.
Zion's Harp #95

We are thankful that Glen and Carol Martin have answered the call and have begun their walk with the Lord. May the grace of God be with them.

We rejoice with Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley Leman and Roger and Gloria Weber, as they have become first-time grandparents to Bailey Ann. Scott and Erin Leman are the happy parents.

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized this past month. They include Sis. Helen Zimmerman (Bro. Richard), Bro. Ben Hodel (Ruth Ann), Sis. Vi Hinthorne (Bud), and Albert Preston. May they each feel God's strengthening hand upon them.

We are once again blessed to have four Haitians staying with families in our congregation as they await surgery. Yuel Grasseau is staying with Bro. Jim and Sis.

Helen Martin. Jocelyne Merisier is staying with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer's family. Cathia Desvoliers is staying with Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp's family. Jean Shilove Pierre is staying with Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel's family. We pray they can feel the love of Jesus Christ.

On March 13, our Wednesday night Scripture Memory Class (Kindergarten through sixth grade) presented their annual program by reciting the verses they learned through song. May they each one tuck these verses in their hearts and remember them in years to come.

Precious memories, how they linger,

How they ever flood my soul,
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold.

Gospel Hymns Chorus #408a

Our congregation has experienced sorrow this past week as funeral services were held for three of our loved ones who were called Home to their eternal rest. Though there is sorrow, there can also be rejoicing as each of these souls has laid down his cross and picked up a crown of victory. We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to the families and loved ones left behind.

Bro. Chris Bradle passed away on March 3. Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Sis. Anna; sons, Bro. Robert (Sis. Mary) Bradle, and Bro. Roger (Sis. Ila) Bradle; daughter, Sis. Mary (Bro. Sam) Martin; 16 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Joe Aeschleman (the late Sis. Mardell) passed from this life into eternity on March 6. Surviving are their seven children: Joyce (Bryan) Smith, Joe (Sue) Aeschleman, Sis. Marge (Bro. Brent) Hodel, Bro. Steve (Sis. Jill) Aeschleman, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Ben

III) Fehr, Sis. Patty (Bro. Brad) Hodel, and Sis. Bev (Bro. Scott) Luginbuhl. May they take comfort in knowing their mother and father are once again united in that Heavenly Home above. Also surviving is a sister, Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Lyle) Martin, of our Roanoke congregation, two brothers and ten grandchildren.

Sis. Ann Sauder went to her eternal rest on March 10. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Jerry; four children, Sis. Cheri (Bro. Fred) Janssen, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Jodie) Sauder, Skip (Jaime) Sauder, and Jill (Rick) Wilhelm; and eleven grandchildren. Also surviving from our Roanoke church are two brothers, Bro. Wilmer (Sis. Sylvia) Blunier, and Bro. Harlow (Sis. Sally) Blunier; and three sisters, Sis. Erma Moser, Sis. Mardell (Bro. Dick) Bowald, and Sis. Rachel (Bro. Richard) Leman.

May the precious memories that linger grow stronger with the passing of time.

Notes of Thanks:

I sincerely thank everyone for your prayers, visits, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital, the Nursing Home and back home again. I thank God for all your love, thoughtfulness, and kindness, and pray He will richly bless every one of you!

Dick Bowald

I wish to thank those who remembered me at the time of my surgery with prayers, phone calls, food, cards, and gifts. I thank the Lord for my healing. Also, thanks to those from whom I received cards and gifts at Christmas. All was greatly appreciated. God's blessings to each and every one of you.

Sis. Mabel Bowald

Special thanks to all who sent cards for my 95th birthday.

Elsie Beer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We thank the Lord for willing servants who minister the gospel to us. Much appreciation goes to Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) for making the effort to support our monthly Family Night Bible Study.

Our Bro. Weldon Staker has passed on to his reward. Our sympathy is extended to his children, Sis. Linda Staker and Danny Staker (Margeret) of Tremont. Additional children are Dennis Staker of Peoria, IL; Sue Ann Slusher (William) of Bartonville, IL; and Joy Green (Walter) of Mackinaw, IL.

We want to remember Ryan Hild (Betty) in our prayers as he has spent time in the hospital recently. May God be his strength.

God has added another child to Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser's family. Benjamin Daniel is the newest addition to siblings Levi, Jesse, Tori, Jacob, and Kaitlyn. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner.

Keith and Donna Michel are happy parents of Dylan Wade, born on February 26. Renee and Tim Wilson also welcomed a little one into their home. On November 29 adoption proceedings began, and two-day old Dakota Michel came into their care. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel.

God has seen fit to join Sis. Amber Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth) and Bro. Doug Nohl (Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie, Morris, MN) in marriage on March 17. Sis. Amber will be greatly missed in our Tremont congregation, but we wish them God's abundant blessings as they establish their home in Morris, MN.

This God-made union then shall

never more be broken,
Where faith and love have been
the holy cov'nant's token
Where God the seal does give, the
hope shall e'er remain,
Though parting be our lot, to meet
in heav'n again.

Zion's Harp #79

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch**

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

Romans 12:1

It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and his wife, Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL), with us for the reading of the Memorandum. The exhortations toward sacrificial and holy living were both instructional and inspirational. Thank you for your willing service to us.

"Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong." What a privilege to be able to entrust our precious children into the hands of a living and loving Saviour. We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Dreeste as they were blessed with another daughter, Bethany Suzanne. She is welcomed home by her siblings, Rebecca, Philip, Daniel and Rachel Beth. Bethany's grandparents are Bro. Rich Dreeste and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL).

Bro. Dean and Sis. Becky Martin welcomed a daughter, Charity Rose, to be a playmate to sister Hannah. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin and Roland and Sis. Delores Martin (all of Eureka, IL).

We pray the Lord will also bless Leslie Bucher (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki) and Tyson Aschliman (Lynn and Joan Aschliman) as they began

their married life together on March 2.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Rich Dreeste who recently had open heart surgery. We pray that he has a quick and complete recovery. We also want to remember Sis. Sue Ruppert who has undergone surgery on her ankle.

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

II Cor. 5:17

Using our present redecorating process as a vivid illustration, our Elder Bro. Ron Messner recently encouraged us to continue on in the work of submitting ourselves to the "remodeling" work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Beth Aschliman
Tonia Isch**

"The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

My son give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways."

Proverbs 23:24-26

Holly Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) has chosen to follow our Lord and Saviour. We rejoice with Holly and wish her God's grace.

Henry and Kara Wicky have been blessed with a precious daughter, Ashlyn Kaye. Ashlyn Kaye was born February 27. Bro. John and Sis. Sue Kipfer are thrilled with their new granddaughter.

As Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda Tonner diligently serve in Haiti, they received news of the birth of their first grandson. Bro. Eric and

Sis. Lanae Tonner have a darling son. Birch Lynn was born on March 7. Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann are rejoicing with another grandbaby. What a joy!

We, as a church, grieve with Sis. Viola (Bro. Kent) Wolfe and Sis. Joli (Bro. Alan) Gerber as they had to say goodbye to their father, Bro. Deju from our Hungary church. His wife, Sis. Jolan, and daughters will miss him greatly and look forward to seeing him again in Heaven.

Also passing from this life into eternity is our Bro. Henry Gerber. His wife of over 60 years, Sis. Ada, and children are at peace knowing he is in Heaven with Jesus. What a promise.

Our dear Sis. Velma Fulkerson has gone to be with the Lord Jesus. Sis. Velma passed from this life on February 2 and will be greatly missed. Her family, Sis. Maryann (Bro. Vernon) Kaehr, Sis. Lucille Borrer, Bro. Harry (Sis. Betty) Steffen and Hilda Robinson, look forward to seeing her again in Heaven.

Sis. Justine Baumgartner had to spend time in the hospital this month. We pray for her strength and healing.

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

Psalms 18:2

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Rhonda Maller
Ann Meyer**

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye

shall keep my judgments, and do them."

Ezekiel 36:26-27

The Great Physician is still in the business of doing heart transplants. We rejoice that Brian Brewster has sought after a new heart in Jesus Christ. His wife, Marcia, and mother-in-law, Sis. Dee Steffen, are also thankful.

Our church had a time of self-examination as we prepared for Holy Communion on March 16. How can we ever thank our Saviour enough for His body and blood given so willingly to redeem us? We really appreciated Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) for coming to help assist our dear Elder Bro. Phil Stettner in serving our church.

Our Easter program was such a joy to watch this year. The children really put their hearts into praising God with their singing. It was a blessing to us all.

March 10 was a special day to Bro. Jameson Ringger and Sis. Sheena Milholland as they became one in Christ. Their parents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bluffton) and Rob and Sis. Tonya Troxel. May their love continue to grow as they serve the Lord together.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger traveled to San Antonio, TX, for the wedding of their son, Joe, to Jessica Mayfield on March 16. We wish God's blessings on the newlyweds as they start their marriage and continue their missionary work.

"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers."

Proverbs 17:6

Sis. Susan Byerly is thrilled with her new granddaughter, Chloe, born February 20 to Bro. Joe and

Sis. Tara Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN). Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp are also glad to have another grandson join their family. Little Clay Daniel filled the arms of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Cook (Indianapolis, IN) along with Noah and Savannah on March 1.

The home of Bro. Ross and Sis. Kara Frank was also blessed on March 5 with another precious daughter, Meryl Elise. She joins sister, Ava, and grandparents, Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer and Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank (Bluffton, IN).

Along with joy comes sorrow. Sis. Bertha Moser was 100 years old when she could finally lay her burdens down on March 3 and go Home to her Lord. She will be missed by her children, Bro. Jim, Bro. Tom (Sis. Jan) and Sis. Berniece (Bro. Bill) Troxel, her five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Our sympathy also goes to Sis. Mary (Bro. Herman) Baumgartner in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Shirley Lehman. Many in our congregation expressed sweet memories of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Shirley's visits here from South Bend and how she will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Al (Sis. Colleen) Ringger and Bro. Keith (Sis. Nancy) Honegger, during their surgeries. May they feel the Lord's grace and strength during their trials.

Many sisters from the two Bluffton churches have been busy sewing uniforms for the children at the school in Juarez, Mexico. Soon their new school and church building will be finished thanks to many helping hands from lots of different Apostolic churches. The Lord continues to amaze us how He supplies just the right talents on each of the many work teams to get His work done.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for

their prayers, cards, gifts of love and support during the time of our mother/grandmother's failing health and following her death. The gift of one's TIME is precious to receive and so appreciated. May God bless you all.

The Bertha Moser Family

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

Many in our congregation have been ill or had surgery this past month. We thank God for healing and improving health to Jim Albrecht, Jim Tucker (Nadine) and Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris). Our dear Bro. Joe Gray (Sis. Esther) is still fighting cancer and needs our prayers.

We had a topical Bible study on discipline in the church this past month and thank our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein for sharing with us on this important subject.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Sue Levy
Sandy Lichtle**

On February 23, a "Cabin Fever" supper was held at church. After a delicious meal, we enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

We are thankful to report two new babies in our congregation. First-time parents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger, were blessed with a daughter, Chloe Mae, on February 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila Sprunger (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Sue Byerly (Bluffton North, IN) and Steve Byerly (Ft. Wayne, IN).

Clay Daniel was born on March 1 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle Cook. He is welcomed home by his brother and sister, Noah and Savanna. Thankful grandparents are Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Mick and Sis. Connie Cupp (Bluffton North, IN).

March 9 was a special day for Joel Zeller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Ginny Zeller) and Tricia Lawson (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon, Phoenix, AZ) who were joined as husband and wife in Phoenix. They will be making their home here in Indy. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new walk of life together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Phil Schlatter (Sis. Judy) as he recuperates at home. He had surgery on a broken ankle. May the Divine Physician encourage and strengthen him.

A thought for this Easter season:

He came to pay a debt He didn't owe, because we owed a debt we couldn't pay. (author unknown)

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

He carried the cross to Calvary,
Carried its burden for you and me,
There on the cross He was cruci-
fied
And, because He suffered and bled
and died,
We know that whatever "our
cross" may be,
It leads to God and Eternity...
Let those who yearn for the plea-
sures of life,
And long to escape all suffering
and strife,
Rush recklessly on to an "empty
goal"
With never a thought of the spirit
and soul...
But if you are searching to find the
way
To life everlasting and eternal day

—
With Faith in your heart take the
path He trod,
For the way of the cross is the way
to God.

—Helen Steiner Rice

We thank Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) for his willingness to minister to us in this past month.

We were blessed to have many visitors for our Fellowship Week-end in LaCrosse. We had over 180 people join us for a weekend of worship and fellowship with one another. Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH) was with us for this special weekend and we appreciate the inspired Word that was shared.

As we listen to our Sunday School children tell of the Easter story, we are reminded of the perfect love that our Lord and Saviour had for each one of us, from the little children to those who are in their sunset years of life. As Easter fast approaches, may we all take the time to remember the blessed gift that was given to us at this very special time!

INDIANA, LEO Ethelyn Schlatter

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL). Their families accompanied them as they both have family here. We were blessed by their visit and messages, welcoming them back.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Jason Pence and Sis. Heidi Hackenjoes (Latty, OH) who have announced their engagement of marriage. Congratulations to both.

God's Help

However much I try to do
In moments bright or dim
I know that all my courage and

My strength depends on Him.
I know my God is watching me
And helping me each day
And He is always interested
In every prayer I say.
He gives me grace and fortitude
But He expects of me
My share of faithful gratitude
And loving sympathy.
He wants me to obey His Word
As ably as I can
And be of willing service to
My every fellowman.
I know my courage and my
strength
Depend on God each day
And He is always kind enough
To help me on my way.
—James J. Metcalfe

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab Stacey Feller

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we are refreshed by the
changing of seasons, may each of us
feel the grace and refreshment of
the Lord carrying us in whatever
season we find our life to be in at this
time.

Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman welcomed a new grandson into their family circle when Hunter Kade became the firstborn of Kevin and Bambi Lehman. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer also have the joy of a new grandson, Brendan Michael, born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee Lanz (Rittman, OH).

Our hearts go out to Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lehman and their family as Bro. Dean's mother Sis. Shirley Lehman (South Bend, IN) passed away after battling with illness for several months. We witness God's faithfulness in carrying the family during this time, and we

continue to pray for them. Bro. Vince and Sis. Tessa Schlatter lost a grandma, Sis. Elsie Schlatter (Latty, OH), and we extend our sympathy to them as they let go of that precious generation.

Those in our congregation undergoing recent surgery are Caralee Niswander (Sean) and Bro. Phil Price (Sis. Jane). Our wishes for speedy recoveries and restored health are with these dear ones.

We appreciated our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH). The latter three brothers were with us on March 9 as we shared Holy Communion together. Also on this evening, our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer announced his retirement from the ministry and eldership responsibilities. We would like to thank Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley for their many years of service in these capacities. We appreciate the willingness of Elder Bro. Ray Sinn to serve our church as Elder at this time.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

On March 5, Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette Bahler welcomed their seventh child, Lea Rose, into their hearts and home. Siblings, Trent, Dave, Luke, Anna, Kayla, and Isaac, along with grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler and Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), also rejoice with them.

On March 12, Dave and Charity Pratt became first-time parents to Chloe-Anne Marie. Grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell and Donna Pratt and Jerry and Pat Pratt, are very thankful.

The past three Tuesday evenings, our congregation has been blessed with a topical study on

training up our children by Bro. Jeff Thames (Gateway Woods). Much accountability is created when we hear the Truth so plainly and learn specific ways to nurture our children. Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) also shared with us a topical on Faith for our Wednesday evening service. Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were our visiting ministers.

Announced for peace and awaiting baptism are Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) and Ruth Virkler (Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth).

Every year in early spring, our sisters' sewing circle holds an auction of items sewn throughout the winter. This year brought some unique items as the curtains from our old church were used to stuff animals with a special poem written in memory.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Samantha Schafer Kara Beebe

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calv'ry,
And suffered and died alone.

Hymns of Zion #174

The Easter season once again reminds us of our Saviour's love.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. Our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) shared the Word with us. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Jesse Beer (Milford, IN) visited one Wednesday evening to discuss the retirement of our dear Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and the future plan for leadership of our church. We wish him God's greatest blessings for his years of faithful love and

service. Elder Bro. Curt Frank will now take on the duty of being our Elder. We as a church would like to give him our prayerful support for his willingness to serve.

Several from our congregation have gone on work teams recently. Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe served at S.E.E.D. ministries in Haiti, and Bro. Rich Gramm and Bro. Matthew Lindberg also served in Mexico.

It was a bittersweet time as we laid to rest our dear Sis. Shirley Lehman (Bro. Wayne). It was sad to see her go, but we rejoice that she is now safe in the arms of Jesus. Bro. Wayne's brother, Bro. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), had part of the service. Bro. Wayne received the following poem and wished to share it:

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid,
you see;
I took His hand when I heard His call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found the peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joys:
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

But not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,
My life's been full; I savored much:
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too
brief—
Don't lengthen it now with undue
grief.
Lift up your hearts, and peace to
thee—
God wanted me now; He set me
free.
—Anonymous

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who helped in any way through Shirley's illness and passing. To those who helped with the dinner and those who offered gifts of love, cards, flowers, and prayers, we thank you. May God be your rewarder.

The family of Sis. Shirley Lehman

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Revelation 7:17

Many prayers have been offered for Sis. Lavina Schmeckpepper and her family (Marsha, Jeff, and Sis. Nancy Bunn) as her daughter Marlene was taken from this life unexpectedly on March 7. Marlene left behind her husband and an 11-year-old daughter. We pray that God will comfort the family at this sorrowful time.

We sincerely thank our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). We wish to thank Bro. Todd for so faithfully serving our church whenever he is asked. Bro. Todd often brings us the Word of God and supports our ministers when they are visiting other

churches. We wish to thank Bro. Lynn for being with us and reminding us of the importance of serving the Lord through mission trips. He told us about what a blessing it is to help those who have very little. He was recently part of a school building project in Juarez, Mexico.

"For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

St. Matthew 25:35-36

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE

Nettie Haab
Diana Houston

We are so thankful for spring days lately; it is a joy to see flowers blooming and trees budding.

Our second annual Easter program was held March 17. What a joy it was to watch the little ones say their verses and sing along with some of the older ones. We were blessed also by many visitors from different areas.

Past visiting ministers were Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), and Elder Bros. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN). We thank them for their willingness to serve and to be used of God to bring forth His message.

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.

Jesus My Redeemer

I read about Jesus as a Babe.
I read of His ministry.
I read how He was put on trial
And died on a cross for me.

I was told how He came back to
life.

I was told how He lives on high.
I was told if I would only obey
I'd live with Him when I die.

I heard these truths from little on
up,
I thought I was doing OK.
I had my life under control
'Til dark clouds covered my way.

Jesus had promised to always be
there

Jesus I called to my aid.
Jesus said, "Child, you're never
alone."

With Jesus I'm never afraid.

Jesus is running my life today.
Jesus my heart did incline.
Jesus said simply to live by this
rule,

"Thy will, Father, not mine."
—anon.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Erica Wagenbach
Luann Gerber

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

By God's Word at last my sin I
learned;
Then I trembled at the law I'd
spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring
turned
To Calvary.

Now I've given to Jesus every-

thing,
Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only
sing
Of Calvary.

Oh, the love that drew salvation's
plan!
Oh, the grace that brought it down
to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did
span
At Calvary!

Mercy there was great, and grace
was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to
me;
There my burdened soul found lib-
erty,
At Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #151

Our hearts feel like singing when
we see the grass turning green and
see the birds returning! Praise God
for the blessings He bestows on us
daily!

Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda,
Washington, IL) and Bro. Brian
Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville,
IN) have been willing to share God's
Word with us recently. Bro. Jeff has
been sharing with the Remington
and Wolcott congregations his
parenting seminar, and Bro. Brian
held our topical Bible Study. We
thank these brothers for their la-
bors of love.

With thankful hearts, Bro. Dale
and Sis. Missy Banwart welcomed
little Luke Jacob into their home.
Excited about his arrival are his sis-
ters, Heidi and Angie, and his
brother, Mark. Grandparents are
Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer and
Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart
(Congerville, IL). May God bless
their home as they raise these pre-
cious souls.

Our hearts were warmed as we
watched our dear Sunday School
children recite their poems and sing

Easter songs! They had the most
beautiful smiles on their faces and
sang with such enthusiasm that it
pricked our hearts and reminded us
that we should all look within our-
selves and appreciate the precious
blood that was shed for our sake.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz
Lana Metzger**

This past month we have had
many visiting ministers, including
our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall
(Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Ron
Messner (Washington, IL), and
Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington,
IL), Mark Streitmatter (Bloom-
ington, IL), James Plattner and Glen
Braker (both of Princeville, IL). We
thank them and their wives and
families for traveling to be with our
congregation to share God's Word.

We pray for God's healing hand
for Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Lois) who
was a hospital patient this past
month. He was greatly missed by
the congregation, but we are happy
to have him worship with us again.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"The Lord bless thee, and keep
thee: The Lord make his face to
shine upon thee, and be gracious
unto thee: The Lord lift up thy coun-
tenance upon thee, and give thee
peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

This is our wish and prayer for
Bro. Derek and Sis. Darla Reutter,
who made their marriage vows be-
fore God and man on March 3. Par-
ents of the couple are Bro. Duane
and Sis. Kay Reutter (Rockville,
CT) and Bro. John and Sis. Janet
Schupbach.

To break thy bread we now have

gathered,
In covenant to drink thy wine;
As brethren we unite together
That unto death we might be
thine.

Zion's Harp #25

What a blessing to be renewed in
spirit as we partook of the bread
(representing Christ's broken
body) and the wine (representing
His blood). Our hearts pour out
thanks to our loving Saviour for
paying the terrible ransom for our
sins and giving us our only hope for
salvation.

Visiting ministers with us for
these two special occasions were El-
der Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy,
West Bend, IA) and Jon Schmidgall
(Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), and Bros.
Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West
Bend, IA), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay,
Rockville, CT), Art Mueller (Sis.
Marlene, Belvidere, IL), John
Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA),
Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa
City, IA), and Paul Eisenmann (Sis.
Elaine, Burlington, IA).

Kent Schupbach (Bro. John and
Sis. Janet) and Kati Reckow (Brad
and Peggy) recently made their en-
gagement known and are planning
a July wedding. May God direct
them in their plans.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

There is joy in heaven over one
repenting, as we read in Luke 15:7.
We rejoice with Robert Wuthrich,
who has given his heart to the Lord.
We are thankful for the new life he
can begin in Christ, just as we see
the new life of springtime emerging
all around us.

We are thankful for visiting min-
istering brothers and those who
come with them. Visitors this
month have been Bros. Brandon
Emch (Kansas City, MO), Duane
Metzger (West Bend, IA), Jerry

Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA). We feel so blessed by the Word you share with us.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) for coming to help Bro. Joe read the Memorandum to us. We appreciate both brothers' comments and explanations on the many issues addressed in the letter.

The days are getting warmer now as spring approaches, and it's wonderful to look at God's amazing and magnificent creation and thank Him for it!

O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands
have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling
thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the uni-
verse displayed.

When through the woods and for-
est glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in
the trees;
When I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the
gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul... "How great
Thou art!"

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

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

grief, for that is unprofitable for
you."

Hebrews 13:17

The evening of March 2 was a
blessed one as we listened to the
reading of the Memorandum. Elder
Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) was
here to assist our Elder Bro. Dennis
Warner. May God bless all our El-
ders with Godly wisdom to lead us
and grant us submissive hearts so
that they may do it with joy.

Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and
Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) gave her
testimony and was welcomed into
the family of God the weekend of
February 23-24 in West Bend, IA.
May God's grace and blessings be
upon her as she strives for the Heav-
enly goal. We're glad to have her in
our fellowship while she is contin-
uing her schooling in our area.

The engagement of Bro. Monty
Van Wyhe and Sis. Bethany Frank
was shared with us on March 3. The
parents of the couple are Bro. Pete
and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro.
Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank
(Cissna Park, IL). May God be with
them as they make plans to be
united in marriage.

We've had a number of loved
ones hospitalized this past month.
Surgical patients have been Sis. Na-
omi Knobloch, Sis. Dawn Metzger
(Bro. Kevin), Bro. Melvin Knobloch
(Sis. Wilma), Sarah Feucht and Bro.
Don Metzger (Mary Jane). Those
hospitalized for other reasons were
Sis. Delores Metzger (Bro. Paul),
Zachariah Wulf (Bro. Duane and
Sis. Ann), Sis. Shirlee DeHaan,
Lydia Moser and Sis. Emma Meyer.
Our prayers are with all and trust
that God will heal as He sees best.

Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA)
shared the Word with us. We thank
him and pray God's Spirit will con-
tinue to be with him.

We extend our sympathy to Sis.
Martha Feucht (Ernst) in the death
of her son-in-law, Barney Kruger.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

We have been blessed with many
visitors this past month, and we
thank each of them, especially our
ministering Bros. Dan Beer
(Milford, IN), Brad Gudeman
(Bradford, IL), Randy Mogler
(Washington, IL), and Kenny
Knapp (Taylor, MO).

Our congregation felt the loss of
Bro. Howard Musselman, who
passed away after suffering a stroke
several weeks earlier. Our thoughts
and prayers are with his dear wife,
Sis. Irene, and their family, Bro.
Roger and Sis. Nancy, Arlyn and
Carol, and Cheryl and Ed Duke,
along with the grandchildren and
great-grandchildren.

On February 24 little Harrison
James was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis.
Angie Birkner. Brothers, Justin
and Jayden, welcome him home
also. On March 16, Bro. Virgil and
Sis. Katrina Knobloch also wel-
comed a little one into their home.
Little Jacob Charles joins sister,
Olivia, and brother, Jesse. May the
Lord be with these families as they
raise these little bundles from
heaven.

On March 9 we were happy to cel-
ebrate the 50th wedding anniver-
sary of Bro. Russell and Sis.
Karoline Wuthrich. Several family
members were here to share this
special occasion with them.

On March 16 Elder Bro. Wayne
Banwart (Champaign, IL) and his
wife were here to help our Elder
Bro. Doug serve Communion. We
thank Bro. Wayne and his wife for
sharing this special occasion with
us. May God richly bless them.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Howard
Musselman wishes to thank the
ministers, relatives, and friends for
all the prayers, cards, phone calls,
and flowers at the time of his illness
and death. It was all deeply appreci-

ated. May the Lord richly bless each and every one of you.

Sis. Irene Musselman

Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy

Arlyn and Carol

Cheryl and Ed Duke

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Berniece Banwart

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place though weak and
lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to
sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.

Zion's Harp #41

These fitting words were sung during the baptismal service for our new Bro. Lee Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Dixie Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy).

Here to assist in the testimonies and baptisms was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). Also bringing us Words of Truth on this special weekend was Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). On recent weekends, Bros. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) were willing speakers. May all of these visiting ministers be blessed for their efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with loved ones who spent time in hospitals: Sis. Edna M. Banwart and Lydia Edwards for medical care and Julie (Brad) Banwart for surgery. Bro. Verner and Sis. Betty Wirtz need our continuing prayers and support as he requires medical attention for his ongoing illness.

God Cares!

When His eye is on the sparrow
And each budding leaf that grows;

When He sends the dew each
morning
And the sunshine to the rose;
You may know beyond all doubt-
ing,
In this trial you're passing
through,
God cares...and every moment
He is watching over you!

—Keith Bennett

JAPAN, SHIODA
Willis Ehnle

Spring has sprung in Japan. The cherry blossoms in the temple yard outside our kitchen window are breathtakingly beautiful. When the sun shines on those blossoms, how can anything be as beautiful? Life should be that way until we fly away. To God be the glory!

I had a phone call this morning from Bro. Akihiro Ito, informing me that he will be returning to the States for a residency at Springfield, IL. He explained that he will be attending church at Bloomington, which is only one hour away. I guess the roads have improved since I was a child in central Illinois.

Bro. Akihiro will be graduating from medical school here in Yamanashi Prefecture tomorrow. I plan to attend his graduation, which, he told me, begins at 11:00 am. He plans to devote his life to building up the Shioda Church. Please pray for him and for us all, that God's Word may have free course.

We have some loved ones in our church who are not well. We appreciate your prayers for them, too.

Mrs. Biren Furuya, who is a regular attendant at our church, has returned from her birthplace in Malaysia with a new baby boy, accompanied by her five-year-old son, Kotaro.

I am only filling in as your correspondent. The regular correspon-

dents will resume these duties next month, God willing.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Jana Klaus

Greetings from warm Tokyo! This year, because of such unusually warm temperatures, a record has been set for early blooming of the cherry trees and other flowers. The beautiful pink blossoms all throughout the city are really quite a sight to behold, and one who is a believer in the Creator God cannot help but give Him praise and glory for His matchless handiwork.

As many of you may already know, April is the start of a new year for businesses and schools here, so many graduations, entrance ceremonies and work transfers or changes take place during this time. It is quite an exciting time of year with new life budding forth all around in many different ways. For our church attendees, those who have experienced or will experience changes this year are: Hannah Klaus (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana) who recently graduated from her two year kindergarten (separate from elementary schools here) and will begin first grade at the local elementary school with her two older siblings; and perhaps the biggest changes will come for the Inoue family who will be moving out of their house of many years next to our church as construction is due to begin in early April on our new addition to the church.

Our church body has said many a prayer and had many a discussion concerning this project over the last several years and we are all excited, not to mention a little apprehensive, as it actually will be manifested very soon. We are very grateful to the American Elder body and Mission Committee, and all those who have had interest and prayed, for their support and encouragement on this project. Please

continue to keep us in your prayers over the next several months concerning this. We trust all is being guided by the Hand who knows the future.

For the benefit of those who may not have heard yet, the construction plans are to tear down from the back wall of the sanctuary of the church to the other side of the Inoue's present house. Then, to rebuild the back wall and make a foyer there and beside that, a parking lot for 8 or so cars, in the place of where the Inoue's house was standing. And then, above all of that, build a second story with an office room, baby room and guest room, two Sunday School rooms, a dining room and kitchen and bathrooms. There will be an elevator in addition to stairs leading up to the second floor.

Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie plan to move to an apartment they have owned and rented for many years in the town of Higashi Kurume, somewhat of a drive from church, greatly depending on the flow of traffic. It will be quite a change for them considering they have just walked a few feet to church for all these years. We are so grateful for their many years of laboring there for our church and the change will be an adjustment for all of us.

Yumi Takeda, a friend who often attends services, has so kindly offered a room at her culture school/bookstore for us to hold Sunday School classes in during the months of construction (probably lasting until September). It is located very close to the nearest train station to our church, so it should be pretty convenient concerning the circumstances and we are thankful how the Lord has worked this out. We can still hold services and our monthly ladies meeting in the church sanctuary.

As the end of March approaches, our thoughts cannot help but turn to our dear Sis. Takako Horiuchi, who passed from this life one year

ago. We cannot forget her faithful support and Godly example. Please continue to remember her family of 7 children and 20 some grandchildren that their mother's faith would be passed on and not passed by.

We also want to remember Sis. Urushino, whose grandson, who turned one in February, is scheduled in April to have his second surgery, this time for his cleft pallet. Thank you so much to those of you who have prayed or even written letters of encouragement to her.

We had several visitors recently which always brings us joy. As mentioned in my previous Silver Lining report, ministering Bro. David Steffen (Elgin, IL) did indeed visit and we so appreciated his willingness to lend himself for both services as we rarely hear a visiting minister here! Some of us also enjoyed more fellowship with him as we had supper and singing together. Thank you so much, Bro. David, for giving of yourself even though you have been in the ministry for just a short time. We could definitely feel the presence of the Holy Spirit with you.

Sis. Marie's relatives also paid us a visit consisting of a 4th grade daughter of her cousin all the way up to her 80 some year old Aunt! Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) is Marie's mother's sister and she came with her son, Brent Klopfenstein, and his wife, Judy, and family, Rachel (18), Rebecca (Soph.) and Jennifer (4th grade), all from Texas. It was the first time for Brent and his family, but Sis. Nancy had been here years ago with her late husband, Bro. Bill. We feel greatly honored that they made the visit all the way over here and joined us for worship services and lunch. It was nice to meet them all and Jennifer could even make friends with the above mentioned Yumi Takeda's daughter, Miku, who has been to Texas and already had some friends

there! We are very thankful the Lord was with Sis. Nancy and gave her strength and health for this trip.

We are looking forward to our Easter services and program on March 31, Lord willing, which I hope to report on next month.

Please note:

Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue's new address as of April 6, 2002 is:

2-5-8-304 Takiyama
Higashi Kurume-shi
Tokyo-to, 203-0033
JAPAN

Their new telephone number is:
Within Japan - 0424-72-1584
From U.S. - 01181-424-72-1584

KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

Subtle hints of spring are beginning to show here in northeast Kansas. We have seen the snow geese moving into our area as they migrate further north, and we have seen the first robins in our yards. Tips of tulips and daffodils peeping out of the ground remind us that the dormancy of winter is giving way to the new life of spring. The melting of winter into spring is one more beautiful reminder that our God reigns. Yes, all things are under His control. If we are one of God's children, a measure of peace floods our hearts, for we realize that whatever comes our way, God is at the helm. And for those still living in winter's dormancy, remember that our God is gracious, and His mercy endureth forever. Call out to our God, and He will answer. He alone can fill your heart with the vitality of spring-time.

Greetings be to you, our brethren,
To our sisters in the Lord
Here from far and near assembled,

Gathered here in one accord.

Hymns of Zion #7

What a blessing it was to fellowship with those of like mind and faith! Our Bern-Sabetha Single Group hosted other single groups here the weekend of February 16-17. We pray that it was a blessing for all who were involved.

We have had one visiting minister in our congregation during the past month. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) shared God's Word with us on February 17. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

On February 24, the engagement of Sis. Kelly Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Steven Edelman was made known unto us. Sis. Kelly's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha), and Bro. Steven's parents are Eugene and Judy Edelman. We rejoice with them and wish them God's direction as they plan for a lifetime together.

When a Christian dies, Precious is the prize!

Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when he dies, Follows
when he dies.

Hymns of Zion #248

Sis. Pearl Stoller passed from this life on March 5. We express our sympathy to her husband, Bro. Harlan, as well as their sons and families: Bro. Arden (Sis. Darlene), Bro. Darrel (Sis. Gloria), and Meryl (Diana) of Austin, TX. We also remember Sis. Pearl's siblings, Sis. Mavis Meyer (Bro. Louis) and Oscar Strahm (Lena).

One week later God called another from our congregation to his eternal home. Bro. Roy Rokey passed away on March 12. Our prayers and sympathy are with his

wife, Sis. Lucy, and their two children and families: Bro. Allen (Sis. Glenda) and Sis. Maretta Rokey (Morton, IL). We also remember Bro. Roy's brother, Bro. Joe Rokey (Sis. Lila).

Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella) celebrated his 90th birthday in mid-February. Many remembered him with a card shower.

Also receiving a card shower were Bro. Leroy and Sis. Helen Meyer, as February 24 marked their 40th wedding anniversary.

During the past month ministering Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona) conducted three Bible studies on the first three chapters of the book of James. We are thankful for his labors on our behalf and pray that all may be done for the glory of God.

Starting in April, our mid-week church services will be discontinued, and we will begin our Sunday evening song services with the Sabetha congregation.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Ruth Bahr

Sis. Lucille Schurter spent several days in the Joplin, MO, hospital where she underwent heart surgery. She has been blessed with strength to be in our midst since then.

Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) was our first visiting minister this month. On a Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) gave us the exhortation for Communion. Another Wednesday evening Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) ministered to us.

Young members from several congregations gathered here for a weekend of fellowship. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) brought teachings of encouragement after the Saturday evening singing and served on the pulpit Sunday.

What a wonderfully inspiring weekend we had on March 16-17 with Elder Bros. Dennis Warner, Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), and their wives. Also, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) helped occupy the pulpit Sunday. The testimonies of Ryan Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) and Bill and Jan Boge were given Saturday evening. Sunday afternoon they became our brothers and sister in faith in the baptismal waters. May they continue to look to the Lord for wisdom and guidance. Among other visitors, a goodly number attended from the West Bend, IA, congregation. Then, in the evening the three Elder brothers held Communion services.

We wish the Lord's blessings on all the brothers who came over the miles to minister here in Fort Scott.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Laura Wagenbach
Jennifer Stewart

It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows by like a song,
But the man worth while is one
who will smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

We have been enjoying a very mild winter here in Kiowa. However, now that spring is here, winter seems reluctant to leave. In February, the Sunday School took advantage of that mild weather and had a winter hike and wiener roast. That same evening the winds changed and blew in an ice storm that left parts of Kansas and Oklahoma without power for weeks.

On Wednesday, January 30, we had our annual business meeting. We heard the financial report and all the various reports from the other committees. The elections of

Sunday School teachers and other various officers were held.

Sis. Matilda Schupach has recently been hospitalized for pneumonia.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny Stewart and family on the death of Bro. Kelly's mother, Maggy Stewart.

Our church attendance has been pretty slim this winter due to colds and travels. We are looking forward to spring and warm weather, homecomings and healthy people.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank our families, church families and friends for the outpouring of love we received at the time of the illness and death of Kelly's mother, Maggy Stewart. We appreciate all the prayers and cards and support more than words can say. Thank you so much.

Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny Stewart

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder**

Saturday evening, February 23, our congregation assembled together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Our heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Ordained Deacon Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) who assisted Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in this service. May God richly bless them for their kind counsel and admonition.

Many friends and relatives attended a wedding reception held for ministering Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch. We rejoice with them and pray the Lord will bless their marriage.

Congratulations to Bro. Max Burnham on the birth of his first grandson, Kai David, on March 3. Happy parents are David and Rebecca Wernli (Eldorado, KS). Paternal grandparents are Dwight

and Dana Wernli (Eldorado, KS).

Thanks to all our visitors who came for our Invite-A-Guest weekend on March 9-10. We appreciated all our guests who were here, especially ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS). Ministering Bro. Brandon Emch was also with us this month. We wish them the Lord's blessings for their willingness to share God's Word to us.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner**

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Alma Aberle, who passed away on February 19. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Deer Creek, IL). There are many precious memories that will remain in our hearts. Sis. Alma was never a mother, but a mother to many. There were several children at the funeral. They begin to learn at a tender age that there is a better land. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) took part in her funeral service. We don't question that she was ready to go, but we need to ask ourselves, "Are we ready?"

Sis. Evelyn Wysong has been moved to the nursing home. It didn't take long to miss seeing her in church with her ready smile. May God continue to provide for her every need.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of Sis. Kelly Hartter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene) and Bro. Steven Edelman (Eugene and Judy). We pray for God to guide them as they plan their April 28 wedding.

There will be much joy in the home of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie Strahm with the addition of a daughter, Vivian Claire, born March 2. She is also welcomed home by her brothers, Payton, age

3, and Elliott, age 1 1/2. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm and Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Morris, MN).

We appreciated Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) assisting with Sunday services. We are extremely blessed to have another congregation so close that we can work together in this way. It often seems like we're just one church.

A reminder to the Sabetha church that April is the time for our annual Silver Lining collection. Your donation, as you feel moved, should be dropped in the church collection box.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank each one for their prayers and concerns, cards, food, and visits. May God bless each one.

Sis. Sharon Strahm and family

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) were in our assembly March 17. We thank Bro. Bill for ministering God's Word. We can only praise God that our ministers are willing to sacrifice time and expense to travel the miles in our behalf.

We are looking forward to sharing Holy Communion on March 24. Our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi plans to preside over the service. Bro. Max has exhorted us to examine ourselves in preparation for receiving the sacraments. I Corinthians 11:28.

I frequently write about the soothing effect of soft music for my husband, Bro. Godfrey. This past week I was in his room with two aides as they were transferring him from his bed to his recliner—not an easy task. One of them, a very young girl and new to the job, said to the other, "I like that music." To which the other replied, "Whenever

I need a lift, I come into Godfrey's room." The music at that time was a rendition of Zion's Harp tunes.

Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer were privileged to observe their 55th wedding anniversary this month. What a milestone and what an example of Christian commitment! Recently they have been bringing their great-grandchildren to Sunday School. Praise God! May they be blessed with the needed health and strength.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

Congratulations to Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic on the birth of their granddaughter, Allison Minnie Schlatter (Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey, Junction, OH). It is our prayer that the Lord will richly bless their growing family.

We welcome Bro. Nathan Bertsch from Bluffton, IN. He is currently working in Cincinnati. We appreciate his making the effort to fellowship with us. May the Lord bless and provide in this time of transition.

On Saturday evening, March 16, Bro. Lester, Sis. Glendoris, and Sis. Barb Huber were hosts of a World Relief project. We put together 100 health kits for Mexico. All the Sunday School children as well as the young converted folks were a big help. We enjoyed a pizza supper and singing once the project was complete. A blessing was received by everyone.

May the Lord richly bless ministering Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), who brought us the Word this past month.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Gloria Gonzalez

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

Psalm 133:1

The weekend of February 10 we enjoyed the fellowship of many brethren from various churches in the United States. A bus tour from Zapata, TX, stopped in Ixtlan to share in fellowship, singing, and Sunday worship. We were thankful that Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) could be with us to share a message from God's Word. Also, many thanks to Bro. Loren and the others who assisted with the eye clinic throughout the next week.

On February 20 we welcomed home Sis. Rosa Cabrera and Sis. Claudia Gonzalez. For the past six months, they have been working and sharing God's Word with the children at Casa de Elizabeth, an orphanage in Sonora, Mexico.

Meet Sis. Claudia Gonzalez:

I grew up in a home with Catholic teachings. I have four siblings, including Sis. Rosario and Sis. Gloria. I am very thankful that we are now sisters in Christ, also.

Throughout my childhood, I knew about God and thought that that was sufficient. In reality, I did not truly know Him and I did not realize that I was a sinner. I began to attend the Apostolic Christian Church in 1998 after my sister invited me to attend. At times I was reluctant to go, but I usually went. In the beginning, I only went to have fun with the Young Group and did not pay attention to the fact that time was passing and I was still a sinner.

In time, I began to attend church on a more frequent basis. Through the sermons, God revealed to me that I was a sinner, but I did not

want to acknowledge it. Eventually, thanks to the Lord, I understood that Jesus Christ had paid the price with His blood to cover my sins. It was then I realized I needed to go to Jesus and ask Him to forgive me. I started repenting on January 23, 2000, and was baptized on July 9, 2000. I am thankful to the Lord for His mercy and love! I daily feel the Lord's nearness. I know He loves me, and I desire to serve Him every day. Thanks to the Lord for the hope of eternal life.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson

Terri Huber

March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb...and came in like a lion and went out like a lamb again! After the severe winter storm that hit us on March 1-2, and a quick thaw, we were ready for spring. But God sent another unexpected blustery day and night, causing us to have to cancel church services due to drifts on our country roads up to a foot deep. While we can read the Bible, worship and even listen to a sermon on tape at home, how we found ourselves missing the fellowship that week!

Our surgery patients this month were Sis. Michelle Blough and Ramona Gerst. We continue to prayerfully and practically support Ramona, Jared, Jalen and Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy as they optimistically enter the next stage of her treatment. I am sorry that I forgot to include little Maria Blough as a surgery patient last month!

Another parent and grandparent is being missed and mourned. It seems to be the one thing I have been reporting consistently. Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Ott Schlatter (Sis. Pat) at the recent death of his mother, Sis. Elsie (Latty, OH).

In closing, we were reminded in a rather abrupt way this past Sunday

of how quickly things can change, both temporal and eternal. Though it startled us physically, I believe most every thought turned immediately to the spiritual ("in the twinkling of an eye") when our minister's hospital pager went off just as he announced the text for the first reading. My son's writing teacher would say that was quite an "attention getter"!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Rhonda Knochel
Peggy Jackson

Every year we look forward to the coming of spring. There is nothing quite like seeing the trees and flowers awaken from slumber – the dawning of new life. As you read this, we will already have celebrated Easter. How appropriate that we celebrate and commemorate our Lord's death and resurrection, which brought us new life in Him, during the spring of the year.

We rejoice with Ilean Wackerle (Clinton) as she has heeded God's call to experience new life in His Son. What a privilege it is to witness the change in a soul that is repenting. We pray that Ilean will continue to grow in her faith and feel God's nearness in her daily walk with Him.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Wieland in the loss of Sis. Carol's grandmother, Sis. Elsie Schlatter (Latty, OH). Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Frank and Sis. Gail Szabo and their family in the passing of Bro. Frank's brother. May God's tender kindness and gentle love bring peace to these families in their loss.

Sis. Lois Wieland (Bro. Gerald) spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful that she is doing much better and hope that her health continues to improve. It is our prayer that our Great Physician will bring comfort and healing.

We were thankful to have Bro.

Don Manz and his wife, Sis. Connie (Junction, OH), with us. We pray that Bro. Don's ministry will be blessed as he gives of himself to teach and preach God's Holy Word.

May the resurrection of our Lord, and the resulting hope of eternal life, help you to live triumphantly this month. God bless you!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Sarah Beard
Holly Barton

Favorite Song of All

He loves to hear the wind sing
as it whistles through the pines on
mountain peaks.

He loves to hear the raindrops
as they splash to the ground in a
magic melody.

He smiles His sweet approval
as the waves crash to the rocks in
harmony.

Creation joins in unity
to sing to Him majestic symphonies.

He loves to hear the angels as they
sing,

"Holy, holy is the Lamb."

Heaven's choirs in harmony
lift up praises to the great I Am.
But He lifts His hands for silence
when the weakest saved by grace
begins to sing,

And a million angels listen
as a newborn soul sings, "I have
been redeemed."

His favorite song of all
is the song of the redeemed,
When lost sinners now made clean
lift their voices loud and strong.
When those purchased by His
blood

lift to Him a song of love,
Nothing more He'd rather hear,
nor so pleasing to His ear,
As His favorite song of all.

—Dan Dean

Isn't this amazing to think about! God has the praise of all Heaven and creation, yet what He really wants to hear is the song of those He has not only created but purchased with His own blood. How good He is to give us a means of expressing our love and thankfulness to Him, and to allow us to share it with others as well. The Peoria choir did just that when they visited our congregation the weekend of March 16 and 17. We so much appreciated listening as they praised our Saviour and encouraged us all.

We joyfully welcome Sis. Ranka Mojic (Laza) into our fellowship. May she feel the love and support of the brotherhood as she continues her pilgrim journey.

"And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down."

John 6:11

This verse struck me in a new way recently. "Jesus distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down." Isn't this also the way we are fed spiritually? Although the Lord feeds every believer directly through His Word, He also imparts wisdom to those He has set over the church, who then share that wisdom with the congregation. We were blessed this month to hear the Lord's teachings communicated through the Conference letter. We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) for assisting in this work.

This has been a month of sadness for many in our congregation. We are profoundly sorry for the loss of Chuck and Dot Leman's young grandson, Brian Leman, who was the victim of a tragic accident. Dot's sister, Sis. Ann Sauder (Roanoke, IL), also passed away. In addition, we extend sympathy to Bill and Sis. Trudy Schmidt and their sons, Josh

and Matt, on the death of Bill's mother, Elizabeth Schmidt.

Due to many events this month, we had a number of visiting ministers: Bros. Ron

Allenbach (Kiowa, KS), Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), and Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) served at our monthly Woodhaven service, for which we are also appreciative.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Diane Stewart**

Holy Communion was served to our congregation by Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN).

Also visiting this past month was ministering Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). May God richly reward these brothers for their willingness to serve.

The Easter story was told to us again by our precious Sunday School children on March 24.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Cheryl Messner
Dianne Kellenberger**

On March 9 we were again reminded of Christ's broken body and shed blood upon Calvary as we received Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) was here to share in this solemn occasion.

Bro. Doug Nohl and Sis. Amber Stuber were united in Holy Matrimony on March 17 in Tremont, IL. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl. We pray for them God's guidance and blessings in their marriage.

Our prayers have been that God will strengthen and heal Sis. Edith Joos (Bro. Albert), Sis. Thelma

Dogotch (Bro. Leo) and Martha Schmidgall (infant daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Janet) who were recent hospital patients.

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of Easton Andrew, who was born March 5 to first-time parents, Andy and Echo Harker. Grandparents are Bro. Cork and Sis. Pam Fehr and Chuck and Deb Harker. May God grant them wisdom in raising their precious little son.

O, slaughtered Lamb, by whom the seal was broken,
That gave me comfort and eternal cheer!
My faith sends up to yonder Zion's mountain,
A look of longing to Thee, Lamb so dear!
Thou art, O Lamb, now raised on high,
What wonder that my thoughts would ever to Thee fly!

All Satan's host has been by Thee defeated;
Therefore I lack not strength when battles rage;
My freedom from death's bond has been completed;
I know where to now leads my pilgrimage.
The cross was path to joy for Thee;
Shall not the member with the head united be?

Thou precious Lamb, what great things thou hast promised
Words of eternal truth didst Thou declare,
"No wolf shall pluck a sheep out of my bosom;
No foe shall even bend a single hair!"
I count myself among Thy blest;
I know Thy wounds have gained for me eternal rest.
Zion's Harp #184

Let us pause and consider the great price that has been paid for

our salvation.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the prayers, flowers, cards, food and kindness given me while I was in the hospital.

Edith Joos

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

"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

John 11:25

Easter reminds us of the many beautiful things God brings into our lives - from a robin's song filling the air to sunlight filling an empty tomb. May we be blessed by God's abundant love for us.

We were able to be together for our annual Easter breakfast served by our Sunday School and teachers. We thank you for your efforts.

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and Sis. Linda (Sardis, OH) at a Sunday evening service.

"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For ye know not when the master of the house cometh: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."

Mark 13:33

Surgery patients were Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) and Howard Lauwagie (Charlene). We pray for God's healing touch in their lives.

Marc and Tina Messner are the parents of a precious new baby daughter, Maty Grace, born February 28. Big sister, Kali, welcomes her home. May the Lord bless their family. Grandparents are Elder Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Joann Messner.

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

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) who shared God's Word with us.

"Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

John 6:53

On March 10, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman was here to help our Elder Bro. Don Braker serve Communion. We appreciate the labors of our Elder brethren on our behalf.

Our lot is found in pleasant places
A goodly heritage is ours,
To Him whence come all gifts and
graces,
Let us give praise with all our powers.

He chooses us of His free grace,
And makes us His peculiar race.

Zion's Harp #145

We welcome Bro. Phil Rassi to our congregation as he has found school related employment in our area and hope his lot with us can be a "pleasant place".

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Becky Marti****Kristen Leman**

Our congregation bid a fond farewell to Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi and family, who recently moved to Congerville, IL. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they establish their home there.

We enjoyed the many visitors who assembled with us on February 23-24 for our couple's weekend. Among our visitors was ministering Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO). May the Lord bless him for his labors on our behalf.

We welcome Bro. Tyler Joos

(Bradford, IL) to our congregation. He has moved here temporarily for schooling.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Calvin Lanz, who recently passed from this life. May they be comforted at this time of sorrow.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Betsy Schrenk**

The following ministers visited St. Louis in February and March: Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN). Our heartfelt thanks go to each of them and the rest of our visitors.

We experienced a momentous occasion on March 3 when we witnessed the ordination of our new Elder brother in Taylor, MO. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer has assumed the responsibilities for St. Louis in addition to Taylor. Retiring Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm have been such loyal supporters of our little church for the past 15 years that services have been held here, with many trips and phone calls to St. Louis. (Services had been held here prior to that, but had been discontinued before our family moved here in 1986). We pray that God will richly reward them for their unflinching love and service. What a blessing they have been to us! We have many wonderful memories.

During the ordination service, an analogy was made between the builders of the wall around Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah and our present day Elder brothers. The workers had two duties: to construct the wall and to defend against the enemy. Because the threat from the enemy was so imminent, they held a weapon with one hand and worked with the other. Our Elders need to feed us—their flocks, to help us build our spiritual

lives, and to warn and exhort against the danger of Satan—the enemy who would desire to see each saint shipwrecked. We pray that we in St. Louis can live lives that are submissive to God's will so our actions won't add to the burden that has been placed on Bro. Kent's shoulders.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Susan Haerr**

The past month has been one of many extra special blessings here in Taylor and we are thrilled to share with you the ways God has worked in our lives and congregation.

Thank you to all those who traveled to be a part of our Invite – A – Friend weekend, February 23-24. A special thanks to those sharing God's Word with us that weekend: Bros. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse, IN) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). God bless you. Our little church appreciates each visitor and we hope you will be back soon.

The following weekend, March 2-3, was a weekend all of us will hold close to our hearts and remember for years to come. We feel blessed to have witnessed the ordination of Bro. Kent Heimer as our new Elder. We are so thankful for the willingness of Bro. Kent and his wife, Sis. Jan, to serve in that role. Our prayers have been and continue to be with them and their children, Sis. Amber, Sis. Jackie and Darin. We, again, thank all of those who braved the snowy roads to be here and share the blessing with us. An extra special thanks to those Elders who took part in the service: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), and John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS). The advice and encouragement you shared with us touched our hearts. God bless you!

Thank you doesn't seem to be an adequate term to extend our appreciation to our dear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his wife, Sis. Dona, for their many years of faithfulness to our congregation. Many of us will never truly understand the extent of the prayers and sacrifices that those years entailed, but we are thankful that God does understand and we pray that He will richly reward you both here on earth and, especially when you reach your true Home! You have touched hearts and lives here more than you may ever know. We praise God for sharing you with us in that special way. May He bless you with many more years of health and happiness to share with each other and your family.

Saturday, March 9, was our annual Sunday School Fundraising Supper. The students, parents and teachers worked hard to make the meal a special one and we are so thankful for those who took the time to come and enjoy it and to donate to our many activities and projects we have throughout the year.

Saturday, March 16, marked a very blessed day for us as we took part in Communion. It is such a special time to draw closer to God and to each other. I pray that the Spirit of that night can live in our hearts all year. Thank you to our Elder Bros. Roy and Kent for serving us in that blessed service.

A number of individuals spent time in the hospital in the past month. Our prayers for God's healing are extended to Sis. Luann Knapp (Bro. Mike), Jeremy Haerr, Anna Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), Nikki Haerr, Bro. Shannon Haerr (Sis. Susan) and Bro. Kenny Knapp (Sis. Phyllis).

We wish you all God's nearness and blessings in the month to come. Please come visit us here in Taylor!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were thankful for a blessed weekend on February 22-24. On Friday evening we held a World Relief work night to put together prenatal kits. Each time we get together for these occasions we are again reminded of the bounty with which we have been provided. May we always remember to thank the Lord for His many blessings. On Saturday evening we had a potluck dinner and singing at the church basement and enjoyed sharing the weekend with visitors from the Rockville, CT, congregation.

Thank ye the Lord!
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is
gracious,
His mercy It endureth evermore!

Bless ye the Lord,
O bless ye the Lord! My soul, re-
member
His goodness and His gifts be-
stowed on thee!

Hymns of Zion #245 vs. 1-2

Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney in the passing of Sis. Karen's mother, Grace Briot, from this life on March 16. May the Lord provide His comforting hand upon this family in the days ahead, even as He promised in St. John 14:16-18, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; even as the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you."

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Gasser

were married April 7, 1962, and their 40th wedding anniversary is this year. We wish them many more blessed years together.

Melissa Cannone has turned to the Lord in repentance and we wish for her to feel the presence of the Lord Jesus, and grace to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

Bro. Leo Heib has spent some time in a nursing home. We hope it will help him to feel better.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

We appreciate our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. John Laukhauf (Latty, OH). We are so thankful for the willingness of these brothers to share God's Word with us and we enjoy having the extra company that they usually bring with them.

Many hearts were gladdened at the news of the engagement of Bro. Matt Miller (Latty, OH) and Sis. Wendy Manz (Paulding, OH). Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy are two of our Ohio State University students and we look forward to having this young couple with us for a few more years here in Columbus.

We would like to thank Sis. Anita Steiner (Bro. Nate) for her labors as Silver Lining reporter for the last few years.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

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

Hymns of Zion #74

May these words be comforting to those who have recently lost loved ones. We express our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Patricia Rose in the loss of Patricia's grandparents and also to Sis. Inez Rose and Sis. Betty Manz (Bro. Alvin) in the loss of their nephew.

What a blessed weekend March 9-10 was for our congregation as we gathered together to partake of the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) was with us, and we truly appreciated his labors on our behalf throughout the weekend. May we ponder what all our Lord and Saviour endured for us as Easter draws near. This weekend was extra special for Sis. Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) as her engagement to Bro. Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay) of Latty, OH, was made known to the congregation. We trust the Lord to continue to be with them as they make plans for their future lives together.

Allison Minnie Schlatter was born to Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey Schlatter on March 7. Her twin sisters Natalie and Nicole are happy to have a little playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter. We know God will continue to be with them as they are brought up to know and love Him.

March 16-17 our church had an Invite A Couple/Friend Weekend. We extend our thankfulness to all those who made the special effort to come and make the weekend so enjoyable for us. Among our guests were ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Gidley, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). A special thank-you to these brothers for bringing forth God's Good and Holy Word to us.

OHIO, LATTY

**Kathy Sinn
Heidi Hackenjös**

Our Sis. Beulah Stoller has recently moved to a local nursing home. We know this will cause some adjustments in her life. However, we trust that she will feel a blessing as she continues to strive toward her heavenly home.

Our prayers for recovery are with Sis. Arvilla Kipfer. She is recuperating from surgery, and we wish her strength in body and soul.

Another grandson has been added to the family circle of Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf. Their daughter, Erin, and her husband, Ian, have welcomed Brendan Michael. As this family circle enlarges, may they endeavor to raise their children with the Bible as their guide.

Andrew Ray was added to the household of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joy Sinn. His sister Sara is looking forward to spending more time with her buddy! Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Sis. Marie Feucht.

Several other family circles will be enlarging as our congregation has had three wedding engagements announced. Bro. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) is engaged to Sis. Katie Anliker (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Carol, Eureka, IL). On March 10 Sis. Heidi Hackenjös (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene) and Bro. Jason Pence (John Pence and Marti Nussbaum) from Leo, IN, had their engagement announced. That same Sunday, the engagement of Bro. Matt Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Wendy Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra, Junction, OH) was also announced. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Katie and Sis. Wendy to our church family, and we trust that Sis. Heidi will also return to visit us often.

God has given His sweet peace to two of our converts. Carmen Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis.

Carol) and Ryan Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) have confessed peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimonies in April.

We enjoyed a Wednesday evening visit of Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). Along with our home ministering brothers, we know that the Lord will bless and reward them for the message for the keeping of our souls.

Our Sis. Elsie Schlatter was called Home and has been relieved of her earthly struggle. She leaves behind one daughter, Carolyn Heyerly, four sons, Gus (Sis. Leann), Bro. Eli (Sis. Janel) Bro. Joe, and Bro. Otto (Sis. Pat, Alto, MI), and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We extend our sympathy as they adjust to her absence. But we know that they are thankful that she could go Home. Other siblings, Bro. Carl Rager (Sis. Louise), Sis. Lillian Schlatter, Sis. Frieda Rehklau (Toledo, OH), and Sis. Marie Steffen (Bluffton, IN), will continue to walk so that they too can meet her on that yonder shore.

Jessica Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) and Sam Bear were united in marriage. We ask the Lord to guide and direct them as they begin life as husband and wife.

On March 16, Sis. Bertha "Tootie" Sinn Stoller (Bro. Ralph) was called from time into eternity. We rejoice with her as she has won the victory, but we know that her passing has created a void for her loved ones. Her family circle includes: two daughters, Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Ray) and Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob, Smithville, OH); two sons, Bro. Stan Sinn (Sis. JaNahn) and Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Kim); eight step-children, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sis. Tootie has siblings from Cissna Park who include Archie Kaufman (Phyllis), Calvin

Kaufman (Carolyn), Alvin Kaufman, Jr. (Ruby), Sis. La Verne Kaufman, Sis. Emily Eisenmann, and Sis. Marcella Markwalder. Others of her siblings include Bro. Bob Kaufman (Sis. Marie, Morton, IL), Bro. Don Kaufman (Sis. Gladys, Bloomington, IL), Ben Kaufman (Edie, Ft. Wayne), and Sis. Martha Rinkenberger (Bro. Charles, Congerville, IL). May God fill the void and draw this family closer to Him as they continue on their walk toward that Heavenly Home.

The Easter season will have come and gone before this is printed and mailed. I hope that we all remember the actual reason for this time of year. Let us commemorate those events more often in our busy walk of life, for that is the foundation of our faith.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Bro. Ben Beer was a hospital patient this past month. Sis. Elisabeth Betsch is currently at Lexington Court Rehabilitation and Care Center. Sis. Helen Ramsier (Bro. Wally) is receiving care at the Good Shepherd Home and Villa in Ashland. We pray that God would be with all who are suffering bodily afflictions.

We wish God's comfort and extend our sympathy to Sis. Virginia Contrascere (Russell) in the recent loss of her mother, Frances Frank.

We are thankful that our Father in heaven continues to stretch out His merciful arms. Sara Sabo (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon) wishes to follow Jesus and repent of her sins.

At this time of the year we remember the life of our Saviour, how He came into this world, was crucified, and arose from the dead.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have

tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

St. John 16:33

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar Sandy Zollinger

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

St. Matthew 16:24

We rejoice with and pray for those who are willing to deny self and take up the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Crystal Riggensbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) and Brad Hartzler (Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen) are now repenting and seeking His grace to do so.

We would like to thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) for assisting in the marriage ceremony of Sis. Karen Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian) and Bro. Jon Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie, Smithville, OH). Bro. Matthew Rufener (Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna) and Sis. Amber Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) were also united in marriage at our Smithville church. We pray the Lord will bless and guide these couples in the months and years ahead.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers for our Invite A Family weekend. Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) shared the Word with us.

This past month Sis. Martha Zollinger (Carl) and Martha Maag (Robert) were hospitalized and are now on the road to recovery, thanks to the prayers of many loved ones.

Babies certainly are a miracle and a special gift from God, and we have three more joining our congregation. Dylan Michael was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Stoller. Welcoming him home are Derek, Jenna, and Jaycie. Grandparents

are Bro. Everett and Sis. Marge Stoller and Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller. Brendan Michael was born to first-time parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee Lanz. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN). And Jonah Michael was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner. I'm sure Jacob and Isabel will love "helping" with their new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Carole Steiner and Robert and Martha Maag.

OHIO, SARDIS

Terry Zollinger

The glory of the Lord will shine
Throughout this Holy land.
Eternal morn, without decline
God's praises will expand,
God's praises will expand.

Hymns of Zion #224

The concept of Jesus and His walk throughout the land became clearer to us as Bro. Dana Emch (Rittman, OH) so kindly presented slides of the Holy Land on a Saturday evening. Today, travel is easily accessible, but when Jesus traveled, it took a long time to get to any destination. May we be thankful for the distance Jesus went to spread the gospel, and may we be thankful for the freedom of travel here and afar.

"Have mercy upon me, O Lord;
for I am weak: O Lord, heal me..."

Psalms 6:2

Alysha Figel (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Cyndi) was hospitalized and had surgery. We are thankful that young Alysha is home and attending church again.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Dave and Valerie Fisher have a new child to teach of God's love. Justin Michael was born on February 26. Kelly and Daniel complete the family. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller and Ed and Sandy Thomas.

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

Hebrews 13:17

The Memorandum was read on March 2 by our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and visiting Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). May we take heed of the warnings and live through the Living Word by walking the straight and narrow path. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Bill, Sis. Emily, and their family for coming to assist with the Memorandum reading.

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

Hymns of Zion #161

Clara Stalder's dear husband, Robert, passed away on March 11 due to complications of an auto accident. Clara and Bob have three sons, along with their families, that have our sympathy and prayers. It is a privilege to carry everything to God including our pain and grief. We missed Clara during the time Bob was in the hospital and she was not able to attend church. We look forward to seeing Clara, as she,

hopefully, can attend church services again.

Bro. Matt Brake spent several months in Japan recently and presented his slides and experiences while he had lived there. We were able to visualize what both of the churches look like and see the beloved brethren and their surroundings. We are thankful for our precious faith that can extend all across the land.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank all who extended thoughts, prayers, cards, gifts, and food to us during Alysha's surgery and convalescence.

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Cyndi Figel and family

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #182

On a recent Saturday evening, our congregation was reminded of Calvary and the price that was paid so that we might have a hope of life eternal. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller in sharing Communion with us.

Visiting ministers during the past month have been Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), and Bros. Ron Koehl (Sarasota, FL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). We thank them for bringing the Word to us. May God bless their efforts.

We're always thankful when there are souls who respond to the call of God. Autumn Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane), Jill Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois), and Lydia Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis.

Kim) have expressed their desire to begin the path that leads to heaven. We rejoice with them and their families and wish them an abundance of grace to lay a firm foundation on which to build their house of faith.

It's always encouraging when souls can find peace with God and man. Cody and Kara Stoller (Sis. Irma Stoller, Latty, OH, and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman) and Diane Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie) feel they have repented and are awaiting the appropriate time to give their testimony to the congregation. May their faith continue to grow during this time.

Three couple have recently been united in Holy Matrimony. On January 6, Bro. Dana Nieman and Sis. Lea Stoller were joined as husband and wife in the Lord at Remington, IN. The parents of this couple are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller (Remington, IN). They plan to make Remington their home church as Bro. Dana has already been living in that area. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their marriage.

On February 17, Bro. Jon Bauman and Sis. Karen Stoller became one in the Lord at Rittman. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller (Rittman, OH). We welcome Sis. Karen to our congregation at Smithville and wish them much joy in serving the Lord together.

On February 24, Bro. Matt Rufener and Sis. Amber Miller were joined together. Their parents are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller. We likewise wish them God's blessings as they establish their home and Sis. Amber becomes part of the Rittman congregation.

On February 28, first-time parents Jaime and Shyla Riggerbach welcomed Micah Warren into their

hearts and home. Grandparents of Micah are Bro. Don and Sis. Gail Riggensbach. May wisdom from God be given to these and all parents, as they face the responsibility of raising their little ones.

We extend love and sympathy to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle on the death of Sis. Shari's mother. May God provide comfort and faith at this time of loss.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one who remembered me in any way following my injuries. The cards, words of encouragement, and prayers were greatly appreciated. May God reward you richly.

*Least one,
Sis. Ruth Gasser*

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

II Timothy 3:16

We were privileged to receive instruction from the Memorandum read to our congregation. May we ever strive to obey God's leading and strengthen the unity of the brotherhood.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

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

John 3:16

As Easter is approaching, this scripture verse came to mind. It

contains the most wonderful promise. May we all feel the joy and blessed hope that Easter brings.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for joining us recently, and for sharing the Word with us. We likewise appreciate his comments in regards to the recently held Winter Elder Conference. May the Lord bless our Elder brethren as they give of themselves time and again for our benefit.

We are also grateful to the following ministering brethren and their families for coming to worship with us: Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton, OR. As always, we enjoyed their sermons and fellowship. God's blessings to all.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Kuenzi

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..."

I Cor. 13:7-8

On December 29, 2001, Bethany Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda, Bern, KS) and Scott Zollinger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley) were married in Bern, KS. We wish them God's many blessings in their marriage. Bethany has been living in Oregon for the last two years, but we extend a loving welcome again to her as she makes Oregon her home. (Correspondent note: My apologies to this couple as I failed to report their wedding earlier.)

This month Sis. Mary Metz (Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) were engaged to be married. They are planning to have their wedding on May 5. May God be with them as their lives converge and continue to guide them as they make their plans.

This month we experienced the

loss of a dear older brother - in - faith, Bro. Carl Schmid. He was 99 years old, four months shy of reaching a century. We're thankful that God called him and he repented in the last few years of his life. His wife, Gertrude Schmid, of Switzerland survives him. At his funeral, the family expressed their thanks for all who visited him and sang for him. They also were appreciative for those who shuttled him to and from church when he was no longer able to drive.

Visitors for this month included Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA). We thank him for his labors to bring the Word to us.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who extended their love and kindness through cards, gifts, food, and prayers in the loss of our father and grandfather. May God bless you all.

Jack and Janet Kuenzi and Family

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan and MaryElizabeth
Gasser

The calendar says it's spring, and here on the east coast we're waiting patiently for the weather to catch up to the calendar, and the temperatures to climb. But already we see signs of God's creation coming out of winter hibernation. Every tulip opening, every dogwood flowering reminds us of the care God takes over even the smallest of His creation. Will we let Him wake us out of our winter hibernation and be clothed with His glory?

We were thankful this month to have Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Nancy, spend time with us this month, and appreciate Bro. Everett sharing the Word with our congregation.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

As we prepare for Holy Communion, we have felt God's presence so strongly through our visiting ministering Brothers. They are: Bros. Bill Gerst (Sis. Judy, Alto, MI), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH). We thank each of them for their loving efforts on our behalf in bringing us God's Word. We have also been privileged to enjoy the fellowship of many brethren and friends from Athens, AL; Rockville, CT; Bluffton North, and Indianapolis, IN; Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, Forrest, Goodfield, Tremont and Washington, IL; Bern, KS; Alto and Detroit, MI; Kansas City, MO; Akron, Latty, Rittman and Smithville, OH.

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: Chicago, IL (4/21); Burlington, IA (4/28); Athens, AL (5/5), Roanoke, IL (5/19); and Wolcott, IN (5/26). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12. 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

"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

Phil. 2:2

One of our church members just experienced the significance of this Biblical concept. Someone approached this member in a restaurant and asked what church they attended. When informed that the church was Apostolic Christian, he replied, "I thought so. I know someone from who goes to your church." How surprising and encouraging to find out it was indeed one of our Apostolic Christian Church members somewhere up north!

Even being so far away in miles from most of our churches, we benefit from your faithfulness. Let us all be encouraged in all things to be "ambassadors for Christ." (II Cor. 5:20)

Bros. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) were here to serve us in the pulpit ministry during the last month. We were blessed with a large amount of visitors this month from various places: Mansfield, OH; Elgin, IA; Gridley, IL; Iowa City and Burlington, IA; Silverton, OR; and Bluffton, IN.

The schedule of ministers for May is the following: May 5 - Lester, IA; May 12 - Fairbury, IL; May 19 - Kansas City, MO; and May 26 - Junction, 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

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

Romans 10:15

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Arthur Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH). May God reward them for their efforts to share the Word with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller in the passing of Bro. Russell's sister-in-law. May they feel the nearness of the Lord during this time of loss.

We bid farewell to Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk, as the time has come for them to return to their home church in Athens, AL. We thank Bro. Tom for his labors of love.

One by one we bid farewell to the winter residents as they return home. We enjoy the fellowship we have one with another, and as the song-writer penned:

When we asunder part,
 It gives us inward pain;
 But we shall still be joined in
 heart,
 And hope to meet again.
Hymns of Zion #156

A young friend mentioned to me the other day that she doesn't re-

member a time that she wasn't afraid to go to sleep at night for fear of dying. She knows what she must do but just keeps waiting. Isn't that a sad place in life to be? I then told her, "It's been such a long time since I have had that fear in my heart that it's hard to remember what it was like." Jesus took that fear away and put inside my heart a peace that passeth all understanding.

This is the time of year when we remember all the suffering, pain, and anguish our Lord endured for each one of us who will call upon Him. He not only suffered and died, but He AROSE. Hallelujah!

Praise to Jesus who has risen!
 Delivered from death's bond and
 prison,
 Appears triumphant God's own
 Son
 Thru the heavens' spacious arches
 Resound the joyful songs of glad-
 ness,
 And peace doth glow around God's
 throne.
 Praise Him who ever lives,
 Who life and comfort gives,
 Christ the Saviour, And to our
 God!
 Death's dark abode Is banished by
 His conq'ring rod.
Zion's Harp #60

Note of Thanks:

I wish to give heartfelt thanks to the many friends, sisters, and brothers of our faith for the many kind deeds that have been done for me while I was unable to care for myself. I truly and sincerely appreciate it. I'm sorry this long overdue. God will be your rewarder. Names are too numerous to mention, but God knows your good deed that you so lovingly and freely gave of yourself.

Humbly and in Christian Love,
Sis. Lillian Koehl



Sermon continued from page 2

awake. In fact, it was so important to them to stay awake that the penalty of death was upon them if they fell asleep at their post. That is really how it is with us, dear ones. If we go back to sleep, spiritually, we are going to lose eternal life. We are living in a dangerous and a perilous time where the enemy is going about as a roaring lion. Yes, but he is also going about as an angel of light.

We can read in the Book of Revelation of the white horse and the rider that came forth with a bow, but he didn't have any arrows. It didn't say anything about arrows for that bow. It says, "...he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Revelation 6:2. That is religious deception, dear ones. We are living in a time of religious deception and why not? Because Satan is having such great success with deception. In the time of Christ, immediately after Him, there was a great persecution. The devil unleashed his wrath against the church and tried to stamp it out immediately. But the blood of the martyrs was just like he that was sown and many thousands were added to the fold of God.

Today we don't have persecution physically, do we? Yet, the Bible says "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. But it is an inner persecution that we suffer, brought on by the devil himself to the manifold temptations, troubles and trials, that he brings upon the people of God, even as he did upon Job to discourage and to try to cast down the people of God and to cause them to turn back.

So we do have tribulations. We do have persecutions, but it is an inner, not an outer. It is not physical. We are not tortured or cast into prison. Because I believe Satan is having

better success with the deception, as we mentioned. There are many strange doctrines and false doctrines in our world and time and the new Evangelical way that doesn't want to submit to any authority.

We read here, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." I Thessalonians 5:12-13. The Word condemns a forward man—a man who is presumptuous, that is bold and wants to go forth with his own way and his own opinions. That is not meekness and lowliness and gentleness of the Lord. The Lord said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.

We read in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah of these things that the Lord required. It wasn't sacrifice; it was an offering. "He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck;" Isaiah 66:3. But he said, "Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word;" Isaiah 66:5. Verse two says, "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2.

We read in another place, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:17. That is the new nation that he spoke of there—the New Jerusalem, the church. That is the Kingdom of God upon this earth—it is hidden, the field, just like the Lord spoke in this parable that when the

man found it, he went and sold all that he had and bought that field.

That is what the Lord has done for us, dear ones. He found the field of the church and gave His all to purchase that field. He went to the cross for us. He laid down His life and shed His blood to redeem us from the darkness that we read about here. The darkness of sin and the eternal condemnation.

Can we imagine and can we really understand the depth of the seriousness of sin and what it cost the Lord to purchase His church and how God looks at sin? Because when His Son was there upon the cross, we read that He became a curse for us because it is written, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Galatians 3:13. God actually turned away from His Son and the Lord cried out and said, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Mark 15:34. It was at that moment the sins of the world was upon our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He bore that penalty that was due unto us — separation from His Heavenly Father. That is the penalty of sin and death; and death is a separation.

We can witness a physical death, a separation of the body from the spirit of light that returns to God. Spiritual death is much more horrible, an eternal separation of a lost soul from a Heavenly Father. The Lord came to do away with that death. He has written in His Word that someday death shall die.

There shall be no more death and we look forward to that time, dear ones.

We read about that also in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain."

Isaiah 66:22. That is written to the righteous, holy nation, the church of God that overcomes the world by the power of His grace. God gives us grace and that grace enables us to live the Godly, holy life because He went before and set the example that we should live. He walked the path before us to show us the way that we must also walk.

The keeping of the cross, mortifying of the old man, putting off the sins of the flesh, repenting of our sins, making a confession, making restitution, that is all part of the rebirth and regeneration that we have experienced because the Lord went before us and accomplished it for us. Then we rise up as a new creature in Christ. "...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. We have torn down the old things and God forbid that we should ever build them up again. The apostles spoke that if we build again those things that we destroyed, we make ourselves transgressors. So all of those sins and all of that past life which we have crucified and buried them in the watery grave are forever to stay there.

We are to go on, dear ones, by the power of His grace and overcome the world. What is the cross of Christ? Sometimes we hear some say, "Oh, that is my cross in life." Getting cancer is not a cross. Losing a loved one is not a cross because if the physical ailments and afflictions were the cross, the whole world would have a cross. But our cross is the renunciation of the world. The world does not have that because the world still embraces and loves the world and the world spirit. They relish in fulfilling their own lusts and desires that are contrary to God. They are opposed to God and they are alienated from God. That is

the world. Our cross, dear ones, that we pick up every day is to renounce the world, to love the Lord and become His children and to walk in paths of righteousness.

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." I Thessalonians 5:5-8. It tells us very briefly and very certainly from whence we came and where we are going. We came out of darkness and we came out of sleep and now we are on the road to life. We are to be sober, we are to watch and we are to put on the breastplate of faith and love. We read, don't we dear ones, of all the weapons of our warfare?

We also read in the Old Testament that cursed be the man that standeth upon his sword. We have the breastplate of faith and we have the hope of salvation for a helmet. We read in another place that we have the shield of faith and your loins are girt about with truth. Then he says that above all these things, beloved, take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (see Ephesians 6:17). That is the only weapon in our arsenal that we have for an offense of the enemy. A shield, a helmet, a breastplate are all for our defense that we might quench the fiery darts of the wicked. We need that, too, because sometimes he sneaks upon us unawares and his mission is to destroy us, to regain us, to recapture us and to bring us again into bondage. Aren't we thankful, dear ones, that with

the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, we can hack the devil to pieces? He cannot stand against the Word of God. So that is the weapon we fight with.

We read of Stephen that they were not able to resist the word and the power by which he spake. So it is with the people of God, if we walk faithfully in His footsteps and His pathways, He is going to provide for us. The Lord said, "...no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:29. They are not able to pluck them out of my Father's hand, is what it said. However, that does not take away our power of choice. If we choose to jump out of the Lord's hand, it is a very serious mistake. But we can do it. But we will never be taken except we surrender of our own free will and choice to the enemy.

So, dear ones, we are actually battling in victory. We are not battling for the victory. We have already gained the victory because our Lord Jesus Christ has gained the victory through His sacrifice on the cross for us.

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." I Thessalonians 5:9-11. We need the edification. When we get up in the morning, even for our physical bodies, God has set forth the example that we are to be nourished and we are to care for our bodies. Day by day we need the subsistence or else we are going to get weak and eventually we are going to pass away if we never partake of food and drink again. That is how it is in the spirit, dear

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

ones, we need to be refreshed. We need to be exhorted, edified and built up by the Word of the Lord. It is life-giving, power-providing words which enable His people to overcome the world.

Remember in Revelation when the Lord spoke to all those churches, he that overcometh. Even overcometh! I think nearly every one, to him that overcometh, he will inherit all things. He will inherit eternal life. He will receive a white stone to overcome to the necessity. It is a requirement, dear ones. The Lord provides the grace that we can overcome by Him.

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly...” I Thessalonians 5:12-13a. We read in another Scripture that we are to obey those that have the rule over us, that we are to submit ourselves for they watch for our souls. They must give an account, and they will give an account for each and every one of us. They are over us in the Lord and they will give an account of us and we are to submit ourselves, dear ones. We are to obey them. We received the counsel again in this day.

The Word exhorts us to obey them so that when they do give an account for us, they may do it with joy. Standing before the Lord with joy in their hearts giving an account for their church. Then the blessing

is for them and the church. Because it says, if they have to do it with grief, it is going to be unprofitable for us.

So may we, dear ones, humble ourselves and may we submit ourselves. The lowliness and the gentleness is the very beginning of our salvation. The contrition and the penance is required. We have all come that way. That is part of the door as our Lord Jesus Christ provided for us that we must repent. We must come down from the lofty heights of our mind. Our pride has to be ruined and destroyed. Human pride will never inherit the kingdom. A humble heart that is willing to be humiliated like the Lord was. In His humiliation, His judgment was taken away. The very Son of God was as a sheep that opened not his mouth before his shearers.

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.” I Thessalonians 5:14-15. Warn them that are unruly. The Lord loves the unruly, but He doesn't love their behavior so He says warn them. There is a time in every parent's life, I believe, when the rod of correction can no longer be used. Perhaps, most of the time, if we use it on a minor child, it is not going to have to be used anyway when they grow up.

But sometimes in a flock of sheep, there are those that are leaning against the fence and they need to be warned. They are unruly, those that don't like to have rules and regulations in their life. The apostle tells us here that they are to be warned.

The Word tells us that we are all going to give an account of ourselves before God. We will all appear individually before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive the things that we have done in our bodies. So that is why we want to live by the rules — it is a rule of Christ. It is not a bunch of man-made rules and regulations and legalism, no, but it is the rule of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He laid down the straight way, the narrow way, goes up against our human inclinations, not pleasing to the flesh and even counseled those who minister the word. The Apostle Paul said, “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” I Corinthians 9:27. That is self discipline, dear ones. He treated his body roughly. He kept himself in subjection to the Word of God and to the rule of Christ. We heard today how those that are over us, they are brethren, too. They have to live by the same rule as we all do. It is the rule of Christ, the Chief Shepherd. What a blessed yoke it is. “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:30.



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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI						
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY	PERCENT FILLED
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	0%
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	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	(*) 75%
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	(*) 75%
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	rbeebe@surfpure.com
(1) Kevin Fisher	309-923-7684		
(2) Kent Heimer	573-393-2440	573-769-5516	janheimer@hotmail.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Jon Knapp	309-359-4213		jkplan@hotmail.com
Mark Criss	309-693-2532		redem1@aol.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	309-923-9154 or 941-485-4302	309-923-9154	tbmiller@mymailstation.com
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	ksss@dpc.net
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		NATEWIEG@hotmail.com
(4) Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		jschwab@ind-pallet-corp.com
Tim Lehman	913-648-3069		tlohman99@yahoo.com

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

Attention:

Sunday School Superintendents: Now is the time to reserve your place for a 2003 Sunday School work project at the Caribbean Christian Center of the Deaf in Jamaica, which is already filling its 2003 project calendar. We do not want you to be disappointed by not getting the schedule date you want. All interested in scheduling a project should feel free to contact Bro. Kevin Sauder, PO Box 354, Tremont, IL 61568-0345. Phone/Fax (309) 925-2409 or e-mail: ksss@dpc.net.

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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
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PO Box 30
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Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: 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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Juarez	June 1-8, 2002	Construction	Joe Maller	260-565-3211 jmaller@adamswells.com
Juarez	June 5-12, '02	Construction	Milford Bible Class	260-831-4684
Juarez	June 8-15, '02	Construction	Dan Beer	574-457-4633
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 Herman	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com
Juarez	Nov. 9-16, '02	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 aschliman@onlyinternet.net

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 .

Volunteers are Needed

The USA Board urgently needs volunteers, for the Navajo "Faith House" Project, to finish a group dwelling for abused children. The project is located at Dilkon, AZ, which is 90 miles east of Flagstaff, AZ. The current need is for drywall installers. A later need will be finish carpenters, painters, and carpet installers. Please contact Bro. Arnold Gerst by phone (217) 223-8424, fax (217) 223-0116, or E-mail agerst@net.com.





The following is a short biography of Elder Joseph Bella, an early figure in our church's history. He lived from 1812-1902. The intent of this article is not to draw attention to Bro. Bella, but to show what God did through him.

Joseph Bella

Joseph Bella was an early proponent of the faith who emigrated to America sometime between 1855 and 1861. He was a native of Hungary who, after languishing in several prisons in that nation, was finally allowed to come to America. Bella never married, so consequently had no descendants, and today he is virtually unknown among the Apostolic Christian church brethren. Historical evidence suggests that his untiring zeal and limitless contributions to the early American churches were quite impressive.

When Bella came to America, his first "base of operation" was at Sardis, OH, where he served as their first Elder. He was instrumental, particularly, in helping to establish churches at Bluffton, IN, and Mansfield, OH. In addition, he traveled extensively among the churches, and his ministry served to be very beneficial to the brethren.

Because he never married, he was free to travel almost at will, and he became known as the "traveling preacher".

After his initial efforts at Sardis, where he lived in a small dwelling on the property of Elder Bro. Isaac Gehring, his traveling schedule was such that he never "settled" at any one place. The entire church was his domain, and wherever he was, he considered it "home".

He lived to be 89 years old. In his declining years, he became quite feeble due to a stroke and could not walk without aid. He was graciously taken into

the home of Elder Bro. Christian Gerber, who served as Elder of the "South Side" country church near Fairbury, IL. He is buried in the "South Side" cemetery where a simple marker reads: "Elder Joseph Bella, Feb. 13, 1812 - Jan. 31, 1902."

Deep Convictions

Bro. Bella's life was a legacy of faith and courage. He survived many fierce storms, particularly in the form of persecution for his faith while in Europe. America proved to be a safe haven of religious freedom for this man who had suffered so terribly for the Lord.

Bro. Bella learned of the Biblical doctrines taught by Samuel Froehlich in a rather roundabout way. In the summer of 1839, two Hungarian journeyman-locksmiths named John Denkel and John Kropatschek were traveling in Switzerland. Through an act of Providence they came in contact with Samuel Froehlich, accepted his teachings, and were eventually baptized. They returned to their native land and were zealous in expounding the message of salvation.

In the spring of 1840, Bella was present when Bro. Denkel conducted a meeting in Budapest at the lock factory of his employer. Bro. Denkel preached and later baptized Louis Henscey who was to become an effective proponent of the faith. Although Bella was present at this meeting, he had not yet been received into their group. He was, however, associated with, and under the influence of, the strong-minded brothers Denkel, Kropatschek and Henscey. After Bro. Bella was subsequently baptized, he soon became a devoted man of deep convictions. At this time he was a journeyman-artisan of 28.

Persecution

In Hungary, authorities did not take kindly to those who refused military service or to those who refused to swear an oath of allegiance. Bro. Bella, a man not given to bending when his religious convictions were at stake, fell under the harsh treatment of the government. He was transferred from one prison to another because of his faith and prison officials finally concluded he could not be broken.

In one prison, his hands and feet were bound together, and they hung him up on a ring on the wall so he could not sit, stand, or lie down. This was a deplorable form of torture. His indomitable will, however, with God's grace, did not bend, and finally his jailers exclaimed, "We cannot watch this any more; something has to be done."

The Hungarian authorities, realizing nothing could persuade Bro. Joseph Bella to alter his religious convictions, and that he was strong enough to both spiritually and physically endure all the torture they could administer, permitted a passport for him so he could emigrate to America.

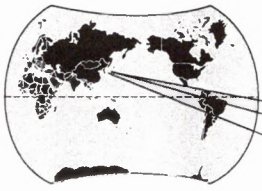
Just prior to his release from the prison in Pest, the warden, his wife and sister became converted through the testimony of Bro. Joseph Bella.

His release from prison was intended by authorities as a public relations gesture. Devious plans were laid to kill him when he reached Bremen. On the way, by the inspiration of God, Bro. Bella changed his route and boarded a ship to America at Hamburg. His life was spared, and he escaped from his detractors.

By: Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue:

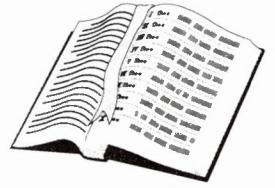
More on Bro. Bella



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Revenge vs. Compassion”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Recently at the breakfast table, we have been reading the 15th chapter in Exodus (and also in the book of Acts). The children of Israel had just crossed the Red Sea. The Egyptian army had perished in the sea. I was saddened by all the rejoicing on the part of Moses and the children of Israel. To be sure, they should be thankful for deliverance but should they not also think about the Egyptians? In verse 15:3 they sang, “The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name.”

What makes me feel sad about violence? It must be the teachings in the New Testament such as, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.’ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:43-44)

We have no argument with all the violence in the Old Testament.

If that’s what God thought was necessary, so be it. He is God. He is the Potter and we are the clay. However, if I understand it correctly, that’s the kind of violent existence that Christ came to redeem us from.

The nation of Israel evidently still goes by the Old Testament, “Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” (Exodus 21:24-25). If that is God’s will for them to bring into fulfillment all the prophecies about the nation of Israel, so be it. But what about the church of Jesus Christ, of which we are a part, providing we have repented, have put our faith in Christ’s atonement, and are walking in the light in obedience to His Word? Have we not been called unto a much more holy way of life? Ephesians 4:24 reads, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

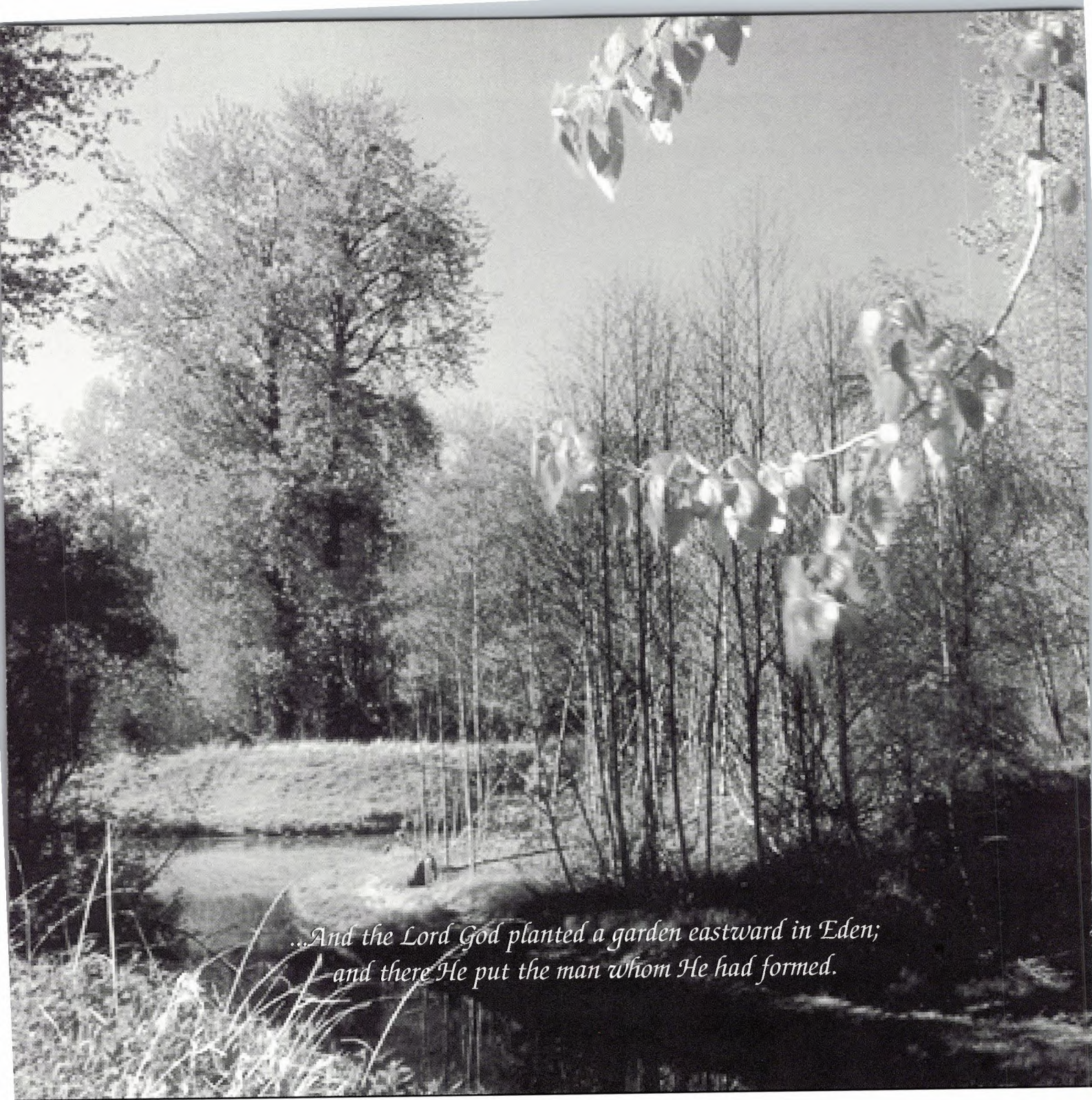
Mohammed, the founder of the Islam religion, studied both Juda-

ism and Christianity and reportedly was much impressed with Christ as a prophet, but not as the Saviour. He came to the conclusion that he, himself, was to be the prophet for the Arab people. They, the Arabs, have an affinity with the Old Testament through Ishmael, and I believe it is safe to say that the Koran, the book considered holy by the Muslims, is much more based on the Old Testament than on the New Testament. The Islam religion was founded in about 500 A.D.

Every spring we commemorate Christ’s resurrection. We are to live the resurrected life. Moses was redeemed (Matthew 17:3, “There appeared unto them Moses and Elias.”) because he believed God’s promises and Christ’s atonement became effectual for him. However, he lived on the other side of the cross.

Compassion is superior to revenge. We should love our enemies and pray for them.

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*...And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden;
and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

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