

The Silver Lining

Mother's Day

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

May 2002

Sermon by retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Oakville, IA
Ecclesiastes 1 and St. Mark 8:27-38, 9:1

No doubt, beloved ones, the Lord in His sojourn here upon this earth met many different situations, perhaps many obstacles had to be overcome. And He was not always sure whether He was being well received or whether He was being mocked and ridiculed. In this particular portion of scripture we read this morning, He raised the question there to His disciples that, "...Whom do men say that I am?" St. Mark 8:27. There were differences of opinion, as we could read there. Some said "...John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets." St. Mark 8:28.

We are living, dear ones, in a time perhaps far removed from the time that Jesus Christ walked the shores of Galilee and mingled with the people here upon this earth. I believe as we are gathered here in the Lord's house this morning, we would be certain in saying that everyone who is here believes in Jesus Christ and knows why He came here to dwell upon this earth for a short time.

It seems that even though many years have elapsed since the Lord was here, many things have come and gone, we are so grateful that there is one thing that we have that is steadfast and sure, and would even be as an anchor to our soul. And that is the precious Truth, the Word of Life that we have before us, this morning.

The Lord there in His conversation with His disciples, even as Peter so very boldly, if we can use that term, says "...Thou art the Christ" St. Mark 8:29, He told them that they should go and tell no man. It is often somewhat of a puzzle to me as we read the record of the Lord, the four Gospels. So many times when He was able by the power of God to perform a miracle, and there were those who were recipients of it, that wanted to share it with others and He would say that they should tell no one. Perhaps we could take from this, from the Lord's attitude there, that He

had a very humble attitude. He was not one that was going around wanting to boast of the things that He did. Because He realized that anything that He could accomplish and do was given unto Him from His Father in heaven. I believe we can take a good lesson from this as we are here this morning. We know that God is able to hear the prayer of a humble soul, and on the other hand He will resist the proud.

As we are here, dear ones, again this morning and consider the plan of salvation, the real mission and purpose of our Lord and Savior coming here upon this earth to pay the price for your sins and mine, I believe it should humble every one of us. I believe, first of all those of us who have become converted and become God's children, we many times have to go back to the very time in our life, whether it was just a few months ago, a number of years, or many, many years, and remember how it was when we were walking, following the ways of the world, being led by Satan, the enemy of the soul. We know we were not happy, we were not satisfied. We were seeking something that would be good for us, something that would be beneficial.

And we believe that there are perhaps even among us this morning dear friends of the truth, children of believing parents, whatever the case may be, who know the Word and know what is expected. But we know dear ones, there is also an enemy who is present. And he likes in so many ways to cause people upon the earth to become deceived, confused, dissatisfied, and to try to seek pleasure in the things that are fleeting and temporal.

We know that when we consider the way that we can reach the Father heart of God through prayer, how many times when the Lord was here upon this earth, dear ones, did He resort to prayer? We know in one place there He went out into a place alone

and He prayed unto His Father and He thanked Him that He was heard.

Again, when we consider the plan of salvation, the reason for the Lord coming here on this earth, and then try to apply it to our very life, it becomes a very, very close matter to us, a very, very serious matter. And again, I believe those of us who have become God's children, we cannot appreciate enough that He was able to rescue us even from the clutches and jaws of Satan, the enemy of the soul. And was

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2002

The Christian's Cross

Jesus said to His disciples "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt. 16:24). He also said "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Mt. 10:38). These two admonitions make it apparent that a willingness to bear the cross for our Savior's sake is very important.

What is a cross? How can we "take up" a cross? Is every trial of a Christian a cross? At various times in history, especially at times in the Roman Empire, the cross was an instrument of death. It was an extremely cruel and painful means of death. The victim spent many hours, or even days, on the cross before being claimed by death. The term "cross" is also used to describe special challenges or burdens that individuals, especially Christians, bear at times throughout their lives.

As we look at the various references to the cross in the holy scriptures, we come to understand that taking up the cross and following Christ may not be an easy task. There is no promise in the Word of God that once we have made a commitment to take up our cross, that our life will be easier than before. In fact, we are cautioned that there may be very difficult times in store for the individual who tries to take up Christ's cross.

Jesus appointed seventy disciples that He sent to places He planned to visit later. He told them "...behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves" (Lk. 10:3). He also reminded us that before we build a tower, it would be foolish if one "...sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it" (Lk. 14:28). We can certainly understand by these messages from Christ that taking up the cross of

Christ may be difficult. We know that even a full grown sheep among wolves is in great danger. But it wasn't a sheep that Christ referred to. It was a lamb. A lamb would never survive among wolves without special protection.

As we go out into the world to try to take up the cross of Christ, we will be destroyed very quickly if we do not have special pro-

tection. The only protection that we can rely upon is the protection of Jesus Christ. He will protect us if we stay close to Him.

Although God protects His servants, we have no guarantee of freedom from difficulties. God's protection only assures us that we will not receive a heavier cross than we can carry. It does not assure us that we will not face harm or even death. Are we willing to pay the cost?

We know that after we have "...received the knowledge of the truth,...and willfully sin ... there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:26). Therefore, before we take up the cross, it is vital that we count the cost to be sure we are willing and able by the grace of God to pay the cost.

Sometimes we hear Christians talk about their "cross" as though every hardship in life is part of the cross of Christ. Nearly every human being has hardships and trials at some point in his life. This includes people who neither know nor pretend to serve God. We must distinguish between the burdens we have as human beings who are living in a sinful world and the cross we carry that is a direct result of our faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

We cannot count every trial, every burden nor every hardship that we have as "our cross". What is it that we suffer or sacrifice for the Lord? What pain do we endure, what do we give up, what offerings do we make for Christ that really causes us to do without something that we really need? Giving of our excess is hardly a cross. Do many of us really have a heavy cross?

The Apostle Paul cautioned the believers in Galatia to not confuse the "...desire to make a fair show in the flesh..." (Gal. 6:12) with the cross of Christ, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Gal. 6:14).

Christians and unbelievers get sick. Christians and unbelievers suffer accident and injury, face financial difficulties, lose their jobs or experience other problems related to our material or physical life. Christians and unbelievers may face depression, experience family problems, feel very

lonely, or any of a number of other difficulties in life. Many of our problems are not a result of our desire to serve the one true God. Many are simply a result of life. In some situations, it may not be possible to tell if a problem is a result of our faith or if it is simply part of life.

The cross of Christ would then seem to be those hardships or trials we face that are a direct result of our faith. It is those hardships or trials that we would not have to bear if we were not a Christian.

If we suffer persecution or ridicule as a direct result of our faith, that undoubtedly is a part of our cross of Christ because we probably would not have had to endure those things if we would not have been a believer. Being willing to give up some of the entertainment and pleasures of this life may be part of our cross of Christ because in an unconverted state we probably would have participated in those activities. Our willingness to separate ourselves from the vanities and pleasures of the world may be part of our cross of Christ. As unconverted people we could blend in with the world and not feel a need to be separated from these things. Using our time and talents to serve God when we could spend more time pursuing the riches or pleasures of this life may also be a part of our cross.

Compared to many believers, our cross is so light we hardly know if we are really carrying one. We may even wonder if we have the opportunity to carry a cross. We sing in a hymn:

Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?

No there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

("Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?" Tabernacle Hymns p. 304)

Bearing the cross of Christ is a privilege as well as a duty. The cross of Christ has a cost. The cost is the difference between the hardships we bear as Christians and those that we bear that are simply a result of life in an imperfect world. How faithfully we carry our cross is one measure of our dedication to God.



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

Child Sponsorship Program

Haiti

The classroom was tightly packed with students. The only light was that which filtered through open windows. Some students sat on benches without backs. All were packed together shoulder to shoulder. This school, in one of the poorest areas of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, has an enrollment of 298 students. It offers classes to children from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade.

There are few textbooks and fewer workbooks, paper and pencils. Most teaching is done by lecture with the teacher using a blackboard at the front of the dimly lit, crowded classroom. The school is situated on the side of a hill in the middle of this huge city, surrounded by homes that have no running water or sewer system and for the most part, no electricity.

At the time of the Child Sponsorship Board's visit, there was no sponsorship program in place at this school. All of the students were struggling to pay their tuition and many could not pay anything. The pastor of the church associated with the school relied on prayer for funds to pay the teachers and furnish material for the students. This school was added to the Child Sponsorship Program in late 2000. Fifty of the neediest students now have sponsors.

The sponsor's donation is used for student uniforms (which are required in all Haitian schools) and school tuition which helps pay the teachers and buy school supplies. A small portion goes to the child's family for food and clothing. But most important is the Biblical teaching these children are receiving. They have Christian role models in their teachers and pastor. They have daily prayer with Bible Class and devotions on other days of

the week. The enemy lurks very near as the school and church are harassed from time to time by a witch doctor's church in the same vicinity. Sponsor donations fight this darkness by enabling children to learn the Truth

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

PSALMS 119:105.



Jamaica

In Jamaica the same Holy Spirit can be seen and felt. The sponsored Jamaican children are all deaf. Most often, before they are able to attend the deaf school, the child has had no way to communicate with his family or the outside world. Often the child will not even know his name and has not been able to ask questions or receive the Word of God. He lives in a silent world. At the deaf schools he is taught sign language and for the first time he has an opportunity to learn to read, write, and study science and mathematics. The older students are taught practical, vocational skills.

The students are also taught the Bible. Their faces portray their love of God as they sign their memorized Bible verses and "sing" songs of praise to the Lord. Sponsorship donations pay for the students' tuition (teacher salary and classroom materials), room and

board, and some medical expenses. When the Child Sponsorship Board visited, the students wholeheartedly expressed their thankfulness and appreciation for the generosity of their sponsors.

History

The Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship Program began in 1998 to give 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. The program has been a blessing to students and sponsors alike.

An important part of the sponsorship experience is the prayers that are offered by both the sponsor and the student for one another. Communication between students and sponsors is encouraged. Students write letters to their sponsors periodically throughout the school year. It is gratifying to read of their deep appreciation for their sponsors.

"...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." MATTHEW 26: 40

Sponsorships Available

There are still many children available for sponsorship in Haiti and Jamaica. We also sponsor children in Mexico, but these sponsorships are currently filled. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Further information and application forms are available in the brochures sent to each church, or you can contact the Child Sponsorship office in Morton, IL.

ACWR Child Sponsorship
P.O. Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Ph 309-266-6080
e-mail: acwr@mtco.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-38

Building Advisory Committee

In 1996, the Mission Committee, with the support of the Elder Body, appointed a national Building Advisory Committee (BAC). The purpose of the BAC is to assist new and/or small congregations to provide an adequate place of worship. Many of our smaller congregations do not have the resources, expertise or adequate time to give proper consideration to the need of a place of worship.

The Committee consists of brothers who have experience in the design and construction of church buildings. The current members are Bros: Brad Eisenmann (Chicago) Chairman, Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) Sec.-Treas., Bill Masters (Bloomington, IL), Orin Rufener (Rittman, OH), and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). Counseling Elders are Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and Peter Petrovic (San Diego).

History

Since its formation, the BAC has been active in developing standards and resources for use by our local congregations. An Information Packet was recently updated and includes helpful sections such as Building Programming Guidelines for the use of space in our church buildings. This is an excellent way to communicate with architects who may not be familiar with our unique order of worship and fellowship. Also included are Construction Standards, which give recommendations in areas such as masonry, electrical, plumbing, and Sound System design.

Prototypical architectural floor plans and elevation drawings have been designed that provide our small congregations with a cost-efficient, yet comfortable layout. Work is underway

to create additional drawings that will expand the detail provided and save on architectural and design costs on future projects.

The BAC has helped several of our churches obtain new or remodeled facilities including Atlanta, GA; Prescott, AZ; Kitchener Ontario; Portland, OR; Elgin, IA and Belvidere, IL. The Committee is currently working with the congregations at Denver, Colorado and Pulaski, Iowa as they consider new places of worship.

North American Church Building Fund

In 1997, it was recognized that a central fund that could be used to fund projects for small churches would allow for better stewardship and more efficient distribution. For many years we have used our European Church Building Fund to assist our brethren in Europe to finance houses of worship in several countries. It was felt that a similar fund should be created for projects in North America. The Elder Body supported the Mission Committee and the Building Advisory Committee in the formation of a North American Church Building Fund (NACBF) to further this effort.

Purpose of the fund

The purpose of the fund is to assist new, small and/or needy Apostolic Christian congregations by providing financial help and guidelines to construct or purchase an adequate House of Worship. The Building Advisory Committee in consultation with the Mission Committee and Elder Body administers the NACBF.

Congregations desiring support from the NACBF work with the BAC to develop a financial and building plan. Projects that are funded by the NACBF utilize the BAC prototypical drawings, which are adapted to the

specific location. Support is given by direct grant and/or loans to cover local pledges.

The source of the money

Monies available from the dissolution of the National Assistance Funds initially funded the NACBF. In addition, collections have been taken by many of our congregations and generous support has been given. Future collections may become necessary as funds are distributed to congregations eligible for assistance.

Small congregations

Local congregations who feel they could qualify should proceed according to the following method. The information printed here is very general, and specific needs should be forwarded to the BAC at the address listed at the end of this article.

- The BAC becomes involved at the request of the counseling elder. They assist in developing a plan for building or remodeling a suitable facility.
- The BAC assists in the development of a financial plan. Members and friends of the congregation will be asked to estimate the amount they hope to contribute over the next 5 years.
- The local congregation must be incorporated and legal documents submitted for approval to the Mission Committee.
- Approved projects can be financed from the fund to supplement local resources.

CONTACT FOR BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Brad Eisenmann
12333 Cashlenan Lane
New Lenox, IL 60451
beisenmann@ieec.org
(815) 463-0697

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

Part VII

Educational Services

“And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.”

Eccles. 12:9-12

Solomon's words are interesting for us to consider. It is clear that the value of God's knowledge and wisdom cannot be measured. It is also clear that man's knowledge is quite limited. We also know that when we receive advice from others we need to be sure that the advice does not contradict God's Word or His teachings.

Previous articles about Apostolic Christian Counseling Services have focused on professional counseling, the Mental Health Hotline and telephone consultations with a professional counselor. This article is about the fourth part of the services: Education about mental health issues and relationship problems.

The educational component of ACCS started years ago with the Church's Mental Health Committee. They asked churches to send tapes of any Bible studies or presentations they had about marriage, families, mental health or related topics. The tapes were reviewed, cataloged and have been made

available through Apostolic Christian Publications (309-467-3611). The committee also reviewed, and made available, several pamphlets about mental health issues.

Currently, the ACCS educational services consist of print material and presentations. ACCS has pamphlets, books and information sheets about mental health issues and relationship problems.

Pamphlets are available, free of charge, to anyone who requests them. The nurses who answer the Mental Health Hotline have a list of available pamphlets. The pamphlets are on display for people who visit the counseling center in Morton. Many times a selection of pamphlets is sent out to people who contact ACCS for a telephone consultation with a counselor.

Books at ACCS cover a variety of topics and are for situations where more specific or in depth information is needed. The books discuss emotional and relationship issues from a Christian perspective. They are not intended to replace Scripture in any way. Often the books are used in conjunction with professional counseling. They are available to clients who use the counseling center and may be assigned as homework at times. The books are also available to others as requested and may be loaned or purchased from the library.

The material prepared by ACCS staff is available as handouts, homework for clients or to mail out when information is requested. Because it is very time consuming to prepare written material, there is a limited amount of ACCS produced material available at this time. However, there will steadily be more ACCS produced materials covering more topics in the coming years.

The ACCS professional staff has done a variety of presentations for

Apostolic Christian Churches and facilities on topics such as depression and stress management. Presentations have been done for entire congregations as well as to smaller Apostolic Christian groups (e.g. topics to young people on relevant issues). The staff has done presentations with the ministers of some Apostolic Christian churches. These have included information and suggestions about how to support and encourage struggling individuals, basic counseling skills, and an overview of mental health diagnosis and knowing when to refer someone to professional counseling.

Overall, the goal of the educational component of ACCS is to encourage and support struggling individuals, couples and families.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Spring is here! Flowers are blooming and trees are budding. The grass needs to be cut and fields need to be planted. Are you where God wants you? Are you blooming where you are planted? God has a purpose for all of us, at times it is a simple expression of compassion and other times it is giving a great deal of time to serve others. At our homes, we see God's goodness in the small and simple expressions of love when an employee so tenderly will feed another person or when an employee will walk with someone who needs to take a walk or when an employee will visit with someone who needs to talk. There are many expressions of love and compassion that we see every day all around us. God is the author of love and compassion who shows us His love through the beauty of the spring-time flowers and the wonderful interaction between people who we

love and care for. For us, it is a part of our Mission Statement to "Respond with Dignity". We see people responding with dignity daily by the love we see expressed to the people we serve. We are thankful to have a new friend, Julie Urish, living at Timber Ridge.

JUNE birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550 are: Dale Plattner (5), Chris Rogers (5), Sara Baker (6), Al-dine Winger (15), Donnie Parks (18), Marianne McMenemy (19), Janet Wilt (21), Kim White (23). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Doris Hutchison (18), Rodney Blaum (15). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Chip Johann (22). At 241 Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Sharilyn Rowell (19). At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Brandon Graham (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Becky Stoller

Those of us that were brought up in Christian homes take for granted the stories our parents told us about God as we grew up. As we finish the Easter season, I have to wonder if people truly understand the meaning of Easter Sunday. As we were having devotion in our house one evening after supper, one of the children asked, "Why is Easter so important? Jesus died and shed His blood for our sins on Friday so that day should be more important." She knew the Easter story but didn't fully understand that it was the day that He arose that is even more important. Yes, Jesus shed His blood and died for our sins, that is very important. For man nailed Him to the cross but God raised Him from the dead. But, if He hadn't risen from the dead, would people believe He was and still is the Messiah?

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

Matthew 28:5-6

Just as He promised, Jesus rose from the dead. We can be confident that He will accomplish all He has promised. If He hadn't risen from the dead, where would we be today?

We are especially excited to welcome Savannah Joy, born to Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand. The arrival of a newborn can be exciting and exhausting at the same time. Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie, we rejoice with you on your new addition.

The time has come for Amber J., from the Meister house, to leave us and go into one of our local Christian foster homes. We wish her God's continued blessings as she moves on to a new journey in her life. We would also like to welcome Amanda (7), Kenneth (6) and Alexandra (3) to our foster care program.

God's provision is wonderful. He has brought to us Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister from Bluffton to join our staff as Alternate Houseparents. We thank them for answering God's calling to serve here at Gateway Woods. Sis. Becky Stoller has been called to move on from Gateway Woods after serving faithfully as an Assistant Houseparent in the New House for two years. Our heartfelt thanks and prayers go with her. Please remember to pray and consider our need for a sister to serve as an Assistant Houseparent. See the notice in this issue.

Let us continue to pray for Bro. Kevin Fiechter with our Home Base Services. Pray that Kevin would be used by God in helping to make situations better, especially heart issues, for families he comes in contact with.

This month we had a couple of

volunteers that we would like to send a big thanks to. They were Sis. Ibolya Reti from Breidenbach, Germany, and Bro. Jim Klotzle from Altadena, CA. The children at the on grounds school were privileged to have tried some German food prepared by the staff, along with a lesson about Germany from Ibolya. They were excited to learn some German words.

Our school building is steadily appearing. As the flowers bud with the spring weather, so does our school! More equipment, trenches and holes keep appearing. Call us or check with your local Rep for ways to get involved in our school building project.

"Although God loves the whole wide world and blesses every part, I think He has a special place for children in His heart. I think He cherishes their smiles, their eagerness and mirth, and their appreciation of the wonders of His earth ... All children in a special way belong to God above, and I am sure He favors them with everlasting love."

—James Metcalfe

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Melinda Matuch

We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo.
How about you, you, you?
You can come too, too, too.
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo.

This month we had the opportunity to take our children to a local petting zoo and then to a park for a picnic lunch. With the help of many parents we had an exciting time seeing and, sometimes, petting the exotic animals there. The children were fascinated with the bear, mountain lion, camels, zebras, fish, llamas, birds, sheep, etc. They especially enjoyed the porcupine, the white Burmese python and the goat that tried to take a bite out of my

skirt for his lunch! It was a wonderful opportunity to see and experience the variety of God's creation.

The preschool board held its semi-annual meeting on April 13. At this time the staff would like to express our deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and his wife, Sis. Linda, as his five-year term as chairman expires. May the Lord bless you both. We met and welcomed our new board chairman, Elder Bro. Bob Walder, and his wife, Sis. Gloria (Congerville, IL).

We also wish to thank Sis. Monica Price (Bro. Daron) for all her efforts on behalf of the preschool in her capacity as preschool director as they prepare to move back home to Milford, IN. We will all miss you very much and pray a special blessing upon you.

The preschool has a need for summer volunteers. We can put to good use anyone who is willing to come to visit us. Please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591 if you, your young group, or Sunday School class would like to help us out.

As we begin preparations for the next school year, we would like to encourage anyone who would be interested in financially sponsoring our preschool, to contact us for more information. Please call the preschool at the number above or write to us at the following address:

Apostolic Christian Preschool
15284 Hastings Rd.
Athens, AL 35613

The preschool is still accepting applications for the open position of Director/Teacher for the next year. Any interested individual with a degree in education should contact the administrator, Bro. Tom Schrenk, at (256) 232-0027.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

A lovely Easter program of song and scripture was presented by our dear Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, March 24. Our thanks to their teachers, too, and may you keep God's love in your hearts as you go to your class every Sunday.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. June Tooley announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Jessica, to Seth Maurer, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer. They plan to wed May 11. May God add His blessings.

We have enjoyed fellowship with our dear winter residents (who are now leaving for their back East homes) and numerous visitors from coast to coast, plus Ixtlan, Mexico, and Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

God's love is the greatest gift one can receive or give! After being in declining health for several years, and a fall on March 24, Floren Klopfenstein passed away April 2. His funeral was on April 6, with our Phoenix ministers presiding. Our sympathy to his wife, Mary Ela; son, Bro. Dave, and family, including numerous other relatives. May we all find comfort in Psalm 23.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Lois (Bro. Elsworth) Niemeyer and family, and LaVonee (Jim) Anliker on the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Marlys (Bro. Butch) Doorneweerd, on March 26. They flew to Lester for the services.

A grandson's wedding took Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor Hill to Mansfield on March 20. Bro. Bob fell on the steps to the house and broke a hip. As we write (4/13), other health problems have set in and his prognosis is not good. Both families need prayers, in Phoenix and Mansfield.

When Sis. Jan Elsasser flew to Illinois on March 28, it wasn't her

usual jaunt. God wills Sis. Jan to spend part time in Illinois with her many, many relatives, and part time in AZ. Her main residence will be her home in Prescott when in AZ. Sis. Jan, we miss you, but being in God's will makes it tolerable, enjoying your Elsasser-Endress relatives makes us thankful. Prayers keep us united; His love is our bond. See you soon.

A loving visitor shared this: "Lord, help me to remember that there's nothing that will happen today that you and I together can't handle."

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

Memorial Day, a day to remember the sacrifices made by many men and women, so that we can enjoy our freedoms, especially the freedom to go to church and worship our Lord the way we choose without fear. Many have given years of their lives, their health, or have died to protect the freedoms we have in our country. If you know someone who has served our country, take the time to say thank-you. In our congregation, Bro. Glen Furrer served in the army for two years after the Korean War, and Bro. Henry Volz served for four years during World War II, spending four months in England before being sent back to the States on a hospital ship due to his health.

The ministering brethren this last month included our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), and Jim Meiss and Ken Lawson (both of Phoenix, AZ). Two of the Sundays we had two visiting ministers. One of them commented that it makes it easier on the ministering brother knowing he has another brother to

help share the responsibility. We thank the Lord for continuing to allow the freedom to travel throughout our country and that the brethren are willing to travel and serve our congregation and others.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

A precious baby boy was added to the family of Tom and Heidi Todd. Robert and Luke were eager to welcome their new baby brother, Jacob Thomas, into their family circle on March 29. Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas are the happy grandparents. Our prayers and best wishes go out to the expanding Todd family.

We would like to sincerely thank Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (Phoenix, AZ) who traveled here on a recent Sunday so that Bro. Ken could minister in Bro. Curt's absence. A very special note of appreciation to Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) for his effort of love and service in flying to Tucson for a very quick trip to serve as our visiting minister on our rotation list. We thank his family for sacrificing their weekend with him so that the Tucson church could be served and Bro. Curt could sit and listen to someone else speak. We enjoyed meeting Bro. John, and we hope he will bring his family back when they can stay longer. May God add his blessing to both of these ministering brothers and their families.

As we mark the middle of April, we are enjoying 80-degree weather again after a few days of 90's. I'm afraid we've seen the last of winter—if you can call it that—for quite some time. Now it's just a matter of trying to hold off 100!

We will be taking a vacation from Sunday School for the months of June and July. We normally take these months off from Fellowship Suppers also, but that may change in order to accommodate visiting

ministers traveling here on the rotation list. Let us know if you're in the area so that we can update you.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Jim Klotzle

Anyone who has lived for any length of time can tell you that everything changes. Our environment, our authorities, even those closest to us change with time. Just when you think events have settled down, the unexpected happens. Change stretches us and causes us to flex, sometimes even to the breaking point. Is there anything solid to hang on to? Someone who will always be there holding us up on our darkest hour, an unflinching presence in our moments of exuberant joy? You know Him as the Rock on which you build, our Almighty God, Everlasting Father. The Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent Constant in a world of variables. We sing: Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change, He faithful will remain.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17

We rejoice with Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sarah Ringger as they begin their lives together, joined in Holy Matrimony in the presence of many witnesses. May the Lord bless them as they continue to walk side by side. Parents of the bride are Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae Aberle.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), along with his wife, Sis. Jeni, visited to assist with the wedding service. We thank him for his labors on our behalf.

Ministering Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), his wife, Sis. Kathy, and their family visited us this

month. Fellowship with believers from other congregations and help on our pulpit are always appreciated.

We rejoice that God has given new life. Anne Shirley was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley Luthi, and welcomed by siblings Daniel, Lydian, Allison, Joel, and Micah. We thank the Lord for the health of mother and baby, and pray daily for Bro. Jeff as he undergoes chemotherapy treatments.

Our friend, Dorothy Vermillion, suffered minor injuries from a fall. She was hospitalized for a short time and is now fellowshipping with us again on Sundays.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

How we appreciate our many visitors! This past month they have included the following ministering brethren: Bro. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), and Bro. Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton, IL). May the Lord's blessings be upon each of these willing servants.

Our single group hosted the Silverton, OR, and Altadena, CA, single groups March 22-23. It was such a blessing to have our sanctuary full and to hear the beautiful sound of young voices praising our Lord.

The weekend of April 13-14 was so uplifting as we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new brother-in-faith, Brent Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian). Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois, Altadena, CA) were present to assist Bro. Peter in this wonderful work. We pray the Lord will richly bless our dear Elder brothers who so willingly give of themselves in serving their

flocks. Our cups were surely overflowing as we partook of Holy Communion on Sunday evening.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Nathan Reutter

Greetings brethren. We have enjoyed a month of blessed events in our congregation. We had visiting ministers. We were able to partake of Communion. We enjoyed a night of World Relief activities. We enjoyed a few all church singings, and we have a birth to announce.

We had four visiting ministers come to preach God's Word to us. On March 17 Bro. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, Milford, IN) came to preach. On March 24, both Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. Joann, Winthrop, MN) were here to serve Communion. On April 7 and on April 14 Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) was here. We again appreciated the doctrinally sound preaching. We always pray that the Word of God is preached according to the unction of His Holy Spirit.

We also appreciated the opportunity to fulfill Scripture in taking Communion. We were reminded that this is a blessed opportunity of recommitment and renewal. Let us not let things slip this year so that next year will have to bring recommitment and renewal again.

We had the chance to commit ourselves to help the poor also. We made many prenatal kits for those who do not have these necessities. We pray that God can bless the efforts and add the increase to our efforts. It was also a blessed time of fellowship with believers. It is always good to have like minded people working for a common goal in helping the less fortunate. We try to remember that to whom much is given much will be required.

Time of fellowship and singing

was also enjoyed at a few home singings this month. After one of them we were shown a slide presentation of the work that is being done to help our brethren in Eastern Europe. We are thankful to be reminded from time to time that our efforts are appreciated and are doing some good. May the Lord God be thanked for this.

We are also thanking God for a new birth in our congregation. Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu had a little boy, Joshua. His maternal grandfather is Guenther Walter (husband of the late Julie). Paternal grandparents are Peter and Sophie Ursu. Psalm 127:3-5 and Proverbs 17:6 seem to be appropriate verses for the occasion of a birth.

We hope the Lord has also blessed you through the past month and that the Lord would always be with you. May God bless and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you. Amen.

COLORADO, DENVER

Heather Katanic

Ann Gonglach

Greetings at this exciting time of the year when we see the cycle of the seasons renewing itself and one is reminded of God's promise that "While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22). We have been enjoying some of God's beautiful weather this month.

We are happy to be able to continue to sing at a nursing home for Sis. Elizabeth Shaefer (and other residents) twice a month. We also recently had a couple of World Relief work days and monthly singings (our monthly singing is the 2nd Saturday of each month).

One Saturday evening, Stevan Zarkovacki (father of Sis. Tina Gal) shared with us his experiences of having suffered persecution for his

Christian faith in Europe, where he spent time in a Yugoslavian prison. It was a vivid reminder of how blessed we are indeed to enjoy religious freedom. (Stevan is a member of the Apostolic Christian Church - Nazarean in Colorado Springs.)

We have kept little Gabriella Wiegand (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi) in our thoughts and prayers as she had spent a few days in the hospital with respiratory concerns. We are also glad to report that Kerry Berg (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) is recovering well after reconstructive jaw surgery. It's so nice to have them back in church and doing well.

We rejoice with Bro. Verne Lehman (Sis. Leona) who recently had his seven year follow-up doctor visit and has been given a wonderful bill of health after his heart transplant. What a joy he has brought to anyone who knows him!

On Easter, we were thankful to have Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) share the Word with us and to have our Sunday school present a special program telling of the wonderful promise God has given us through His Son, Jesus, and singing many beautiful songs.

As Mother's Day approaches, let us thank God for mothers who have guided us in godly paths and been examples to us.

Our high school graduates this year are Caleb Leman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Britt Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue). May the Lord bless and guide these young men as they begin a new phase of their lives.

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

"She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her

maidens.”

Proverbs 31:15

Certainly this verse comes to mind as we think of our dear sisters, whether they are our biological mothers or our mothers of faith, who so often portray that example to “...give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water...” St. Matthew 10:42.

Two dear families welcome precious children into their lives. On March 29, Clara Rose, was born to Timothy and Jessica Mattson. Grandparents are Clifford and Karen Mattson and Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter. Ryan Kevin was born April 10 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Katie Zahner. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. We pray for God’s keeping and care over these families as they seek to raise their children.

“And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.”

Genesis 24:58

Believing it is God’s Will, the engagement of Bro. Michael Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Joy Hany (Bro. Richard and Sis. Betsy) was made known unto us. May they prayerfully consider the decisions they will make in the days ahead.

Where two join hand and heart,
We find a threefold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion’s Harp #79

Bro. Walter Limberger and Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl were united as husband and wife on March 31. May God always be the center of their marriage as they walk as one on this pilgrim’s pathway.

A reception was given for Dan and Melinda Fehr on March 16. We

also gathered on a Saturday evening, March 23, for a reception for Bro. Derek and Sis. Darla Reutter with a singing following. May each dear couple look unto God for all future plans in their lives.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Doug Mangers (Champaign, IL) who has moved to the Northeast here for employment. May he feel the love of the Rockville brethren as he fellowships with us.

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Bro. Werner) as she was recently hospitalized. May God’s healing hand be upon her while she convalesces.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.”

Song of Solomon 2:12

Some of our early flowers and trees are already starting to fade, but this time of the year promises there will soon be others. God must do this so we can appreciate each and not be overwhelmed with all the beauty.

Our ministers the past month were Bros. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Bluffton and LaCrosse, IN; Rittman, OH; Philadelphia, PA; and Elgin, IA. We are always glad to have visitors whether they are here visiting family, on vacation or for business.

The Saturday evening Bro. Phil was here, he shared with us some of the areas in which the Mission Committee is involved. Then on Sunday, the Elders shared the

Memorandum with us. We are grateful for their care and concern.

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 NORTH FORT MYERS

Leslie Masters
Mary Masters

Our numbers continue to dwindle as our snowbirds go back home. Soon our small group of locals will be few in number, and we value each one who comes and worships with us. Where two or three are gathered together, Christ is in the midst of them, and so we continue to reap blessings throughout the year.

This month we were blessed with visits from visiting ministers and their wives and families. They were Bros. Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN). We thank them for their visits and their service to us.

We enjoyed a beautiful Easter Sunday and Good Friday services. On Easter Sunday, we had a delicious potluck meal together at Seven Lakes Community Room. We want to thank the ones that went to the effort to organize and

plan it. We certainly enjoyed the beautiful singing and music.

An update on our dear Bro. Roland and Sis. Viola Keller: they have moved into an assisted living home located in Punta Gorda and are quite happy and comfortable there.

We would encourage anyone in the Fort Myers area to look us up and assemble with us.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

We are happy to report two new babies in Sarasota. Bro. Frank and Sis. Angela, Gideon, Olivia, and Johnny Kiefer welcomed James Edward on March 25. Leon and Rene DeRocher, Sarasota, FL, and Walter and Elly Kiefer, Germany, are his grandparents.

Little Clara Elizabeth joined the family of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila, Nathan, Heidi, and Douglas Sabo on April 16. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake (Sardis, OH).

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Dale Graf (Akron, OH) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) for assisting with Holy Communion. Bro. Dale also helped read the Memorandum this past month.

It was a blessing to attend Easter Sunrise Services at Turtle Beach. We all enjoyed the fellowship over breakfast, following the service.

Other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL), Bros. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), and Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

We appreciate Bro. Terry Miller's efforts in taking a construction work team to Jamaica once again in March. Two from Sarasota also went on a medical

work team to Mexico in April.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

We were blessed with many visitors we have had the past month. Visiting ministers for April included Bros. Tom Lemman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL).

With 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

Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

"A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing."

Our Easter Sunday School program made Palm Sunday extra special. We are thankful unto our students and their teachers for the blessed hymns, verses and scripture presented to our congregation reminding us that we were redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

Bro. Art Mueller expounded on "Offence" at our April Bible Study in Madison. We thank you, Bro. Art, for preparing this topic. "Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence..." (Romans 9:33).

Bro. Matthew Hein has moved to an assisted living apartment. His

new address is 1545 Temple Lane, Rockford, IL, and new phone number is 815-332-2248.

Naomi Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol) continue to need our prayers for their health. Bro. Jason Moser had surgery on his shoulder.

God Bless You!

I asked the Lord to bless you
As I prayed for you today,
To guide you and protect you
As you go along your way...

His love is always with you
His promises are true,
No matter what the tribulation
You know He will see you through.

So when the road you're traveling
on
Seems difficult at best,
Give your problems to the Lord
And God will do the rest.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Ann Kellenberger Rebekah Kaufmann

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) share God's Word with our Bible Class on April 7. It was a special day for the Bible Class, as each student was asked to invite a friend to share in the day's activities. We trust that God will bless Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki for their labors of love.

Believing that the Lord has brought them together in faith, the engagement of Sis. Jessica Hodel (Roanoke, IL) to Bro. Neil Beer was announced to our congregation. Sis. Jessica is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Linda Hodel (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Neil is the son of ministering Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN). May God's love reign in their hearts as they look to Him for direction and guidance in the future.

We have several dear sisters recovering at home after spending time in the hospital this past month. We continue to keep Sis. Millie Vogel and Sis. Ann Frautschi in our thoughts and prayers. We trust they will continue to feel God's strength and nearness each day.

Many attended our monthly Hymn Sing on March 17 and enjoyed hearing the Mortonaires' beautiful singing. May God bless them for coming and lifting their voices up to Him in praise.

Bro. Dennis Kaufmann conducted our Topical Bible Study this month on the topic of evolution. He pointed out the beautiful way God created each of us and how special we were made. Bro. Dennis used the human eye as an example of how intricate and detailed we were created. Many attended this informative evening of worship.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Chad and LauraLee Plattner

We are thankful to have been able to observe Communion this month. What a precious time it is. Assisting Elder Bro. Marvin was Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May God bless them for their unselfish service.

Note of Thanks:

I want to sincerely thank everyone who remembered me with cards and gifts on my recent birthday. What a nice surprise! May God bless each one in a special way.

*Your least in Faith,
Bro. Ed Ehnle*

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Sam & Pam Furrer

Our Sunday School children presented the Easter Program entitled "No Greater Love" on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. The children's program touched on Christ's teachings about love, His giving of His life as the greatest gift, the presence of Christ-like love in our hearts, and the fact that we have the opportunities for eternal life because of His love. It was a very nice program with each child doing his or her part to tell the story of the Saviour's love.

Many of our college students enjoyed a weekend of spiritual growth and fellowship with students from other schools throughout Illinois and Indiana as they attended College Weekend. This spring's gathering on the first weekend of April was hosted by the Purdue University group and was held at Francesville, IN.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

We have been experiencing some unseasonably warm weather in our area lately and as a result it has jump - started the spring growth. Every bulb that blooms and every tree that buds reminds me of the blessed message of the recent Easter season that new life does shoot forth from something that appeared dead. It was that way for Christ in the tomb and is that way for every soul that grasps onto the redemption Christ offers. Two visiting ministers helped remind us of that message at our Good Friday services: Bros. Rick Plattner (Peoria, IL) and Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and we express our appreciation to them.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Dana Pflederer are experiencing the new life of spring within their home as

well as outdoors. We join the Pflederers in rejoicing at the birth of their daughter, Charity Rose, on March 26. Charity is warmly received by her two sisters, Hannah and Gloria, and her brother, Adam, as well as grandparents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer and Nancy Trumbower, and great - grandmother, Martha Perry.

We congratulate Sis. Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae) and Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy) as they began their married life on April 7 in Altadena, CA. We pray that God would bless this couple and that our congregation can be a support to them in their married walk with God.

Now the drawback of the unseasonably warm weather I mentioned earlier is that when the inevitable change occurs, it usually does so rather violently as we found out this evening while waiting in our basement for a tornado warning to expire (during which God's protection of us did not).

Our prayers for healing and comfort have gone forth for LaVirra Lehman (Eugene) as she has been experiencing some stormy health conditions which required her hospitalization and nursing care.

We offer our sympathy to Sis. Judy Eisenmann (Bro. Dale) in the loss of her brother, Gary Feller. He had resided at the Home for the Handicapped (Morton, IL) for the past 30 years. We are thankful for the blessed hope we have for such dear souls, and we know that God will bless the many helping hands supporting those who depend on others in so many ways.

We express our thanks to our home Bro. Brad Eisenmann who shared a topical Bible study regarding "Encouragement". He pinpointed three sources of encouragement: 1) God, 2) The

Word, and 3) God's people. It is this last point that makes farewells difficult, nonetheless, we bid a fond farewell to Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka Bozzay as they will be relocating to Sarasota, FL, after more than 25 years in Chicago. We will certainly feel their absence, but wish them God's blessings as they go.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. John Koehl, Jr. expresses sincere appreciation to all for their many cards, visits and especially all your prayers during his last illness and since his passing.

May God bless all of you.

Lucille Koehl

*Judy and Bob Goist and family
John III and Debbie Koehl*

*Sunnyside Church
Memorial / Reunion*

We are thankful in our Chicago congregation to be able to celebrate our 30th anniversary in our "new" building location. To honor God and our 30th anniversary, we are planning a memorial service in our old Sunnyside church location.

People who lived in Chicago and attended church at the Sunnyside location are invited to a reunion that will be held on Sunday, July 14, 2002.

We are still in the planning process for the day but we would like to notify past residents of the date so you can add it to your calendars. We will start the day with church services at our present Hillside location in the morning and will have a memorial service during the afternoon at the old Sunnyside church.

If you are able to attend, please contact either Bro. Lenny Meyer at 847-677-7028 or Sis. Heidi Haerr at 773-549-6205. Please let us know your name, address and phone number so we can keep you in-

formed of details as they become available. We look forward to seeing all prior "Sunnyside Chicago" residents who are able to join us for the day.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Susan Waldbeser

Denise Walder

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were privileged to have our Sunday School students bring to us the message of Easter. We thank them for reminding us what Christ did for us on Calvary.

Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!

Oh, the love that bro't it down to man!

Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!

Hymns of Zion #151

Our church was served Holy Communion on March 27. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) in serving us. As we think of what our Saviour did for each of us, it should humble us and make us thankful daily for the agony He bore that we might have the hope of a Home in Heaven.

We thank the many brothers that came and ministered the Word of God to us. They are Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). We also thank Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for his Topical Bible Study on offences and Elder Bro. Ron Messner for his study on forgiveness. May God bless each one for their labors of love.

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

be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Walder, on the birth of a precious baby girl, Joanna Kay, born on April 2. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles Walder. We pray that God will guide Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam as they seek to raise a child in the fear of the Lord.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Psalms 27:14

We were sad to hear about our Sis. Arcelia Bauer (Bro. Herman) who was in a train/automobile accident. We are thankful though that she is out of intensive care, but we know that she has a long recovery ahead. May God ever stay by her and her family during this time.

Other hospital patients were Sis. Clara Hofer and Sue Walder (Dave). We are thankful that both are home and feeling better. Also, Sis. Nettie Scharlach was transferred to Heartland Nursing Home in Paxton. May God be with her in her new place.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Glenna Rinkenberger

Even as Christ arose from the grave we are thankful that God's children also have this hope.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Martha Rinkenberger (Bro. Charlie) in the passing from this life of her sister from Latty, OH, Sis. Bertha "Tootie" Sinn Stoller (Bro. Ralph).

Our Bible Class hosted the Tremont and Cissna Park young people. We would like to thank Bro.

Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) for sharing the day with us.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL). We appreciate these brothers proclaiming God's Word.

The Congerville congregation would like to welcome Sis. Stephanie Alrutz (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle) from Sardis, OH, who has found employment at the Home for the Handicapped in Morton. We hope she will soon feel a part of our church family.

The engagement of our Sis. Becky Zimmerman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen) to Bro. Bradley Langhofer (Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla, South Bend, IN) was announced. Also, our Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay) is engaged to Sis. Carrie Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki, Lester, IA). May God guide them as they plan for their futures together as one in Him.

Our prayers for God's healing power are with Bro. Jake Miller (Sis. Marion) as he has spent time in the hospital and is currently in the Eureka Home.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Kay Kellenberger**

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23

The Elgin congregation rejoices with Bro. Larry Knapp (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Stephanie Welzein as they were united in marriage on March 24. May they continue to feel the Lord's blessings in their lives.

We were blessed by the willing and faithful service of the following visiting ministers: Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Steve Baner, Bro. David Zehr, Bro. Clark Stoller, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (all of Gridley, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL).

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

II Corinthians 5:17

Rejoicing, we welcome Bro. Chad Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peg) into the fold. What an encouragement to again witness the work of the Lord in the heart of a lost soul. His proving and baptism were April 13-14.

May we continue to lift our new convert, Jacob Schambach (Bill Schambach, Jr. and Melody Lipscomb), up in prayer. May we each look within our own heart, longing to set a Christ-like example.

May those who have spent time in the hospital rest upon the Lord's strength: Ryan Moser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Ann), Sis. Pat Schifferer (Bro. Howie), Bro. Don Stettner, and Sis. Leola Schambach (Bro. Charles).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Jan Mogler in the passing

of her father, Bro. Nathan Mogler (West Bend, IA). His funeral service was held March 30 in West Bend.

Faithful unto death remain! For the crown of life be striving.
Break through bonds of woe and pain, In His promise e'er confiding,

Which through grace is kept in store, For thee when thy journey's o'er.

For thee when thy journey's o'er.

Zion's Harp #105

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Brian and Sis. Teri Vierling have a new baby, David Andrew, born on March 15. He has one brother, Brandon Levi. His grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling.

Caleb Dale was born on April 3 to Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker. He is welcomed by his sister, Hannah, and brother, Daniel. His grandparents are Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen Sinn and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar, MO).

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

Psalm 34:4 and 18

Michael Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Ross Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna) and Toby Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) have sought the Lord in repentance. May God grant them grace to build a firm foundation.

Four dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of April 6-7. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are

Bro. Doug Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila), Bro. Jonathan Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane), Sis. Marsha Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) and Sis. Sarah Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie). "...rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (St. Luke 10:20) Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Bros. Bill Hodel and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL).

We who in God's name are here assembled,
solemnly do clasp our hands;
That Christ's death and suff'ring
be remembered,
faithfully for Him to stand.
Thus in unison our hearts have
spoken.
Lord, to show Thy favor give the
token;
Speak Thy blessing ever true;
"Amen," Peace - be unto you.
*The Union in Jesus' Death,
Zion's Harp #11*

Saturday evening, March 23, we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion. We are thankful Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, of the Rockville, CT, congregation could be with us. May God richly bless them. We appreciated his labors on Sunday also.

Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) was our visiting minister on Easter Sunday, March 31. May God bless all who labor on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Vernon and Sis. Vi Lemman on the death of his sister, Rowena Hartter, of Goodfield. She died March 13.

We likewise extend our sympathy to Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Lavina Lemman on the recent death of his brother, Bro. Irvin Lemman, of Morton.

Sis. Wilma Huber was hospitalized recently for hip replacement surgery. We are thankful her surgery was successful. She plans to have the 2nd hip surgery soon.

Bro. Richard Rocke (Sis. Marge) spent some time in the hospital due to a heart problem. We are thankful he is doing good also.

Wednesday evening, March 27, was our Easter Program.

Monday, April 7, was the day set aside for our annual church house-cleaning. We had a good turnout for this which made working pleasant. We enjoyed a lunch afterwards.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our dear relatives and friends who remembered us with cards, visits, food, gifts of love and especially their prayers during Bro. Bill's illness and passing. May God richly bless each one for their many kind deeds of love.

Sis. Clara Kempf and family

Where is Mother

O, where is the Mother, whose
house is so shocking?
She's not in the nursery blissfully
rocking.
The nurseries are bare - for here
babies have grown,
Now tell me where our Mother has
gone?

Perhaps she went walking to get
some fresh air -
Or see a sick neighbor to give her
some care
Oh, no Mother's not doing any of
these,
She's in her prayer closet, down on
her knees.

She's bathing each grown - up
baby with prayer,
Beseeching her God to keep them
in His care
Safe from the tempter's angry

darts
Aimed at their tender youthful
hearts.
She's feeling again the pangs of
travail,
And she knows her own efforts do
nothing avail.
To bring her dear prodigal back to
the fold
Who's wandering out in the dark
and the cold.
She's thanking the Lord for each
faithful child
With disposition so sweet and mild
For the young man so helpful and
tall
She prays - "Don't ever let him
fall."

She's asking for grace for the mis-
chievous lad,
Whose delight is in doing some-
thing bad.
With thanksgiving she prays for
her husband, too,
Who's love is so constant, so kind
and true.

Oh, where is the Mother whose
house is so shocking?
The telephone's ringing - a neigh-
bor is knocking
She's in her prayer closet - down
on her knees,
Where burdens are lifted - then
carried with ease.
—by Vera Miller

Even a mother, whose little ones
are grown and are more or less on
their own, will not always maintain
a spotless house if she has her prior-
ities right.

There will be more free, uninter-
rupted prayer time and she'll use it
wisely in behalf of her children's
welfare. Will you? Will I?

—Author unknown

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**Joann Zehr****Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings to all of our loved ones! Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of our dear friend Salome Knapp. Salome leaves two brothers, Ben Knapp (Eureka, IL) and Norval Knapp (Forrest, IL), and one sister, Martha Roth (Fairbury, IL), along with many nieces and nephews. Her fellowship and smile will be greatly missed by our congregation.

Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) is still recovering from his shoulder accident. He continues to be in our prayers. May God lift him up with His healing touch.

Fairbury would like to thank the following visiting ministers for coming and being willing to preach the Word of God: Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Duane Roche (Minneapolis, MN), Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

"O Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 117

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Jean Knapp****Linda Anliker**

"Up from the grave He arose..." Our Sunday school children relayed to us the blessed story of Christ's love in sacrificing Himself on the cross and being triumph over the grave, when presenting the Easter program on March 29, following Good Friday service. May this story be planted deeply in their

hearts, that it may take root and grow when the time is right.

As we travel to Calvary's Hill in recent observation of Easter, we are thankful we could also remember Christ's suffering with partaking of Holy Communion on April 13. We thank Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in serving the bread and wine, a symbol of Christ's broken body and shedding of blood for remission of our sins. Renewed in heart and mind may we be bound in His love, serving one another on our pilgrim walk toward Zion.

Allowing the seed of life to sprout and grow in their hearts, we rejoice that Bro. Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) and Sis. Natalie Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) gave testimony of their faith in God and were baptized and are now our new brother and sister in faith. May they continue to blossom and bear fruit.

We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) for lending themselves in God's service. May the Lord bless them.

Putting their trust in the Lord for direction in their lives, Bro. Emery Gal (Akron, OH) and Sis. Erika Schlatter believe God has directed them to become united as husband and wife. Eugene and Helen Gal of North Port, FL, and Sis. Sherri Schlatter are their parents. May they continue to rely on God as they make plans for a July wedding.

April 13 was the wedding date for Jeannie Mueller and Rich Sanders. Jeannie's parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller.

Thankful for their new son, Tyrel Wayne, Bro. Tory and Sis. Wendy Zimmerman are given the responsibility of parenthood. Enjoying their first grandchild are Sis. Kathy Dotterer and Bro. Wayne

and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly Zimmerman welcome into their hearts Jerrett Michael. Jerrett's sister, Alli, and his grandparents, Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman, are looking forward to getting acquainted with him.

After a lengthy pilgrimage on earth and even enjoying the fifth generation of family, our Sis. Bertha Leman was laid to rest. We extend sympathy to her children, Donald Leman (Columbus, OH), Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman (Morton, IL), Gary and Velda Fite (Normal, IL), Bob and Judy Zimmerman (Normal, IL) and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman, and their families.

We also want to express our sympathy to Bro. Norval and Sis. Wilma Knapp in the passing of his sister, Salome Knapp (Fairbury, IL).

Spending time in the hospital this past month was Bro. Perry (Sis. Dorothy) Zimmerman.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Heather Hohulin****Rita Bauman**

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord;"

Jeremiah 30:17

It is our prayer that those who are in need of healing would feel the hand of the Great Physician. Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Mary Wiegand (Bro. Simon), Bro. Gary Wiegand (Sis. Karen), Sis. Christy Wiegand (Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb), Bro. Rob Wiegand (Sis. Kelly), Sis. Lisa Wiegand (Ben) and Monique Dingleline.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kim Getz (Bro. Tim) and family, as God has placed a trial in their life. May

they feel God by their side as He helps her through radiation treatments.

We have felt the joy by having new converts this month. Bethany Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam) and Angie Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy) have given their lives over to their Creator. May they feel God's presence in their lives and know the peace that comes from serving Him.

On March 24, the engagement of Sis. Diana Schieler and Bro. Tim Currier was made known. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Art and Sis. Mary Currier. We wish them God's blessings as they make preparations for their special day.

Our Sunday School children told the Easter story to us on Palm Sunday. We thank each one who took part in this special program. May we stay focused on the cross not only today but throughout the year.

On Good Friday we held our annual Communion service. It was a blessed evening and a very special time together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We thank our visiting ministers for their visit and their willingness to share with us the Word of God. They were Bros. Walter Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL).

Two souls have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. On April 21, we welcomed Bros. Bob Schieler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa) and Eric Fehr (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb) into the fold. May we all continue to look to Thee for guidance each day.

"Lo, children are an heritage of

the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3

God has blessed three families this month with precious little ones. On April 5, Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand became first-time parents of little Savannah Joy. Thankful grandparents are Mark and Connie Rocke and Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Wiegand. Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wiegand are thankful for the safe arrival of twins born April 10. Siblings, Scott, Zach, Marisa and Whitney, are excited to help out with their new little brother, Braden James, and sister, Brooke Lauren. Grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn Blunier and Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand. Joining the family of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee, Breana and Noah Bauman on April 11 is little Brinlee Tanner. To share in that joy are grandparents, Joe Tanner and Jared and Jan Rodgers and Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. That ye might with one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:5-6

Our unity in the Lord is richer and more precious when we are yoked together in thought and practice. Common perceptions of faith and life help build closeness among the brethren. The society around us extols diversity, but God's Word exhorts us to be unified and likeminded.

Endeavors for unity were exhorted in the reading of the annual

Memorandum. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) was here for that occasion to help Elder Bro. Earl Ringger. Much helpful direction was given for which we are thankful. The Word teaches to "obey them" and "whose faith follow." We are thankful for God's Word.

Sis. Hulda Stoller, 87, died on March 23. She had resided the last several years at the Eureka Home. Her husband, Bro. Virgil, had died on October 12, 1993, in a car accident.

Survivors are Dick Stoller (La Canada, CA), Joanne Stern (Aspen, CO), Susan Steffen (Avon, CT) and Anne Stoller - Lee (Colorado Springs, CO) and eight grandchildren. She is also survived by Sis. Marie Kaufman (Morton, IL.)

Sis. Hulda was very devoted to her husband and family and was active in church service and volunteer activities. A noted characteristic of her personality was her smile.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Arianne Gramm became parents of their first child on March 14. She was named Olivia Morgan. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm and Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell. Great-grandparents are Bro. Herbert and Sis. Jane Gramm and Sis. Lucille Stoller.

Sis. Lucille Stoller fell and fractured her hip. Sis. Sonia Endress is bedfast with pregnancy. Bro. Dave Steffen has returned home after spending time in the hospital and nursing home.

Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) ministered here on April 7, and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) preached here on March 31.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Christie Zeller

Once again we were encouraged by the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis.

Emily, Princeville, IL) was here to help with this important evening. May God bless him for his labors of love.

Christ our Lord is risen! What a blessed Easter program we enjoyed on Palm Sunday and also our Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) who brought us God's Holy Word on Good Friday. Our other visiting ministers on Easter Sunday were Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Tim Roecker (Peoria, IL). May God continue to bless these dear ones.

What a wonderful look from a Christian perspective we were able to share as our Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) brought us our topic for family worship – "Conflict in the Middle East". We all need to be in constant prayer for our country and loved ones everywhere as God's prophesy continues to unfold.

Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Millie, Goodfield, IL) was here to share Holy Communion with us on Saturday, April 13. May God bless His servants.

Sis. Mary Ann Klaus (late Bro. Bill, Ft. Lauderdale, FL) has recently made Morton her home and resides at Parkside. We appreciate her love and welcome her.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder had a new little bundle join their family – a precious baby girl, Tori Elizabeth. She is welcomed home by brother, Caleb.

More loved ones have gone home to Heaven. Bro. Roy Rokey (Sabetha, KS) passed away. He is the father to our Sis. Maretta Rokey who resides at our Timber Ridge Home. Sis. Inez Steiner (Eureka Home) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Marie Kaufman (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Wilma Wiedman (Bro. Al). Clyde Getz (California) passed away. He is a brother to our Bro. Harry Getz and Anna (Getz) Foster. Sis. Bertie Leman (Bro. Eli,

Fairview Haven) also passed away. She is the mother to our Bro. Howard Leman (Sis. Gloria). May our love and prayers go out to these dear families.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Howard Musselman wish to thank the ministers, relatives, and friends, for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and food received and prepared for us at the funeral home and church at the time of death of our loved one. And most of all, the outpouring of love shown unto us. May the Lord richly bless each and every one of you.

Irene Musselman

Roger and Nancy

Arlyn and Carol

Cheryl and Ed Duke

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Easter is passed ... life rushes on ... now and then God takes an ordinary day and makes a special event of it, as on Palm Sunday, when we could share the Lord's Supper: "Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee" (ZH 200/5). Our Communion coincides with the remembrance of the Passover by the Israelites in Egypt: "When I see the blood, I will pass over you (Ex. 12:13) which they observed this year on Nisan (March) 28/29, 5762.

Where is our tree planted? (Ps. 1:3). If we don't draw water from that river (Vine)), the tree burns up in the heat. The Lord didn't say the cost was too great, but that we should bring forth fruit in our daily lives, be a benefit to others, follow that still small voice, which guides us, and the lighthouse beacon, which sends clear signals so we can stand up in the midst of the storm. We thank Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner (Winthrop, MN) for their visit and ministry on March 17.

This season reminds us of God's love and that He wants us to make it to the end. The Holy Spirit gives us the grace to live that overcoming life. God sees us through Jesus and we need to be connected to Him. Stay close and be sanctified as we are the temple of God and have part of God beside us to show us the way. (Bro. Craig Martin, Princeville, IL 3/20).

In Matt. 20, a householder hired laborers into his vineyard, at various times of the day, each for a penny a day. We are 5 o'clockers, poor souls hired at the 11th hour (5 p.m.), who need the Lord. At what hour do we see ourselves coming to work? Did Jesus show a temper in Matt. 21:12 when He overthrew the tables of the moneychangers? Not at all; it was the right time and place to clean up a sinful condition in the temple. (Bro. Mike Rieker, 3/24).

There is a big difference between knowing and doing. Repentance is God opening the mind that a change is necessary. We are thankful Pauline Hermann could give her testimony on April 3 and be baptized on April 7 and thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for his assistance and ministry. God is the most loving Lord, our best friend, but we are not His equal because He is the Lord of our life and does not want us to reason with Him. Part of the beauty of Heaven is that nothing unrighteous can be tolerated there as He is holy, fearsome and righteous.

Bros. Mike Rieker, Dave Obergfel and Ken Hoerr conducted the Good Friday and Easter services. Isaiah described the crucifixion 700 years before Jesus mentioned it Himself. This scene happened exactly as predicted and is the most documented event in history. Of the six hours on the cross, God caused three hours to be in total darkness, similar to Exodus 10:21: "And the Lord said to Moses,

stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt." "IT IS FINISHED" ... and more importantly ... "HE IS RISEN" on the Feast of the First Fruits. Pilate committed suicide, his wife was converted, according to tradition. Our faith is not in vain; we can raise up also some day with the hope of eternal life. The next event will be His coming back in the same manner He ascended, to gather His own. Are we procrastinating, or receiving Him today, Who has risen and is alive?

The topic of Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) for our family night service on April 10 was "David's Secrets of Success" ... a man of contrasts, but behaving wisely, displaying the divine, and permissive, will of God. If we insist, God will not override our personal will, hence many are not changed due to their own will. God used David in a major way (he is mentioned over 1,100 times in the Bible) and he is a pattern for the coming Messiah Jesus Christ, with many character parallels. David was not perfect, but available to God and His purposes and plans. Divine memory-loss later never mentioned David's shortcomings: Adultery/Murder/Numbering the people (1 ½ million drew sword, of which 70,000 were killed)/Despair and Discouragement/Polygamy (18 wives) and excessive breakdown of law and order (didn't speak to Absalom for two years), which family heads must address. On the positive side: David was available, leaped for joy when he came into the presence of God (more than just believing), delighted in His ways (To be continued next month)...

Brenna Marie, born March 11, was welcomed home by brother, Alec, and parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach, of Princeville,

IL. Congratulations to them and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Judy Martin and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL). Parents are the textbook children read ... what a blessing when they are born into Christian families.

Emery Zeller (87), who used to assemble with us, passed away March 15 and we express our sympathy to his sister, Sis. Elma Brustin. Sis. Inez Steiner (91) met the Lord on April 4 and we convey our condolences to her family.

The choir had an active month: singing at Easter sunrise services, traveling to Detroit on March 16/17 and presenting the 31st annual Benefit Dinner and Musical Program on April 13 at the Fellowship Hall. On March 14, we enjoyed the Cissna Park choir and a quartet of brothers from Bluffton, IN, and thank Bro. Wayne Laubscher for accompanying the choir and his ministry: knowledge, love and truth blend together into the wisdom of God.

Where are they now?

Sis. Jolyne Scholl is in her first year of medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago and attends the Chicago church.

Rana Hermann (granddaughter of Sis. Lydia Hermann) grew up at Carmel, IN, graduated from Indiana University and has been employed by Wyman & Co., a recruiting and hiring agency in New York City, traveling nationally and in Europe. She attends church when in Peoria.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to

the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:26-28

Many of us have had mothers as described in Proverbs 31, for which we are thankful. May each one continue to look to the Lord for grace to fulfill this scripture!

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was in our midst to help our Elder Bro. Joe Stoller share Holy Communion with us on April 6. We received a great blessing from this service in remembering our Lord and Saviour's death and suffering. We thank Bro. Ted for his willingness to serve us. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), and Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

We are thankful for God's healing hand upon Sis. Adele Martin as she is recovering from a short hospital stay. Our sympathy has been with Sis. Edith Martin in the death of her sister-in-law, Faye Streitmatter. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

"No other love than mother love could do the things required of the one to whom God gives the keeping of His wee lambs, awake or sleeping."

—*Helen Steiner Rice*

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Joan Leman
Jenell Hodel

The grave of Christ, the risen Lord,
 is vacant where He lay;
 the Son is victor over death;
 whoe'er believes is saved.

Christ Arose - Hymns of Zion

What a very special time of year when we reflect upon the price Jesus paid for our salvation. We were blessed to be able to share Holy Communion on Palm Sunday. It is a time to examine ourselves and renew our love and zeal for serving our Saviour. We thank Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for being willing to assist with this.

We were blessed to hear the Easter story told to us with Scripture and song by our Sunday School on Wednesday evening, March 20.

At Easter time and as spring has arrived, we think of new life and we rejoice to be able to share the news of five precious souls who have turned their backs on Satan and the world and have begun their repentance. They are Marjorie Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa), Angie Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty), Jared Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni), Travis Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie) and Brett Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell). May God grant each of them His grace that they may build a firm foundation on the Solid Rock of Jesus.

We appreciate Bro. Will Schieler (Milford, IN) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for ministering to us this month. May God bless them, their wives and their families.

The week after Easter, our Bible Class along with some parents and our Elder Bro. Tom spent a week in Jamaica on a work project. Our prayer is that this experience will give glory to God and that He can work in their hearts as they view life from a much different angle than how we live here in the United States. We are thankful they had a safe journey.

The engagements of Sis. Kathy Bradle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary) to Bro. Mark Knapp (Bro. Larry and

Sis. Stephanie, Gridley, IL) and Sis. Jessica Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Neil Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) was announced. We pray God's blessings be upon each of these couples as they now will serve the Lord together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were in the hospital this past month. They were Sis. Mary Hoffman, Sis. Thelma Hodel, Sis. Alice Kempf and Jerry Getz. Three of the Haitians staying with families in our congregation also had their surgeries and we are thankful they are getting along well. They are Jocelyne Merisier (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie Fischer), Cathia Desvolieres (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp) and Jean Shilove Pierre (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT**Heather Rassi****LaVonne Wagenbach**

Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL) was with us March 23 as we were privileged to take Holy Communion in remembrance of what our Saviour did for us. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Marvin Leman and Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA). A special thank-you to these brothers and their families for spending time with us.

We rejoice with Sis. Teresa Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette) and Bro. Landon Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) on their engagement. We wish them God's guidance as they take this important step in life.

We were blessed with five precious babies in our congregation. Kendall James was born to Bro.

Darrel and Sis. Brenda Ehnle. Cameron and Vanessa welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle (Bradford, IL) and Sis. Kathy Rocke. Bro. Scott and Sis. Janell Sauder became first-time parents when Ashley Rose was born. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann Sauder and Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk (Morton, IL). Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne Stuber were also blessed with their first baby, Matthew David. Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber and Bro. Roger and Sis. JoAnn Beutel are his grandparents. Curt and Kerrie Bolliger and big sister Haley welcome Blake Curtis. Happy grandparents are Sis. Alma Bolliger and Bro. Warren and Sis. Carolyn Prather. Also blessed with a precious little boy, Aaron Charles, were Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach. He was welcomed home by Paul, Gary, Sis. Holly, Lisa, Wendy, David, Emily, Mary, Lydia, and Naomi. May God be with each of these families as they raise their precious children.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**Marcia Koch****Dianne Wyss**

Our congregation once again united together to experience Holy Communion. It is such a privilege to experience this Blessed Sacrament. We appreciate Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) for assisting and spending Sunday with us. The following evening we enjoyed our Sunday School children telling the Easter story through Bible memorization and song.

We thank Bros. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) for having our monthly Bible studies. They were both inspiring and interesting. Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL) also shared the pulpit this

month.

Sis. Martha Simon has recently been hospitalized. We are praying for restored health and that she can feel our Father's nearness.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner, along with many from our congregation, spent a week in Rio Bravo, Mexico, on a construction work trip. We are thankful for their safe return.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tonia Isch
Elizabeth Aschliman

"O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

Psalms 84:12

We rejoice this month as Jason Schwartz and Ben Girod have turned their back on the world and have begun the repentance process. Jason's parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz. Ben is the son of Sis. Carla Girod. We pray that they will feel God's blessings and peace as they start this new path.

Many families have been blessed with new babies recently. Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger's first child was born on February 20. Chloe Mae is welcomed by loving grandparents, Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila Sprunger and Sis. Susan Byerly (Bluffton North). Bro. Ross and Sis. Kara Frank welcomed Meryl Elise to their family on March 5. Meryl's grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Nancy Frank and Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Ifer (Bluffton North). Andrew Jed Smitley was born on March 19 to Shannon and Missy Smitley. His grandparents are Leon and Sis. Cindy Kauffman. March 19 was also the day Jessi Aliyah was born to Bro. Luke and Sis. Tina Gerke. Jessi joins Jared at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Raber.

Our prayers are with Bro. Denny and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein in the

death of his father, Bro. Floren Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ). Betty McAfee passed away on April 10. She was the mother of Bro. Jeff (Sis. Linda) McAfee. Although she will be missed on earth, we rejoice with Bro. Jeff as he looks forward to a wonderful reunion with her in Heaven.

Wedding bells were ringing on April 7 as Bro. Brian Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois, Bluffton North) took Sis. Shannon Compton (Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol) to be his wife. April 7 was also the day that Bro. Jeremy Ringger (Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Sarah Aberle (Bro. Richard and Sis. Lanae, Altadena, CA) were united in marriage. We wish these couples God's richest blessings as they start their new lives together.

Spending time in the hospital this month were: Bro. Jack Schwartz (Sis. Diane), Bro. Homer Aschliman (Sis. Minnie), Bro. Harold Isch, Bro. Brent Hackenjoes (Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn), and Sis. Diane Schwartz (Bro. Jack). We pray God's healing will be felt by all of these dear ones.

We are thankful for the several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) came to help Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz serve Communion to our congregation on April 13. Also visiting this month were Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North).

We will miss Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister as they have felt the call of the Lord to become alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. Our prayers are with them as they make the move to Leo, IN.

Finally, as we close, we would like to congratulate the 31 high school seniors from the country church who will be graduating this month. We pray that God will lead them and that they will follow His will for their lives.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:6

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
NORTH
Ann Meyer
Rhonda Maller

"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 3:7

The Lord has again been mighty in the midst of us. We were doubly blessed this past month as the Lord used two visiting ministers to teach us and challenge us in our walk with the Lord. We are thankful for Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Scott Schaefer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). May the Lord continue to bless them and their families for their service to our church.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Marge Ringger and Sis. Gladys Fiechter, who both spent time in the hospital. We also uplift Bro. Keith Honegger (Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Dee Steffen, who both went through surgery. May God's healing hand touch each of them. We continue to pray for Bro. Bob Troxel (Sis. Mary Jo) and their family. We are so thankful that we have a God who has promised, "And lo, I am with you always..."

Bro. Brian Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) was joined in marriage to Sis. Shannon Compton

(Bro. Roger and Sis. Carol, Bluffton, IN) on April 7. We rejoice with them and are confident they will continue to honor God in their life together. Congratulations, Bro. Brian and Sis. Shannon!

“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

“I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.”

Psalms 77:12

Many of us at Francesville found ourselves asking the question, Do I really know what the Bible says? And do I know how to share with others the truths of the Bible? We were given the opportunity to listen to two wonderful topical Bible studies this past month. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville) talked to us about “Preparing to share” with many helpful things we can do today to help share the Word with others. Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) had a wonderful outline and taught us how to make the best out of our “Personal Devotions”. Our time with the Lord has to be the number one priority in order to grow and be able to share with others. Thank you, Brothers, for your loving words and may the Lord continue to bless you.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justi-

fied by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Romans 5:8-9

Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was here on Easter Sunday and shared a great story of Jesus and His resurrection.

What a joy it was to host the College Weekend. It was good to see the church full of young believers eager to hear the Word. Bro. Edward Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) filled us with great teachings of God’s Word on Sunday morning. We would like to thank all who helped in the planning of the weekend and all the visiting ministers and to all the college students who participated. May the Lord work in your lives to help build a strong future.

We had the opportunity to partake in Holy Communion this past month. Here to help share in part of the evening was Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL). Thank you, dear brothers, and may we continue with a renewed spirit.

May we take a few minutes to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters who have been feeling a little down due to their health. Sis. Marian Gutwein had foot surgery this past month and is recovering nicely. Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris) is preparing for more surgery in the future. Sis. Chrisann Gutwein (Bro. Edison) is recovering from knee surgery. Our love and prayers are the best we can give with a loving heart; the Lord cares for His family.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you to my dear family, brothers, sisters and friends who remembered me with special thoughts and prayers, food, tapes, and flowers and visits I received while in the hospital and since returning home. May God

bless you one and all for your love and concern.

Humbly,

Sis. Helen Eshleman

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Sue Levy Sandy Lichtle

The church was blessed with the Living Word shared to us by our visiting Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and by Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). How rich a heritage to be able to share with others of like faith from our various churches.

Our hearts were drawn to the One who gave up His life to redeem us by our Sunday School Easter Program on March 24. The students’ love for Jesus was evident as they sang with joy in their hearts to the Lord. We were glad to hear the retelling of the old, old story of Jesus and His love. We even had a special song written by those in the 5th and 6th grade classes.

On Easter Sunday we followed our tradition of an early morning service followed by a delicious breakfast and then our second service.

Communion was served to the members on Saturday evening, April 13, by Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein and Wayne Banwart. We thank Jesus for providing the perfect sacrifice for our sins. We worship Him for His redeeming work on the cross and for the shedding of His blood in atonement for our sins.

A wedding shower was held for Sis. Julie Huber and Bro. Aaron Zeller. We rejoice with them and look forward to the home they will establish where Christ will be the head.

We are thankful that spring has arrived and like the birds, we have a song of joy to sing to the Lord who is

our Provider. He gives us renewed strength as we call upon Him in prayer.

"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

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Thy will and Thy commandments
Be done of us on earth
That each may learn with patience
Their value and true worth.
Forever there in heaven
Thy mandates forward go;
May we with Thy grace given
Do likewise here below.

Zion's Harp #85 vs. 4

As our congregation prepared for Communion, we were reminded once again of the blessings that we have because of the precious sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross. We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) for sharing Communion with us and for reminding us of the events of the Last Supper and Christ's crucifixion.

We are thankful for the Lord's guidance and direction in providing for us a new ministering brother. We pray that Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla) and their family will feel the support of the LaCrosse congregation as he takes his place on the pulpit.

We are thankful that Sis. Sandy Heinold (Bro. Glen) is feeling much better after a short illness and hospital visit.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

Mother

Mother of mine, an angel of grace
Always so loving, such a beautiful
face,
Always so tender, always so kind,
An angel from heaven, this mother
of mine.
Mother of mine, look down from
above,
And guide and protect the ones
that you love,
Who watch'd them in childhood
with tender care,
And taught them to say their evening
prayer.
Mother of mine, look down from
the sky,
On your children that admired
you,
Your beauty of soul will always remain
With us on this earth till we meet
again.

—*Nona G. Croxford*

Old Mothers

I love old mothers – mothers with white hair and kindly eyes, and lips grown softly sweet with murmured blessings over sleeping babes. There is a something in their quiet grace that speaks the calm of Sabbath afternoons; A knowledge in their deep, unflattering eyes that far outreaches all philosophy.

Time, with caressing touch, about them weaves the silver-threaded fairy shawl of age, while all the echoes of forgotten songs seem joined to lend a sweetness to their speech.

Old mothers! As they pass with slow-timed step their trembling hands cling gently to youth's strength.

Sweet mothers! As they pass, one sees again old garden walks, old roses and old loves.

—*Charles S. Ross*

I love all mothers, grandmothers, young mothers, busy mothers, committed mothers, and new mothers.

Sis. Carrie Wiegand is a new mother. She and Bro. Erik are first-time parents to Savannah Joy, born April 5. Her grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Wiegand and Bro. Mark and Sis. Connie Rocke, all from Goodfield, IL. Congratulations to all.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) and James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI). Their families accompanied them as they all have family here. We are grateful for faithful brothers who preach the truth of God's Word and praise Him for His love to us.

On the evening of March 28, Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Beverly visited. Elder Bro. Mark and Elder Bro. Lynn served Holy Communion. What a blessing for renewal in our commitment to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Jason Pence and Sis. Heidi Hackenjos (Latty, OH) who have announced their engagement of marriage. His parents are John and Marty and Sis. Heidi's parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine from New Haven, IN (Latty, OH).

Our prayers are with Sis. Thelma Schlatter and Sis. Helen Zimmer, who are both in frail health and not able to attend church services.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Stacey Feller
Paula Haab

Easter is such a special time when we can "go out to Calvary hill where Jesus died" and rejoice in His resurrection and know He lives. Our young people reminded us of Christ's suffering for us during our

Easter program on March 24. Then on Easter morning, just like the women of old who went to the tomb as it began to dawn, we gathered together at sunrise for an inspiring time of singing praises and worshipping our risen Lord.

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

Genesis 2:18

We were so happy and thankful to hear of two engagements. Planning July weddings are Bro. Neil Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Jessica Hodel (Bro. John and Sis. Linda, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Troy Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Briana Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene, West Lafayette, IN). May they also carefully and prayerfully plan their marriages so that they will be totally committed to one another, be able to trust one another and have a home where God will e'er abide filling their hearts with love and lasting joy.

It is good to have Bro. Don Haab (Sis. Martha) assemble with us after undergoing major surgery. Sis. Millie Beer (Bro. Phil) remains weak but has been able to make her way to the house of the Lord recently. After being home and coming to church a few weeks, Bro. Harold Emch (Sis. Kathryn) is once again being cared for at Carriage Manor in Goshen. Rick Bowerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) had an appendectomy on a Thursday night and was in Bible class on Sunday. Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) has again needed foot surgery. We pray that God will strengthen these loved ones physically and spiritually as well as the rest of us who sojourn here below.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) came to Milford on a

Wednesday evening for a topical Bible study. He brought many thought - provoking statistics. We surely want to live a separated life and not be part of the majority. We must stay focused on the One above. Our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and his wife, Sis. Ann, were able to spend another weekend in Milford and show their love for us. Thanks be to God for these brothers willing to be used for our benefit.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

Our country sets aside a Sunday in May to honor our mothers. How much better if we show love and appreciation for our mothers every day. This would be pleasing to God.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

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

Psalms 127:3

Loren and Jenni Honegger are happy to announce the birth of their son, Cory Peter, who was born on April 2. Cory was welcomed home by 2-year-old Troy, who is very excited to have a little brother! Grandparents are Kirk and Jeanie Johnson of Moro, IL, and Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger (Forrest, IL).

We appreciated Communion on the evening of April 6. It was such a time of renewing as we remembered the pain and anguish our dear Saviour endured so that we may have life. A special thank-you to Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) for giv-

ing of themselves to share with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Helen Waibel (Bro. Ralph) as she is recovering from a recent surgery. May the Lord continue to renew her strength daily.

Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL). We thank Bro. Ed for his service in the Lord.

Another special thank-you to our own Sunday School teachers and students for all the efforts put into this year's Easter Program. The Easter Story was told in its purest form, through the mouths of children. May God bless each one of you and may the message remain in your hearts!

As at this time of year our thoughts are turned towards our mothers, I have to think of how Jesus' own mother must have felt to see her son hanging on that cruel cross. As mothers, we never want to see our children in pain. How Mary must have wanted to comfort Jesus as He suffered there. The love of a mother is a wonderful example of God's love for us. Let's thank our mothers today and let them know how much we appreciate them.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Darel and Janet Walker

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia) and his family as Bro. Mike's mother passed away last month after a long illness. May God comfort them in their sorrow.

Our church celebrated our Saviour's resurrection with a nice Easter program and dinner on March 24. We wish to thank Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) for being with us and bringing us an Easter message. We enjoyed the singing of a group from the Bluffton Church choir. The program reminded us of how much Jesus has done for each of us by giving

us the gift of salvation. Thanks to all of those that were willing to come and make it a special day.

We extend our appreciation to Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) for bringing us the Word of God and visiting our church earlier this month. He reminded us of the importance of faith with a message from the book of II Kings. Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, was a leper. He was cured because of the faith of a servant girl captured in Israel, who told him of a prophet, Elisha, who could cure him. Naaman's journey of faith required him to humble himself by going to Israel and washing in the muddy Jordan River seven times. It took a great deal of faith for him to believe that he could be cured in this way.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Diane Houston
Nettie Haab**

"Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye."

Proverbs 7:2

This is our wish for our college students as many of them go their separate ways during the summer. We look forward to their return in the fall.

We appreciate all our visiting ministers who traveled many miles to share God's Word with us. They have been Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH), Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN).

We rejoice with Sis. Brianna Furrer and Bro. Troy Wuthrich of Milford as their engagement was

announced. May they always look to God for guidance as they plan their lives together. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer, and Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Erica Wagenbach**

March 24 was the day for the dedication of the new World Relief building in Wolcott. We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for their part in the dedication service, assisting Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler and Bro. Gene Lehman. May God bless each one who had a part in helping with the building.

Visiting ministers bringing us God's Word were Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Fredrick Knapp (Congerville, IL).

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on April 17. Assisting our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler were Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN). May God bless them for their labors of love.

**IOWA, BURLINGTON
Lana Metzger
Brenda Schulz**

This month we had six visiting ministers. They were Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Wayne

Leman (Roanoke, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), and Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Bob Walder (Congerville, IL). Bro. Ted was here for our Communion. We thank these brothers for their willingness to be used in God's service.

We also heard of the engagement of Bro. Landon Rowell (Bro. John and Sis. Nelda) to Sis. Teresa Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette). They are both from Tremont, IL.

Also, our Sis. Edra (Bob) Kuntz lost her father, Bro. Les Gerst, last month. We apologize for leaving this out. We trust and pray that God will continue to comfort them.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

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

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

What a blessing to again witness this new life appearing on the earth. It reminds us of the "new life" that we can see in a soul who turns their back on sin and Satan and begins to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Our congregation is looking forward to hosting the World Relief Committee meeting this coming weekend. Hopefully many will stay and spend Sunday with us. May God bless each committee member for their labor of love.

We have four seniors who are looking forward to graduation. They are: Aaron Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy), Molly Hanson (Albert and Trudy), Brenda Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue), and Sis. Abby Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet). We wish them God's blessings and direction as

they make plans for their future.

As May is the month we remember our Mother's, I would like to share this poem:

*When You Thought
I Wasn't Looking
(written by a child)*

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me good night and I felt loved and safe.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it, and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I

wanted to become everything that I could be.

**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark**

The tender yellow daffodils had only been nodding on their slender stems a few days when they were blasted with a hot dry wind that withered the blooms. I felt saddened, because the daffodils in my yard always cheer me and remind me of the hope of eternal springtime. Just like the hot winds on a tender blossom, angry and harsh words can wilt the tender spirit of those around us. Are we careful enough with the words that come from our mouths?

We have had many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS). We thank each of you, the ministering brothers, for sharing the Word of hope and life, and each one who shared fellowship with us.

**IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer**

We are thankful for the brothers who visited us and shared God's Word with us during the past month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) shared the evening on Good Friday, and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) served us last Sunday.

**IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger**

It is a special blessing to be able to share in the Lord's Supper as Brothers and Sisters of Christ. Elder Bro. Art Nohl was with us for our Communion service on March 23. We thank him and his wife, Sis. Sandra, for making the effort to

help in this work.

Those in our congregation who have been hospitalized this month were Sis. Martha (E.A.) Feucht, Bro. Ezra (Sis. Marie) Knobloch (surgical), and Bro. Andy (Sis. Freida) Mogler (surgical). We are glad to have them all assembling with us again.

The morning of March 26 brought great sadness as we heard that our dear Sis. Marlys (Metzger) Doorneweerd had passed into eternity at the age of 43. Sis. Marlys displayed tremendous courage and faith to all who met and knew her during her illness. Marlys' family includes her husband, Bro. Butch; children, Sis. Sherri, Curtis, Sis. Betsy and Cody; parents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger; five brothers and their wives, Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois, Bro. Ray and Kathy, Don and Pat, Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth, and Arlyn and Nancy Metzger. Bro. Rod Bajema, Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) comforted the family and friends through scriptural hope given by the inspiration of God.

Our Good Friday message was given by Bro. Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL). That afternoon we again felt the pain of sorrow as Lydia Moser was called home reaching the age of 81 years. She is survived by her four sons, David, Dan, Sam and Scott; her daughter, Sis. Sheila (Sabetha, KS); along with four brothers, Dietrich, Bro. Wilbert and Adolph Knobloch; four sisters, Sis. Emma and Sis. Paulina Knobloch, Wilma Hoogeveen, and Sis. Violet Luthi. Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) conducted her funeral service.

On March 27, Bro. Nathan Mogler (West Bend, IA) passed away. He was a brother to Bro. Andy (Sis. Freida) Mogler of our congregation. We extend our sym-

pathy to their family.

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

Hymns of Zion #74

We have two newlywed couples this past month. Lon and Jammie Kellenberger took their vows on April 6. Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda Kellenberger are Lon's parents. Mark Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) and Lee Howard were joined in marriage on April 13. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

April 14 was the day we heard the engagement of Sis. Cari Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) to Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gay, Congerville, IL). We look forward to sharing in their special day. Cathy Meyer (Bro. George) and Dan Aschliman are planning a wedding as well.

Kailey Joy Rozeboom was born to Jared and Amanda on April 15. She is welcomed home by her sister, Kourtney. Grandparents are Leroy and Shelley Van Whye. Sis. Janet Wysong is Kailey's great-grandmother. We rejoice with their family upon her safe arrival!

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

We rejoice with our new brother-in-faith. Rob Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) recently gave his testimony of faith and was baptized. We are so thankful that the Lord is still reaching out His arms of mercy to those who are lost in sin. Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jon. We

were also blessed to have Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) with us for the weekend. May God bless Bro. Joe and Bro. Paul for their willing service in His name.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall became first-time parents to Nolan Albert, who was born on March 9. First-time grandparents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall. Nolan's maternal grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer (Lester, IA). We wish God's richest blessings and wisdom to Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally as they nurture their precious little responsibility sent to them from God.

Our sympathy and prayers are sent to Sis. Hilda Gerst and Sis. Verna Rocke, whose sister, Sis. Inez Steiner, has recently passed away in Illinois.

We are grateful that Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was able to spend a weekend with us as we partook of Holy Communion. We are so thankful that the Lord hears even our most feeble prayers, and may we endeavor in this year to serve Him more diligently and faithfully.

We were happy to have some of our brethren from Princeville worship with us in the past month during their re-carpeting project. Among them was Bro. Glen Braker. May God bless Bro. Glen, Sis. Audrey, and their precious family.

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

Ring the bells of heaven, there is
joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild;
See the Father meets him out
upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wand'ring
child.
Glory! glory! how the angels sing;
Glory! glory! how the loud harps

ring;
'Tis the ransomed army, like a
mighty sea,
Peeling forth the anthem of the
free.

Gospel Hymns #622

We are thankful that Robert Wuthrich has turned his back to the world and is seeking the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) shared the Word of Life with us this month. We thank him for bringing his family to worship with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Russell) as she has been hospitalized. We are hoping she has a speedy recovery and look forward to her assembling with us once again.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Berniece Banwart
Lori Skoglund

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

I Corinthians 15:54

This past month two of our elderly brothers have gone to their final resting places. What a comfort it is to their dear families that both had turned to the Lord many years ago. Bro. Nathan Mogler was called from this life on March 27 after a long struggle with failing health. His wife, Sis. Lilly, preceded him in death in 1991. Surviving are his children, Eric (Dian), Bro. Tim, Sis. Janet (Elgin, IL), Sis. Jackie, and Melanie Bormann (Ralph), along with nine grandchildren and a brother, Bro. Andy Mogler (Lester, IA). Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) assisted in the fu-

neral services.

April 10 was the final day in the life of Bro. Lyle Rick (Sis. Irene). He had also endured a long bout of failing health, and Sis. Irene is thankful he could go to his reward. He leaves behind a stepson, Jim Neighbors (Sharon) of Ruthven, IA, two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a sister, Evelyn Carroll of Mason City, IA, and a brother, Lewis Rick, also of Mason City. May we continue to offer prayerful support for those in sorrow, and may we visit the fatherless and widows, as prescribed in James 1:27.

We also extend our sympathy to Adolph Knoblock (Jean) in the death of his sister, Lydia Moser (Lester, IA).

Marlene Banwart (Richard) was a hospital patient for surgery and is now recovering at home.

We were blessed with many visitors from various congregations, and we enjoyed the many children who came with them. Among the visitors on April 13 were Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA). May they be blessed for their labors in bringing forth the true Word of Life.

May all who are mothers strive to be worthy of the following tribute:

Thank You

For all the weary steps you took
for me

When I was much too young to understand,

For midnight vigils and for sympathy,

For the cool touch of your remembered hand,

For your low voice that echoes
down the year,

For patience and unshaken boundless trust,

For happy laughter and for healing tears,

For swift decisions that were always just,

For memories of days spent by your side,

For hours of harmony achieved through you,

For little rooms your presence sanctified,

For high ideals and childish dreams come true,

For health of body and for strength to press

Forever forward on life's painful way,

For all my heritage of happiness,
I thank you, Mother dear, on
Mother's Day.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings of love once again from Tokyo. As the new school/work year begins here, so does the tearing down and reconstruction of our church addition. It was with a bit of a strange feeling that we assembled on the Sunday after Easter with only the former church sanctuary and fellowship area still standing (which will remain as is and we will continue to worship and have a simple lunch there until the new building is complete). I did not find out the exact number of years, but I believe it is around 28, that the Inoue's lived in the connecting house and before them Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle and John and Betty Klaus (Bro. Andrew's parents) had lived there. So, many memories were made there and changes such as this do take some adjusting time. We are thankful the Inoue's are moved in to their new home and we trust that they feel the Lord's leading and peace. We are also very thankful to a friend, Yumi Takeda, for allowing us to rent a room at her culture school nearby for Sunday School.

The Lord continues to faithfully provide for our needs as He promises to those who ask and trust in Him.

We are very grateful that we can rest assuredly in one thing that will not change, and that was brought again to our attention on Easter Sunday, March 31. That being, our Lord is risen, to die no more!! What peace and joy those who accept His free, sacrificial gift of eternal life with Him, can experience! May we continue to pray and plead with the Lord to open the understanding of many more souls to His saving power. Many from the congregation, along with the Sunday School children, participated in the program telling of our risen Lord, and we believe hearts were touched once again by the deeply meaningful story, believers and unbelievers alike. We are again thankful to Sis. Marie for her continuous work with the Japanese children, teaching them English through the week, and encouraging them to attend Sunday School. It is very precious to see them say their parts, more lengthy in Japanese, and then to do their best with a short English piece. Oh, that those words, in both languages, would take root in their hearts! May the Lord continue to give grace to each of the Sunday School teachers here who teach, as we have 5 sisters who take turns each week on a rotation basis.

We held our annual business meeting on Sunday, April 14, with most "job positions" remaining the same. However, we cannot help but notice that the number of able brothers to fill in for responsibilities has greatly decreased, so please join us in prayer that the Lord would raise up faithful men in our little church.

I mentioned last month, Sis. Unishino's grandson was scheduled for the second time to have his cleft pallet surgery, but could not

again because of high white blood cell count. It is a bit discouraging to her, so please hold her and her family up in prayer as additionally, her husband is still suffering pain in his left arm since his heart surgery that turned out unsuccessful. We do hope and pray for brighter days for her in the future. She still keeps her trust in the living Lord, though, and we know this is helping her through.

Elder Bro. Akito attended a one year memorial service at the grave of our elderly Sis. Horiuchi-san on the morning of Easter Sunday where he said he could read from the Word and pray, and then her children and grandchildren once again gathered and sang hymns. We were all very thankful that they still respected their mother's Christian belief and we continue to pray for her large family that her faith would be passed on.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Sally Strahm

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

Luke 15:7

We are rejoicing that another soul, Ariana Esslinger, has answered the call of God. May God give her grace as she starts to build a solid foundation. Ariana's parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer are thankful Olivia Ilene arrived safely on March 18. Big brothers to welcome Olivia home are

Benjamin, Grant and Matthew. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne Meyer and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

The Bern congregation joined the Sabetha congregation for Good Friday services.

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers with us. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha) shared the resurrection story with us on Easter Sunday.

Our prayers have been with Eric Meyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kristen) who has spent time in the hospital.

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

I Cor. 11:24

We had a very solemn and blessed evening as we partook of Holy Communion on April 13. Holy Communion is a time of remembrance of the deep suffering our Saviour endured for each one of us. May we always remember the great price our Saviour paid for us. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) helped with this work.

March 23-24 was a blessed weekend as we hosted "invite-a-couple". May we thank the Lord for the freedoms we have that we can spend weekends like these with those of like mind and faith and be encouraged in our spiritual walk of life.

The Junior and Senior Bible class was invited to Sabetha April 6-7 for a Sunday School gathering. We pray that as the seed is sown within these tender hearts that someday it can bring forth much good fruit.

With Mother's Day being this month, may we give thanks to God for the example our God-fearing mothers are.

We wish to congratulate our high school and college graduates.

May they seek God's direction as they pursue an education or occupation. The high school graduates are Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona), Brandon Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) and Emily Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen). The college graduates are Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn) of Detroit, MI. This poem was given to me by a dear older sister who thought it was fitting for graduates.

**HAVE COURAGE MY BOY TO
SAY NO!**

You're starting today on life's journey,

Alone on the Highway of Life.

You'll meet with a thousand temptations,

Each city with evil is rife.

The world in a state of excitement,
There's danger wherever you go;

But if you are tempted in weakness,

**HAVE COURAGE, MY BOY, TO
SAY NO.**

The siren's sweet smile may allure you,

Beware of her cunning and art;
Whenever you see her approaching,

Be guarded and haste to depart.

The inns and saloons are inviting,
Decked out in their tinsel and show,

Should you be invited to enter,
**HAVE COURAGE, MY BOY, TO
SAY NO.**

Be careful in choosing companions,
Seek only the brave and the true;
And stand by your friends when in trial,

Ne'er changing the old for the new.

And when by false friends you are tempted

The taste of the wine cup to know,
With firmness, with patience, and

kindness,
**HAVE COURAGE, MY BOY, TO
 SAY NO.**
 The bright sparkling wine may be
 offered;
 No matter how tempting it be,
 From poison that stings like an ad-
 der
 My boy, have the courage to flee.
 The gambling halls are before you,
 Their lights, how they dance to
 and fro;
 You may be invited to enter,
**DO HAVE COURAGE, MY BOY,
 TO SAY NO.**
 In courage of faith lies your safety,
 When you your long journey begin;
 And trust in your Heavenly Father
 Will keep you unspotted from sin.
 Temptations will go on increasing
 As rivers from rivulets flow;
 But if you are true to your Saviour,

**YOU'LL HAVE COURAGE, MY
 BOY, TO SAY NO.**
 —Anon.

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
 Ruth Bahr**

Elder Bro. Wesley Knapp (Sis. Mildred, Goodfield, IL) was with us on March 23. May the Lord bless the ministers who came this month and gave of themselves on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Wanita Sinn (Bro. Wayne) on the death of her mother, Lucy Davis. She passed away on March 19.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) brought the Easter Sunday sermon. A group from Taylor and Lamar, MO, accompanied them.

A first child was born to Daniel and Taira Williams. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart. Paternal grandparents are Ron and Jane Williams and Bear and Linda Hall. Also, Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie's son, Timothy Banwart, is a high school graduate.

Fellowship flowed during our invite-a-friend weekend April 12-13. Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) served on the pulpit. Other visitors came from Lamar and Kansas City, MO, Wichita, KS, and Lester, IA.

**KANSAS, KIOWA
 Jenny Stewart
 Laura Wagenbach**

We were thankful to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for helping us partake of Holy Communion this month. May the Lord bless them for their effort for our congregation.

Our dear Sis. Matilda Schupbach went to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

Our hospital patient this month is Sis. Alice Tanner. We pray God will grant her the strength to return home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. Bro. Kelly Stewart had an outpatient surgery this month. Everything seems to be going well for him at this time.

We are joyful that Tifani Bahr has answered God's call to repentance. We pray that God's grace and understanding will be granted to her. Her parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice Bahr.

**KANSAS
 LAMONT-GRIDLEY
 Sarah Somerhalder**

Saturday evening, April 20, our congregation assembled together to partake of Holy Communion and remember our dear Lord's death and suffering. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), who assisted our Elder Bro. Jay. We were also blessed on Sunday as Bro. Don proclaimed God's Word to us.

Friday, April 5, was the funeral of Paul Wernli. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his parents, Bro. Roy and Betty Wernli, and his brothers, sisters and their families. Even though Paul will certainly be missed, we are glad the Lord relieved Paul of his suffering and took him Home. Paul, a very special-needs individual, touched the lives of all who knew him.

Congratulations to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger as they have a new grandson. Harrison Charles was born April 13 to first-time parents, Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi Metzger (Wichita, KS). Maternal grandparents are Ordained Deacon Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).

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

On Good Friday, our neighboring Bern congregation assembled with us. We were again reminded of our precious Saviour's death and dying on the cross. We thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) for bringing forth the message. May we daily thank our Lord for the great price that was paid on Calvary.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Eileen Hartter welcome another granddaughter, Olivia Eileen Meyer, into their family circle. Olivia's parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer (Bern, KS). We're happy to have another baby added to our congregation also. Collin Lee was born April 3 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Molly Grimm. Collin's brothers, Micah and Kyle, also welcome him home. His grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf (Morris, MN).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Sheila Moser in the recent passing of her mother, Lydia Moser (Lester,

IA). How thankful we should be when we look forward to our heavenly home and its many glad reunions.

On April 6-7 we were privileged to have the Bible Class students from Lester, IA, and Bern, KS, in our midst. We thank the teachers, parents, and students for their many efforts to make this a blessed weekend. The hours of planning and preparing are truly worth the effort when we remind ourselves that these young souls are our future church. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) gathered with the students to discuss the doctrine of eternal security. Also, a special thank-you to ministering Bro. Tom Lemman (Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) for sharing the Word with us this month.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have had surgery this month. They were Sis. Sharon Strahm (Bro. Carl), Micah Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), and Andrew Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy). May they all feel God's nearness as they recover.

April 13 was a special day for Rachel Krogmann and Jason Gibson as they were joined together in matrimony. We wish them God's blessings as they begin life together as husband and wife. Parents of the couple are Frank and Sis. Julie Krogmann and Howard and Ginger Gibson (Tribune, KS).

Our congregation has discontinued our Wednesday evening services for the season, and our Sunday evening song services have resumed.

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Tamra Kaeb**

As we prepare ourselves for another round of final exams and pro-

ject due dates, we look back over the past school year and thank God for the very blessed one we had. We have had seven converts among us this school year, and just this week another soul sought the Lord in repentance. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty, Bern, KS) surrendered her will to the Father's, and we wish her much grace to begin her life anew in Christ. We willingly give God all the glory and credit for how He has multiplied our young group here on campus.

Last weekend, April 13-14, we were blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of Bro. Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda, Taylor, MO). Bro. Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO) finished up the morning service by naming four things we as believers can make a part of our daily lifestyles to ensure that we never fail in our walk with God: read the scriptures daily, and perhaps more than once a day; pray without ceasing; attend Sunday church and midweek services faithfully; and spend whatever free time we have with God's people.

We wish Bro. Scott Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn, Detroit, MI) God's blessings as he concludes his school career and returns to Detroit, MI. Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) and Bro. Brandon Plattner (Bro. Don and Sis. Ada, Sabetha, KS) are also graduating in May. Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer and Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle, all of Sabetha, KS) will also be leaving us this spring as Bro. Kyle is finishing up his last semester. We're sad to see the familiar faces leave us, but we look forward to all the new ones that'll be coming to K-State in the fall.

Once again we want to express our sincere thanks to the ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us on Wednesday eve-

nings. These brothers were Elder Bros. John Lemman (Bern, KS), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Don Braker (Kansas City, MO), and Bros. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). Bros. Roger Aberle and Ben Wysong (both of Sabetha) also shared topical Bible studies with us on "what we are to be for Christ" and "being a prisoner for Christ", respectively. Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) is planning to be here for this semester's topical Bible study on Friday, April 26. The spring picnic is on May 1 at 6:30 pm.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Harrison Charles Metzger was born April 13. He is the first child of Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi and the seventh precious little boy to be born to parents in our circle of fellowship. His grandparents are Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger (Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Sis. Sally Funk and her daughters are hosting a mother-daughter round up on May 4. We are looking forward to this opportunity to strengthen our fellowship with our daughters and each other. How fortunate we are to have had believing mothers who encouraged our Christian walk! They followed the examples of Hannah and Naomi rather than that of Herodias who instructed her daughter to ask for the head of John the Baptist. To become a worthy woman as described in Proverbs 31 should be the goal for each of us.

The first weekend in April, Bro. Joe Koch and his family from Rockville, CT, stopped in Wichita to worship with us before going on to their business destination. We welcome and encourage more of you to fellowship with us in Wichita when-

ever you are doing business or vacationing in the surrounding area.

Bro. Godfrey Miller was hospitalized for treatment and minor surgery the first part of April. He is back at Beverly Health Care. Our church family supported us with prayers and concern and I am ever grateful for their loving support.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glenda Neukomm

Sis. Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Tom Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda, Mansfield, OH) were united in marriage on March 24. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin their life together and will be making Mansfield their home church.

Congratulations to Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic on the birth of grandson, Nathan Roy Luginbuhl (Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie, Rittman, OH). May the Lord's blessings be with their family.

Those who will be graduating from High School are: Sis. Andrea Neukomm (Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda), Emil Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty), Justin Huber (Ben and June), Josh Huber (Mike and Susan), and Marcus Huber (Maurice and Monica). As this chapter of their lives comes to a close and High School becomes a memory, may the Lord continue to guide and direct their pathway. We wish them God's blessings at this special time and in the future.

As Mother's Day will be here this month, it's a special time to recognize our Mothers, who are very dear to us:

I love you, Mother, for your quiet
grace,
For that dear smile upon your
kindly face,
For marks of toil upon each loving
hand
That worked for me ere I could un-

derstand.

—*Simpson*

"No man is poor who has a Godly Mother."

—*Abraham Lincoln*

We appreciate so much our visiting ministers, Bros. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford, IN) and Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI) who brought us the Word this past month. May the Lord's rich blessings be near them.

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN Gloria Gonzalez

"The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands."

Psalms 138:8

On March 12, Bro. Jose Roque and his family left for the state of Sonora. They went to share God's Word with children who need to know about God's love and mercy at the orphanage, Casa de Elizabeth.

We thank ministering Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with us. Bro. Ron and his family spent a week here in Ixtlan and we thank them for their love and support.

Sis. Rosa Cabrera has felt called by God to return to Casa de Elizabeth on April 9. We pray for Sis. Rosa and Sis. Pauli Angelito as they fill the role of mother/sister to these children who have never experienced a true family and true love. While we miss the Roque family, Sis. Pauli and Sis. Rosa, we are thankful that they are willing to fol-

low God's leading and are confident that the Lord will provide for each of their needs.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

Meet Sis. Silvia Cabrera:

My name is Silvia Cabrera. I am 16 years old and I live with my parents and five siblings.

I began coming to church when I was ten years old, but it was only to have fun with the others in the Young Group. When I was 11 years old I began to rebel against God and stopped coming to church. Through the encouragement of several brothers and sisters I returned to church when I was 12 years old. I was still very rebellious. I fought a lot and usually I did not have peace with others. Satan also gave me a desire to listen to music that was not edifying.

When I started attending church, I could not understand God's Word, but daily I asked God for grace and He helped me understand. My mom always encouraged me to be at peace with God, because she had experienced this peace in her heart. In time, I was convicted and finally found peace in my own heart.

Sometimes I have temptations, but the Lord with his mercy and power helps me to continue walking in His way. With a humble and repentant heart I came to Jesus Christ. He is my best friend. I am thankful to God because He forgave my sins. I was baptized on February 25, 2001. Now my desire is that all of humanity will come to know about the Lord's mercy and love.

MICHIGAN, ALTO**Rose Watson
Terri Huber**

It is exciting to report several engagements in the past couple of months. We congratulate Jared Schutte (the late Sis. Brenda) and his bride-to-be, Nellie DeWitt. Sara Barry (Tom and Carolyn) has announced her engagement to Nathan Galusha (Mr. and Mrs. Tim Galusha). We are also happy to report the engagement announcement of Sis. Sarah Gerst (Bro. Wally and Sis. Donna) to Bro. Justin Ooms from Detroit, MI. Justin's parents are Linda and Val Janschutz from Houston, TX, and Robert and Diane Ooms from San Francisco, CA. We pray for God's blessings and guidance as these young couples look forward to beginning their lives together.

Little Brooke Steffen (Dave and Tanya) is recovering from outpatient surgery. Allen Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri) is home after a brief stay in the hospital resulting from an accident.

A family work night was organized by our World Relief representatives. The evening was productively spent knotting quilts, designing woodworking projects and filling neonatal and health kit bags as well as preparing craft kits for a local children's hospital.

Most of our snowbirds have returned from their winter residences. It is good to have them home!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings to our loved ones both near and far. We are glad to see that spring has started arriving in mid-Michigan and that once again the Lord has blessed us with His grace and mercy.

The Bay City congregation re-

cently sought the Lord's will and direction to place a new minister in His service. The charge fell to Bro. John (Sis. Peggy) Jackson. We offer Bro. John our love, prayers and support in his new position. We know that God is faithful and will lead and direct Bro. John by the Holy Spirit as he speaks from the pulpit. We would like to thank Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for their support and guidance through this process.

With Bro. John starting in the ministry, an opening was left as Sunday School Superintendent. That responsibility has fallen to Bro. Dan (Sis. Jane) Kaiser. We offer Bro. Dan our prayers and support.

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

Proverbs 22:6

This past month, two sisters have spent some time in the hospital. They are Sis. Hermine (Bro. Alf) Kaeb and Sis. Lois (Bro. Jerry) Wieland. We are thankful for the Lord's healing mercies and that both these dear sisters have been able to be back at church.

Out onto Calvry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

Zion's Harp #89

On Saturday, April 6, we remembered the Lord's suffering on the cross as we gathered for Holy Communion. We were thankful that the Lord opened the way for Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) to be with us for the weekend.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel in the birth of their

grandson, Max Alan Laukhuf. Max joins the family of Bro. Mick, Sis. Lisa and brother, Clark Laukhuf (Latty, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf.

We pray that God's blessings will be with you during the coming month.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Sarah Beard
Holly Barton**

We thank Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) for ministering to us at Woodhaven this month. Also a thank-you to Bro. Neil Ramsier (Bay City, MI) for serving us on a Wednesday evening.

Our annual Easter Program was held March 24. It was a blessing to hear the children tell the Easter story through Scripture, poem, and song.

Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) helped our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr serve Communion on April 13. We thank him for being with us at this special service and for the weekend of worship and fellowship. May we all be renewed in our love for and our dedication to our Lord and Saviour.

We rejoice with Bro. Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz as they have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless them in the years to come.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Ben Belsley wishes to thank all during our loss. Your love and support was very much appreciated. God bless each and every one.

*In Love,
Lois and family*

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Katie Messner****Cheryl Messner**

Parker Jacob joined the family circle of Bruce and Penny Schmidgall on March 22. Other children are Samantha, Bryce and Mason. Praying God will bestow His blessings on this young family. Grandparents are Bud and Judy Becker and Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall.

In our Easter program, the Sunday School children related the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Over the Easter weekend, we appreciated the exhortations of Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), and Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA).

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

Hymns of Zion #286

Bro. Loren Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Sis. Melinda Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA) were united in marriage on April 7. Our hope and prayer is that the Holy Spirit may ever abide in their hearts and home.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Hannah Nohl and Sis. Mabel Schmidgall. We're grateful to God for their recoveries.

Our congregation rejoiced with five dear souls as they gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on April 13-14. Sis. Hannah Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette), Bro. Joshua Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. June), Bro. Rustin Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Mattson (Roger and Patti Mattson, Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi) are now redeemed children of God. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht

(Eureka, IL) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) assisted our Elder Bro. Art in this important work.

As we observe Mother's Day, let us always find time in our busy lives for our beloved mothers.

I was so busy
And had not much time
For a sweet little mother
Who was doing just fine.
Patiently she waited for a visit to

be,
My mother's hands
They prayed for me.

My mother's hands
Are now laid to rest
From doing the things
That she loved best.
Gnarled and wrinkled by time I see
My mother's hands
Had always loved me.

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

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come ... For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

I Cor. 11:26

We are thankful for the labor of love from Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) in helping serve Communion to our congregation with Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner. We were reminded that we are all worthy of eternal death as Barabbas, but set free by Jesus' death on the cross who took our place. We also should remember that Communion is a feast for the soul and not the body.

"...Be not afraid of them that kill the body; ... Fear him, which after

he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

Luke 12:4-5

This verse was from the exhortation given by Bro. Donald Miller (Sis. Bernadine, Minneapolis, MN). "Safely through another week, God has brought us on our way. Day of all the week the best, emblem of eternal rest." Thank you.

A most beautiful portrait of a Christian mother is given in chapter 31 of Proverbs. Those qualities of heart and mind that make a true mother: Wisdom (Prov. 31:26); Industry (Prov. 31:15-17); Generosity (Prov. 31:20); Faithfulness (Prov. 31:11-12); Character (Prov. 31:25); Faith (Prov. 31:30). A mother with these qualities is to be thanked (Prov. 31:28-29).

Several from our congregation have been in and out of the hospital. Some have had same day surgeries. We pray for God's healing in their lives.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer) wishes to thank all who remembered her 80th birthday with cards, gifts and prayers.

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

"Who is the wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

James 3:13

We were blessed to have Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) share the gospel with us. Many thanks to Bro. Ed and Bro. Greg for their labors on our behalf.

Our deepest sympathy to Don Wales in the recent loss of his mother, Dorothy Wales of Clearwater, FL, and to Sis. Holly, Amity, and Bro. Jonathan Wales, in the loss of their grandmother.

Recently hospitalized for surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, is ministering Bro. Randy Kellenberger. Our prayers and love go out to him and his dear family. May the Great Physician guide his recovery.

"Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. O Lord God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant."

II Chronicles 6:41-42

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Kristen Leman
Becky Marti

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

Zion's Harp #163

The weekend of March 23-24 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism and then greet Andrea Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) as our new Sister - in - Faith. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS) was here to assist with this work. Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bill Emch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We appreciate the willingness of these brothers to be used in God's service.

We want to express our sympa-

thy to those who have lost loved ones. Sis. Violet Luthi (Bro. Raymond) lost a sister, Lydia Moser (Lester, IA); and Sis. Linda Banwart (Bro. Gene) lost her grandmother, Lucy Davis (Ft. Scott, KS).

Our prayers are with Jack Thiebaud (Betty) as he has been in the hospital much of the month.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

"Do this in remembrance of me."
We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield, IL) for exhorting us to prepare for Holy Communion. We remember Christ in so many ways: as the Babe in Bethlehem; as the 12 year old in the temple with the elders; as the teacher, healer and forgiver of sins; as the One who calmed the raging sea; as the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for your sin and my sin; and as the risen Lord who sits at the Father's right hand, interceding for us. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Also serving us on the pulpit was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We are thankful that these faithful brothers and sisters in the Lord are willing to come and be used of God for our benefit. We are blessed with the teachings, the fellowship, and the encouragement of our visiting ministers and their families.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Susan Haerr

It has been another month of blessings here in Taylor, and we praise God for each one.

On March 31, Easter Sunday, our Sunday School children shared the Easter story with us through their annual program. Their example of child-like faith and hard work truly blessed us. It's so encouraging to watch and listen to the future

church praising God.

The following weekend, April 4-5, was another very special weekend for us here in Taylor and especially for Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and their family as we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of their son, grandson, brother, and cousin, Luke Knapp. The story of how God worked in his heart was so wonderful to hear. May God bless Bro. Luke with many years in His service. We were thankful to have Bro. Luke's uncle, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), here to share God's Word with us. Thanks also to all of the family members and friends that made the effort to be here.

The weekend of April 13-14 was a bittersweet one for our Taylor congregation. This weekend marked the official retirement of our dear Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona) from the eldership and ministry. We held a special appreciation program on Saturday night and were so thankful that much of their family was here to be a part of it, as well as for the meal on Sunday. We were thankful that Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) was here to help share God's Word. Again, God bless you, Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona. We love you and appreciate you so much.

Jody Haerr (Stacy) spent time in the hospital in the last month. We pray for God's healing touch for her.

*In Loving Memory of
(Uncle) Bro. Nathan Mogler*

God saw he was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around him
And whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes we watched him
suffer
And saw him fade away;
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
 Hard working hands to rest.
 God broke our hearts to prove to
 us
 He only takes the best.
 —author unknown

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all those who sent us sympathy cards and words of comfort in the passing of our dear uncle, Bro. Nathan Mogler, from the West Bend, IA, congregation.

*In Christian Love,
 Sis. Janet Schaer
 Mrs. Jane (Schaer) Rieman,
 Edie and Melissa*

**NEW YORK
 CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
 Hope Graves**

On Friday evening, April 22, we met together for a World Relief Work Night. Throughout the evening we worked on assembling health and prenatal kits. May the Lord bless the many individuals who have a part in getting these kits to the people who are in so great a need of them. We pray that the efforts going forth in this work will provide not only for the physical man but for the spiritual.

But still they're some found here
 below
 Whose hearts like fields are fruitful.
 Wherein that seed will start and
 grow
 In hearts upright and truthful.
 The seeds which in these hearts
 are sown
 Will thrive until good fruit is
 grown.
 They are the true believers.
Zion's Harp #108 vs. 8

Our prayers have extended to Sis. Berdena Widrick, Bro. John Rauhe, and Renata Dawson this

past month. Sis. Berdena was moved from her home in extended care to the hospital for surgery after breaking her hip, and Bro. John has been hospitalized with severe heart problems. Renata is home recovering well after having surgery. We pray for the Lord's continued comfort and strength upon them and their families.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort; Who comforted us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounded by Christ."

II Corinthians 1:3-5

We rejoice with Daniel and Tracie Getman in the birth of their daughter, Kierstin Nichole. Kierstin came into this world on March 27, much to the joy of grandparents, Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney and George and Theresa Getman. May the Lord guide them in the upbringing of this precious new life.

We were richly blessed to have Elder Bros. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) with us on the weekend of April 20-21. We assembled together on Saturday evening for a potluck dinner followed by the reading of the Memorandum. How thankful we are that this letter continues to be prepared annually by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and read to all the churches. We were thankful for the many other visitors that were with us for the weekend, and we look forward to many more as the spring sunshine begins to work its wonders in the budding of new leaves and the greening of the grass around us.

May our hearts reflect the same in the renewing of our spirits with the one true light that can lighten even the darkest of our days—our Lord and Saviour.

**OHIO, AKRON
 Joyce Gasser**

The engagement of Bro. Emery Gal and Sis. Erika Schlatter was announced Easter Sunday, March 31. Bro. Emery's parents are Eugene and Helen Gal of Florida, and Sis. Erika's mother is Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest, IL). We welcome Sis. Erika to our congregation and wish them the Lord's blessings.

Jodi Grawunder (Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva) was united in marriage to Andy Lovell on March 23. Andy's parents are Ron and Marilyn Lovell of Harrison, MI.

Stanley Katanic is being transferred in his work to Indianapolis, IN, and we will miss him, but hope he gathers with us as often as he can.

Bro. John Graf has returned home from being hospitalized.

Several of our congregation have been on work projects: Sis. Michelle Steidl, Sis. Susie Katanic, Bro. Gregory Henico, and Stanley Katanic were to Jaurez, and Sis. Gerri O'Brien was to Jamaica to the deaf school, where she can use sign language and communicate with them.

We appreciated Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) being with us and bringing an inspiring message.

Our graduates from high school this year are Michael Berbakov, Alec Greenback, Adam Henico, Beth Pamer, and Jared Rufener. We wish them well in their future studies and work.

OHIO, COLUMBUS**Nancy Banks**

We take time this month to honor our dear mothers, showing love and gratitude for their years of caring and devotion.

My Mother

I with that I could find some words, some fitting verse or line,
Or lovely song, endearing sweet, a noble thought in rhyme,
To show my love and gratitude unto my mother dear;
A loving tribute I would bring to fill her heart with cheer.

How often as such words withheld till death has claimed its own,
So I would give my tribute now, before her life is gone.
Her pilgrimage is nearly done; full three score years and more.
She journeyed here, and now has come to Jordan's beckoning shore.

*Bro. Henry Beer**"My Garden of Verse"*

We were fortunate to have several ministering brothers visiting with us this month. Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) spent a Sunday with us, and we received many timely warnings to "beware of the winds of doctrine" as Bro. Bill read from Galatians 5. We also received visits from Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Doyle and Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and their wives, Sis. Jane and Sis. Irene. We appreciate the many family members who travel with these brothers when they come to Columbus.

We are thankful for God's calling, as our dear friend, Jessica Price, is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God's grace be with her during this special time in her life.

OHIO, JUNCTION**Cindy Schlatter**

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

Genesis 2:18

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) of the Latty congregation to Sis. Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy). May God continue to be with them as they make plans for their wedding and future lives together.

OHIO, LATTY**Heidi Hackenjoss****Kathy Sinn**

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN).

We welcome our new sisters and brother, Mindy Graf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan), Carmen Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol), and Ryan Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), into the fold. What a blessed weekend we had while hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms.

Three dear babies were added to our congregation. Bro. Mick and Sis. Lisa Laukhuf welcome Max Allen. His older brother Clark is happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI). Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn have added another little girl to their family. Zachary, Daniel, and Sophie are the siblings of Miriam

Rose. Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dolores Reinhardt (Bluffton, IN) are thankful for another grandchild. Kalin Gerber has a new little brother to play with. Shawn and Shane Gerber have a little boy, Nathan Robert. Nathan's grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Edie Laukhuf and Bob and Konnie Gerber.

Several couples have announced their engagements. We rejoice with each one: Bro. Trent Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Jodi Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy, Junction, OH); Nicole Steffen (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen) and Paul Suvar (George and Becky); Reid Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb) and Amanda LaBoundy; Kim Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) and Derrick Miller (Dennis and Sis. Janet). May each one look to the Lord as they establish their new homes.

We lend our sympathy to Bro. Raymond Klopfenstein (Sis. Katherine), Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein (Sis. Mary), and Aldean Price on the loss of their brother, Floren Klopfenstein. Also, we extend our sympathy to Bro. Loren Stoller on the loss of his brother-in-law, Elmer Lanz (Clara).

Spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Charles Dunham. May the Lord grant healing to each one.

OHIO, MANSFIELD**John and Marci Pfeiffer**

Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill were married on March 24 at our Rittman, OH, church. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill. We pray for God's continued blessings as they begin their married life together.

Our Sunday School students reminded us of Jesus who came down to save us from our sins. They sang of His death and how He arose from the grave. We appreciated all who took part in this year's Easter Program.

We rejoice that Tecca and Kristin Keever have found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimonies. They are the daughters of Bro. Clair and Sis. Bev Keever.

We are very thankful that Kristi Hill has turned unto God in repentance. We pray that He would continue to give her grace for each new day. Kristi is the daughter of Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Elizabeth Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) and Bro. Kurt Walter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen) of Silverton, OR. We pray they will feel God's guidance as they plan for their marriage.

Those experiencing physical ailment and hospitalization recently are Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur), Sis. Lore Stuenzi (Bro. Art), and Sis. Helen Bricker (Bro. Richard).

I am going to a city
Where the streets with gold are
laid,

Where the tree of life is blooming,
And the roses never fade.
Here they bloom but for a season,
Soon their beauty is decayed;

I am going to city
Where the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

Bro. Bob Hill (Phoenix, AZ) passed away on April 17. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his dear wife, Sis. Eleanor, and sons, Bro. Mick (Sis. Delores) and Bro. Chip (Sis. Sieda).

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Anna Schar
Sandy Zollinger**

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified."

Psalm 40:16

We rejoice to report that Jacky Barker has begun his walk with the Lord, joining his wife, Kelly, in repentance. Jacky's parents are Wilbur and Dorothy Barker (Columbia, SC). Kelly's family, Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche, and Sis. Peggy's parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Lillian Maibach, have reason to be thankful!

We were blessed to be able to gather Saturday, March 16, for Communion. Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle with the service and partaking of the supper.

On March 24, many were gathered to witness the marriage of Bro. Tom Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda, Mansfield, OH) and Sis. Elaine Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic, Lexington, KY). May they always help each other prepare for the heavenly wedding feast.

Bro. Scott Hartzler (Richard and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann Gerber were added to the body of Christ on March 14. It was a blessing to listen to their testimonies the night before, hearing how the Lord works in lives when they surrender to Him. May God bless Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) for once again allowing themselves to be used in God's work in assisting our Elder.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

Psalm 127:3

My apologies as I missed reporting the birth of Doug and Kelly Hanzie's first "heritage", Jacob Douglas Hanzie. Born January 21, Jacob's grandparents are Ron and Bev Hanzie and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser. Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar were thankful to have a granddaughter, Esther Marie, added to their family circle on March 24. Esther's parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Gretchen Stoller, attend Smithville Church. On April 1, Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Hartzler were blessed with a boy, Colby Mark. Colby is joining big sisters, Kendra and Marisa. Colby's grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. Another couple has added their first little one. Bro. Doug and Sis. Joanna Ingold welcomed Tori Lyn on April 11. Tori's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH) and Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold.

Thanks to the many ministering brethren that served our congregation. May the Lord fill Bro. Fred Domka and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) along with Bros. Mark Gerber and Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) with His Holy Spirit and peace.

We are thankful that hospital patients, Erica Gasser (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kristen) and Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn), were able to return home again.

**OHIO, SARDIS
Terry Zollinger**

"My flesh and my heart faileth:
but God is the strength of my heart,

and my portion for ever.”

Psalm 73:26

Extended hospital patient is Martha LaCava. She has been in the hospital since March 22 with little improvement. She would attend services with her dear sister Clara Stalder, and we miss their presence and smiling faces. May the Lord comfort and bless Martha and her family.

“The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:”

Deuteronomy 1:6

Sis. Stephanie Alruz felt led to move to the Congerville, IL, area. She found a position at the Home for the Handicapped. Prayers are for Sis. Stephanie as she makes a big change moving away. We miss her but feel that the Congerville congregation will be blessed.

“The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with teeth.”

Psalm 37:12

The Elders had a regional conference in Bay City, MI, on April 6. One of the things that our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle had warnings to report was regarding worldly materials of modern technical systems. May the brethren take heed to these warnings and be ever so careful and keep our homes safe havens. Let's pray for our Elder brethren consistently to do the Lord's will and follow the Holy Spirit in leadership.

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:”

Psalm 127:3

Grandparents Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake are thankful to report that a new granddaughter,

Clara Elizabeth, arrived safely into the world. Parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Sarasota, FL). Paternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Douglas and Sis. Linda Sabo. Clara will have playmates when she is old enough. They are Nathan, Heidi, and Douglas.

“For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.”

Isaiah 61:11

The weather and signs of spring have been more beautiful than words can express lately. Flowers are blooming, trees are getting leaves, and, of course, the grass is green and growing. All things are bright and beautiful; the Lord God made them all!

“Well reported of for good works: if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”

I Timothy 5:11

May we honor all our dear mothers on Mother's Day as well as all the year through.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

“So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

We pray that God's Word will be

fruitful as it was shared with us by His servants. In the past month, we have appreciated the labors of visiting Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

God has blessed three homes with the miracle of a new life. On March 20, Nathan Roy joined the family of Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl, Brandon, and Justin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY). Also on March 20, Bro. Tom and Sis. Gretchen Stoller became first-time parents with the birth of Esther Marie. Grandparents are Sis. Luella Stoller (the late Bro. Harold) and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar (Rittman, OH). On March 28, Shem Joseph arrived to bless the lives of first-time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Alyssa Miller, and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein (Forrest, IL). May the Lord bless these homes and give each parent the grace to instill His love into the young and tender hearts.

As miraculous as is the birth of an infant, is the rebirth of a soul through repentance. We are thankful that Holly Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) has answered God's call and is seeking to become a child of God. We wish her God's grace in her conversion experience.

Another beginning was made as Bro. Kirby Stoller and Sis. Carrie Miller became one in the Lord as marriage vows were said on April 7. Parents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller. We pray that they feel God's guiding presence in a three-fold cord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Berniece Bauman (Bro. Herbert), as she has been hospitalized, and her condition and treatment pre-

vents her from assembling with us. Also, Shania Nieman (Doug and Melaney) was hospitalized, and her fragile condition warrants our prayers. We miss Sis. Clara Hartzler, who has been unable to assemble with us for some time.

Our hearts were saddened when Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) lost her mother, Sis. Bertha "Tootie" Stoller. May each of her loved ones be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Edie Fetter**

We appreciated mid-week visits from two visiting ministers in the past month and pray that their work will be rewarded by God. Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) served us from God's Word.

Sis. Janet Kipfer is thankful for the safe arrival of twin grandchildren. Cameron Michele and Zachary Paul were born to Tim and Michele Merritt. They are welcomed home by their sisters, Madison and Mackenzie.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Greetings everyone!

Recently, our annual business meeting was held, and voting took place as several brethren finished their terms. Because of the small number of brethren available in our congregation, there were no major changes. The three brothers holding trustee positions rotated as follows: Bro. John Kinsinger moved from second trustee to head trustee; Bro. Ray Moser moved from third trustee to second; and Bro. Mark Gallup moved from head trustee to third. May God guide and direct them as they assume their duties, and may they feel the appre-

ciation and prayers of the rest of the congregation.

We had the pleasure of listening to our Sunday School students a few weeks ago, as they presented this year's Easter Program to us. We heard the familiar story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection in word and song. Looking at these dear children as they sang hymns and recited messages of love and hope, we pray that they will not forget what they learned in Sunday School and hopefully some day open their hearts to our Lord and Saviour.

Our gratitude to all the visitors who came to worship with us this past month. We especially thank the ministering brethren who made the extra effort to come to Portland with their families and share the Word with us. They were Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), all from Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless them all for their kindness and willingness to serve.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Kuenzi

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School shared with us the account of our Lord's lonely walk to Calvary. Their message was a good reminder of the price that was paid for our sins by Jesus' blood. A special thanks to the Sunday School teachers, children, and parents for their efforts to bring this story to us again.

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

St. John 14:27

This month, three souls believe

they have been given the peace that passeth all understanding. We rejoice with Barb Dragon (Alan), Pete Schroder, and Becky Von Flue (Dan), and we will remember them in our prayers as they begin to make preparations for baptism.

Our love shall not diminish
Nor fade nor wane away;
Bind us till life we finish
And in the grave we lay.

Zion's Harp #137

Believing that God has directed their lives together, Bro. Kurt Walter (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Elizabeth Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), are engaged to be married. They are planning to be married August 4 in Mansfield, OH. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for this union of their lives.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we were blessed with the opportunity to spend time together cleaning in and around our church building. Whatever work we find ourselves in, let us remember to work "as to the Lord."

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23-24

We were thankful this month to have many visitors, including ministering Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Charlotte, and Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and his wife, Sis. Nancy. We appreciate all our visitors and encourage anyone with

travel plans out east to come and worship with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

We were encouraged as the Memorandum was shared with us by Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) on March 23, and then on the following day we were thankful for the blessed privilege of sharing Holy Communion.

Also, we were blessed by the Word brought forth by our other visiting ministers: Bros. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Marvin Stieglitz (Sis. Joan, Leo, IN). We have also been greatly blessed as we enjoyed the fellowship of many brethren and friends from Bradford, Congerville, Fairbury, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; Bluffton, IN; Junction and Latty, OH. What unfathomable riches we have in our Christian brotherhood and fellowship!

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: Roanoke, IL (5/19); Wolcott, IN (5/26); Bradford, IL (6/2); Bern, KS (6/9); Congerville, IL (6/23); and Francesville, IN (6/30). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Father's Day on Sunday, June 16. 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

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle (dove) is heard in our land;"
Song of Solomon 2:12

In Central Texas we are enjoying the springtime. The wildflowers are splendid in a wide array of colors. We've had a mockingbird visiting our backyard the past few weeks singing for hours at a time in the same spot on the phone line; and it sings a wide variety of songs, even repeating our whistles.

It is profitable for us to observe and be thankful for nature. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead;" (Romans 1:20). It seems that nature is one of the ways God intends for us to learn about Him.

Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton, IN), Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) and Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH) were here to serve in the pulpit ministry during the last month. We were blessed with visitors this month from various places: Bern, Sabetha, Kansas City, and Bloomington.

The schedule of ministers for June is the following: June 2 - Smithville, OH; June 9 - Lester, IA; June 16 - Gridley, IL; June 23 - Lamont-Gridley, KS; and June 30 - Goodfield, IL.

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

"Who can find a virtuous woman? She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:10, 26

May we give thanks and praise to God for our dear mothers who raised us up in the ways of the Lord. Our mothers are a special part of our lives. Let us show our appreciation to them on Mother's Day for their love and kindness.

If anyone plans to come visit us this summer for Sunday worship, please contact Bro. Leland Plattner at (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl at (956) 581-8266. The location for Sunday worship may vary for the summer months.

The following was written and submitted by Sis. Jennifer Kellenberger:

"Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

Psalms 139:10

What a blessed promise and comfort from the Lord to know that no matter where we are or where we go that He will be there for us and that His right hand shall hold us. God continues to show His faithfulness time and time again down here in Rio Bravo, Mexico. It is truly amazing to see Him working in the lives of so many on a daily basis and remaining faithful to each one.

The months of March and April brought with them many wonderful servants that gave of their time and energy to help on the construction of the school for the deaf. We were blessed with two Apostolic Christian teams in March. Bro. Josh Johnson (Remington, IN) led a team March 2-9 that consisted of only 7 people. Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL) was the team minister. It was a small team, but they still accomplished a lot and we praise God for their willingness to serve. Many thanks to those seven willing servants.

March 30-April 6 brought a second AC team, one that is very close to my heart. Sixty people, led by my father, Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Washington, IL), joined together to help work on the school. Elder

Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) served as the team's spiritual leader. It was such a time of refreshing for me to have almost my entire family (including my grandparents) and several brothers, sisters, and friends from my home church here laboring with me. There were people of all ages from youngsters to grandparents, ranging from ages 7 to 83. They all worked together as a team and accomplished a great deal and they were truly an encouragement to me. Thank you all for your hard work, your many gifts of love, and your support and prayers. May the Lord bless you all.

The months of April and May have been spent making preparations for the summer, our busiest time. Things are really starting to pick up as we prepare for all of our large summer teams. We also look

forward to having several young people join us this summer as summer staff. Among them will be two of my brothers, Bro. Phil and Bro. Tom Kellenberger (Washington, IL), and Sis. Erin Knobloch (Washington, IL). We are thankful for these young people that are willing to give up their summer for the bettering of the Kingdom.

There are two AC teams scheduled for June and I invite you all to come. They are scheduled for June 1-8 and June 22-29. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Joe Maller (Bluffton, IN) by e-mailing him at . We hope that all of you will prayerfully consider supporting the work of Mexico, Centros Cristianos para Sordomudos (MCCS) through intercessory prayer and/or by serving or leading a work team, so that the deaf may know Christ.



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

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Gateway Woods Auction
August 17, 2002

Sermon continued from page 2

able to cause us to realize that if we were to continue to walk the way we were going, that we would not have the hope of eternal life.

It is unusual how the Lord is able to work in the hearts of souls, and we are grateful that here among you at Rockville there are those who are seeking their salvation. I would just like to relate a little account, I hope it would be in order, of a couple back in our congregation, perhaps forty years of age. They very, very faithfully attended church since they were married. She was of our faith, originally he was not. They brought their children to Sunday School

every Sunday. When noon came, they would go home. Finally about six months ago they got to the place where they knew that something was lacking, something was not as it should be. They were not able to communicate one with another about the problem. The husband finally realized that what he needed was to turn unto the Lord and he was able to beg the Lord to help him. And his wife also felt this need. In visiting with them, they mentioned that in the twenty years of time that elapsed since they were married, they each one had no other desire, no other longing but to become a member of the household of faith, to become one of God's children. They wanted to bring their children to Sunday School that they could be taught in the right ways. But they were not able to visit with each other about this situation, and so the years went by. But the time finally came that they were able to break down and admit what the problem was and admit that they needed help.

I believe the only purpose in mentioning this would be that I had many thoughts when the man told me that Sunday after Sunday he would go home at noon and realize that there was something lacking. And even the youngest daughter who was about ten years old got to the place where she would beg her parents, "Why can't we

stay all day?" And I've often wondered as we gather in the Lord's house, no doubt there are many just in this very situation, perhaps among us every Sunday. They have a longing and a desire to become one of God's children. They have a desire to be heirs of the promises, to be able to some day live in heaven and dwell throughout the endless ages.

But it seems like Satan has many ways and many deceptive devices. And just one other point that comes to my mind in visiting with this man. He said, "During those twenty years of our married life I kept setting goals. I thought, well at this point in my life would be a good time to repent. I thought when the oldest boy would finally finish his senior year of high school and football season would be over, I would no longer be more or less obligated to attend the games, this would be a good time. And then a year or two more elapsed and another goal was set." And I believe that all of us were somewhat in this sort of a situation. It didn't seem like the present time was the proper time, but sometime down life's road was going to be, as the hymn writer in one place said "some more convenient day on Thee I'll call". We know that the enemy, Satan, would like to cause a person to spend a whole lifetime here upon this earth serving him. And then be taken from this life without a hope and have to spend eternity in that place that we do not like to speak about and we do not like to talk about.

Again, thinking of the time the Lord spent here upon this earth, His purpose for coming here and His many contacts He had with people, there was so many different types of people that He visited with, that came and visited with Him. It seemed like there were those who were interested, those who wanted to know more about Him. There were those who had physical afflictions who it seems, at that time the Lord was given the power in many cases, to heal them, to see that they could again have good bodies and per-

haps be able to see well. I had to think, this particular chapter that we read here, I believe in the earlier part of it, if I am not mistaken, there was the blind man who could not see and the Lord saw fit to give him his eyesight back again. I often think dear ones, that many of these illustrations that were given to us here, were left for us. They had physical impacts at that time but they had a very, very deep spiritual teaching, I believe, for those of us who live here upon this earth. We believe every one of us, in a measure, was blind spiritually speaking. We were not able to see, grasp, or fully understand what the Lord had in store for us or what He wanted us to do.

Towards the latter part of this chapter that we read here together, the Lord mentioned that whosoever would follow Him, that they should take up their cross daily, and deny themselves the pleasures of this world and follow Him. Often when we visit with converts and ask what their understanding is of repentance, they tell us that it is a very sorrowful feeling for the sins they have committed. Which is a wonderful thing that God is able to cause to take place in a person's heart. But then along with it, there is the conversion that must take place that certainly has to be done and accomplished by God. And in this conversion process, and I believe again, those of us who are here this day, we will readily agree that during the time of our life when we were repenting and becoming converted, there were things in our life that we had done, places we had gone and associates that we had, that we had to break these things off. And we realize, beloved ones, that a change had to take place. And we, as the Lord said here, had to take up the cross and deny ourselves.

I believe that, again now speaking to those of us who have become converted, that we are living in a time again, where Satan would like to even come into the precious church, the precious faith. And I don't believe any

of us are immune to the temptations of Satan. But we know that down life's road somewhere or other, he is going to try to tell you and he is going to try to tell me that some of the things that we once thought were important and some of the things that we felt so very strongly about when we came into the faith, that we could no longer partake of or no longer could be a part of our lives, Satan is going to try to tell us, "Well, maybe that was your imagination. Times are changing and let's not take these things quite so serious." I believe each one of us as God's children should ever be on guard and ever be alert, because as we mentioned before, we know that Satan is very deceptive. He has been at this work many, many years.

I don't believe we can speak about Satan without going back to the very early record there in the Book of Genesis where it relates so very clearly and plainly there how he came into the garden and in that very deceiving way, caused that sin could enter in to that peaceful and that wonderful place there that had been provided for those first parents. But then again on the other hand, when we think of the works of Satan, we again have to be thankful that God was able as it says there, I believe the old prophet Isaiah spoke of it many years before the Lord's coming, that there would be one who was going to come and crush the head of the serpent. I often think, when we see a snake or a serpent, how they crawl so easily along the ground, an animal, if we can say that, that is so very different than many other of the animals that we are familiar with. That there is a very, very good comparison between the way that even a snake can slither through the grass and very slyly creep upon an individual, some of the more vicious varieties, in comparison to the way that Satan also is able to, in this very same way and in this very same manner, try to approach we as believers and even as God's children.

And also in this particular chapter,

we read there of Peter. And we know Peter, a man we believe, whose intentions were right, his motives were right, but considering that he was not yet converted, he was always quite a person to speak out. He was the one that even said there, we know that you are the Christ, the Son of God. We know what was going to happen a little later on there to Peter and he was even reminded in one place that he was going to deny sometime that he ever knew the Lord. And he very, very seriously stated that this would never happen. He would always support and he would always confess that he knew the Lord. But we know the account there, even when the Lord told him before the cock should crow twice, I believe, he would deny him thrice. This happened and we know that after it happened, it says Peter went and he wept very bitterly.

I believe we can also take a lesson from this dear ones, that as we are gathered here this morning and again those who have not yet tasted of the mercies and the love of the Lord, not yet become God's children, that in our life time, no doubt all of us experienced in a measure that we wanted to walk in the ways of the Lord. We had desires that were pleasing in God's sight, no doubt, and we said we were no longer going to do this and we were no longer going to do that. But by our own power, by our own ability, by our own efforts we were not able to do it. We were not able to keep, perhaps, some of the promises that we had made.

We know there are various resolutions that people make in their lifetime. It occurs to me that even sometimes on New Year's we hear of New Year's resolutions and people look back over the year gone by and perhaps analyze their life and in a measure try to set up some guidelines or some goals in the year ahead. They are going to try to do better. We believe that this is all well meaning and people have good intentions. But we

do not take into consideration that we of ourselves are not able to do this. We even have the weakness of the flesh. Many times the resolutions that people make are perhaps broken before the first week of the new year is passed. And so we want to take into consideration and again lay to the hearts of each one of us who are here this morning, the very, very important time that we are spending here upon this earth.

I don't believe sometimes we are able to quite get through or quite able to fathom, and I certainly speak for myself, the importance of the time that we are living here. We cannot see the long range picture, so to speak. When people are young, they have a lot of ambitions, they have a lot of desires, a lot of goals in life that they want to meet. Life seems to hold a lot out in store for young people. But as time goes on, as we grow older, we soon begin to realize that many of these things that seem to glitter and glisten in younger years are losing their attractiveness. There are things that we perhaps once thought were important and meant a lot to us that they no longer meant anything to us.

So I believe what happens in the life of an individual, people who know the truth and have been brought up in the faith and have been exposed to it, I believe that throughout the lifetime, if the person has been taught the truth in their youth, that there comes back from time to time, the very annoying feeling, the very conviction that we are going in the wrong direction. And I believe that again, to those of our dear friends, that when we feel this pricking and this conviction upon our heart that we should take it seriously. I go back to my unconverted days, and although I was perhaps not as old as some when I repented, never the less, after graduating from high school, I remember that this is one thing I want to do, is to repent and turn to the Lord and this would be a convenient time to do it. Perhaps almost two years

Sermon continued on next page...

Sermon continued from page 45

elapsed till I was able to break down and admit that I was lost. But we had this feeling, we had this conviction.

And I can remember so well when we would sit in church. The brothers who faithfully brought forth the Word of Life, they have gone on to their rest and to their reward - we wonder sometimes they did not get discouraged - Sunday after Sunday they would remind us and they would warn us and they would read scriptures that seemed like they were speaking directly to us, telling us of the very importance of the plan of salvation. Reminding us that we were here for a time, we would not be here forever. We believe that these seeds that were sown sank into our hearts. Sometimes perhaps they were as the seed that was sown there upon stony ground or even among the thorns, that it was crowded out. But I believe, again, those of us who are God's children, we go back to those days in our life and are so thankful and so appreciative that the Word of Life was spoken to us in truth. And we were not comforted in our sins.

We believe we are living in a time, no doubt, where there are many religions, there are many organizations, there are many doctrines. But the very, very simple faith that you and I possess is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We believe from the very depths of our hearts, that if we come to Him and acknowledge our lost condition in true repentance, feeling the burden of sin upon us, that He will hear us. I believe sometimes this plan of salvation, the Book of Life that we have before us can be made to sound too complicated. We know that there are scriptures, and I am sure we all would confess it, that we cannot fully understand. We do not always know the exact meaning. Perhaps there are some scriptures that would have different meanings. But to those of us who have become God's children, I believe we will agree that during the time of our conversion, what was essential and what was nec-

essary for us to know, God gave it to us and He revealed it to us.

It seems like sometimes converts have the thought, the feeling at first that they have such a small knowledge of the scripture.

And they don't understand a lot of it. I have to think many times of the illustration there, I believe the Apostle Paul spoke of, where he spoke of babes. He used an illustration that was familiar to everyone. We know that even little babies in the natural sense, are not able to eat strong meats. They have to have milk, food that can be digested easily. We believe also in the spiritual sense that God is able to grant unto us what we might be in need of, the very sincere milk of the word, the very teachings that are contained within the Word of Life that can be helpful, and can be beneficial to us that we can work out our soul's salvation.

The Lord also in the latter part of this chapter said "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:35,36. And then the last verse that we read, the first verse in the ninth chapter, he said "There shall be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." Mark 9:1. We perhaps could take two interpretations from that as I think of it. The Lord was here for a while and then he was going to leave this earth. We believe that the kingdom of God was going to be ushered in in that sense, that there was going to be a new dispensation, the day of grace was going to be open to mankind and they could find forgiveness for their sins. But the scripture seems to have such a wide range and can apply to various areas of time. We believe it can also apply to the time in which we live, beloved ones. Many prophetic scriptures have come into fulfillment,

that there are certainly going to be those upon the earth alive when the Lord returns again.

There is a warning sounded to us and we could read it there in one of the gospels. It tells us "...if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come,...he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up." St. Matthew 24:43. And the warning was left there by the Lord then for those of us who live here upon this earth, that we should watch, we should not be among the foolish virgins. We can read it there, I believe in the twenty-fifth chapter of St. Matthew. It tells us there were five that were wise and five that were foolish. I believe we should also take this into consideration, that there were those who let the oil go out of their lamps. It tells us the bridegroom came and there were those who did not have oil in their lamps. They became desperate and they pleaded and they begged that they could have oil from those who had retained it and it was not granted.

So we are living, beloved ones, in serious times. We are living in the times that are prophesied, we believe, even in Old Testament scriptures, the latter times of the day of grace. It says there that men shall gain much knowledge. Men shall go to and fro upon the earth and we are living in a very, very busy time, as I mentioned before. But I don't believe, on the other hand, that it should necessarily be a hindrance to us working out our soul's salvation. But if we can remain close to the Lord and if we can stay close by His side and ask Him to help us, we certainly can be blessed. We can prosper spiritually and then reach that land, that better home for which we are striving.

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
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%
Palm Grove	(* Oct 4-12, '02	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11	(* 60%
JAMAICA						
CCCD	May 17-25, '02	Deaf Village	Tim Lehman	Work Place	40	(* 100%
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	(* 100%
CCCD	July 6-13, '02	Knockpatrick	(3) Mansfield Bible Class	Deaf School	40	(* 100%

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		redemed1@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	
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(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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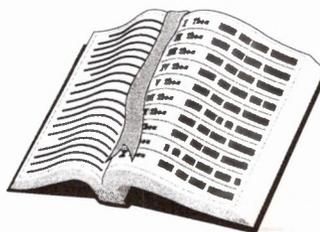
Following is part of a letter of appreciation from Cote'd Ivoire, West Africa:

"We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the benevolence group and individuals who have worked hard to ship donated books to us. We wish to thank all men, women and children who have worked tirelessly over the years, and indeed up to date to move the distribution and evangelism forward. Thank you.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. Awortwe Paul Kojo"*

A pastor from the Philippines writes:

"I need your support, not only in prayer, but also in material things. Please send us Sunday School materials in all departments. We need Bibles for our young people. They cannot buy it because they are poor. Please help us to provide our needs especially for our Sunday School."



Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,
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309-263-6841 (fax)

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BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

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.



Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessings of being fully staffed with Houseparents for some time now. Sis. Becky Stoller (Roanoke, IL) will be leaving Gateway Woods in July of 2002, so we will have an opening for a single sister, led of the Lord, to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

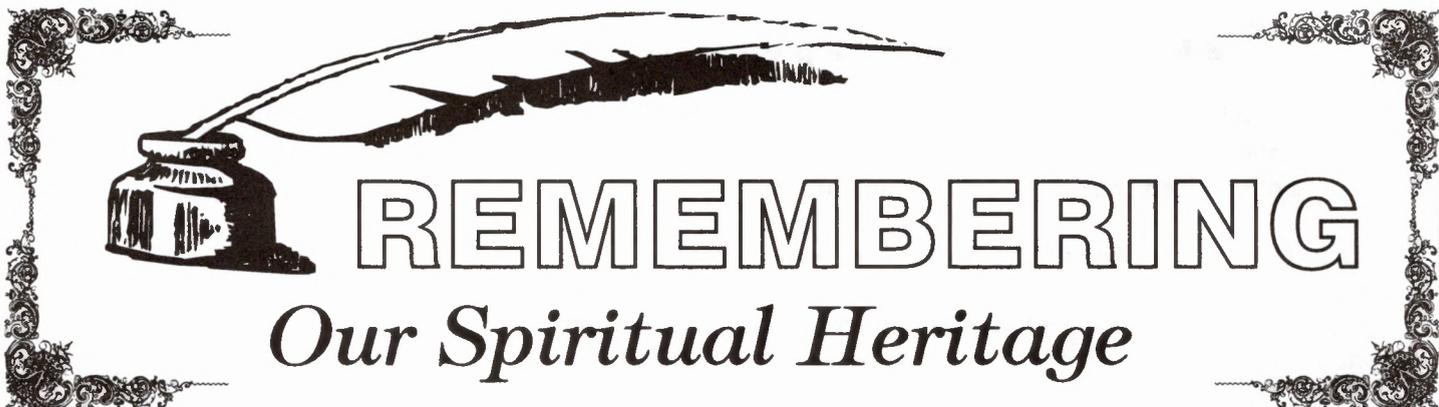
Ed Graf
Childcare Supervisor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
260-627-2159 or 888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
260-493-6711 (home)
260-657-5461 (work)

Preschool Coordinator Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL, has an immediate need for a coordinator/teacher. The position is open the first of June and needs to be filled by the middle of August, for the school year. We would ask a brother or sister with a degree in early childhood education or a degree in another type of education (elementary, secondary, etc.) to prayerfully consider this position. If you have questions or an interest in this position, please contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591 or Bro. Tom Schrenk (Administrator) at (256) 233-0037.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following is a continuation of a 3-part series on the life of Bro. Joseph Bella, a Hungarian native, who was instrumental in helping establish the Apostolic Christian Church in America.

A Native of Hungary

Joseph Bella was born in Hradek, Hungary, a village in the northern highland. Because of being brought up in that region he could speak both Hungarian and Slovak. He learned to speak German when living in Budapest and in Vienna, Austria.

He was a bosom friend of Bro. Louis Hencsey, who became the driving force in establishing the new faith in Hungary. Both men were the same age, and both remained single their entire life.

Present at Baptism

As a young man in Hungary, Joseph Bella was present on May 8, 1840, during the first baptism (of our faith) in that nation. It was held in a workshop owned by John Pecznik. After work four men gathered for the baptism of Louis Hencsey. They were Bro. John Denkel and Bro. John Kropacsek (both of whom had embraced the new faith while traveling in Switzerland), and young Joseph Bella.

It was a solemn occasion. The four men sang, and a prayer was offered. John Denkel, after asking Louis Hencsey five covenantal questions, then baptized him. Joseph Bella watched this secret ceremony, and wept. He was deeply moved. Although a convert at that time, he was not ready for baptism.

Bella's Baptism

Joseph Bella was baptized several months later – in the fall of 1840. There are no details of this event, other than when it took place. As time wore on, he became Louis Hencsey's most faithful and useful assistant (in the ministerial work in Hungary).

The Lord's Work

As the preaching work was begun in Hungary, Bella and others faced many hardships. These men were humble and poor, and faced many hardships. They walked from town to town, and across nations. Food and clothing were meager. But they were rich in faith and devotion. As poor journeymen, they would often find a room in an inn, lay in a corner, and use their coat for a blanket! Or they would sleep outside in a suitable place. Luxury was unknown to these ministers of the Gospel.

Assaulted by Thieves

Once, Brothers Hencsey and Bella were walking late at night (around 11:00 p.m.), when thieves confronted them. They threatened to rob and kill them. These humble men had little in material resources. They offered to purchase some grape juice for the robbers. This appeased the thieves.

Near dawn the next morning they (Bella and Hencsey) were arrested by the police. They were chained and taken to the police station in Fehervar. It took them a long time to convince the authorities they were not up to any mischief. Such were the perils of ministry.

Meeting with Froehlich

These men traveled to Switzerland (on foot). It was a long journey walking through mountains and valleys, and through cities. It took inner zeal and dedication to endure such a monumental challenge, but this was customary for those times. Their motive in going to Switzerland was to meet with Bro. Samuel Froehlich, who was in his late thirties or early forties.

Hencsey's and Bella's visit with Bro. Froehlich resulted in a unity of heart. Bro. Hencsey wrote the following letter to his younger brother regarding the meeting at Bro. Froehlich's apartment:

"I inform you briefly that I discussed

the essentials of divine truth with Froehlich. He speaks in the same manner and in the same spirit as I did in the booklet I left with you. We have the same foundation."

In another letter home, he (Hencsey) mentions Joseph Bella:

"Joseph Bella found a job, but I have not found one yet. I am writing this letter to you in Froehlich's apartment on October 12. In these last days God has begun building His church through Froehlich. His message to you is to continue faithful to the words of our Lord and to the work we started in Hungary."

Hencsey's Last Days

Joseph Bella was present when Louis Hencsey endured 21 days on his deathbed and finally died. At about 9:00 one morning, Hencsey said, "I want to sit up." Joseph Bella helped prop him up. He exclaimed, "Stay alert and love the One who died and yet He lives." These were Hencsey's last words. He died an hour later. Joseph Bella was present at the end. He was buried in a pauper's cemetery.

Coming to America

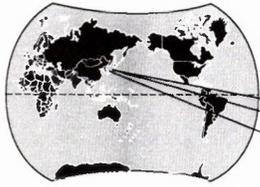
In 1850, Bella came to America where he continued in the ministry; and helped the American church develop and grow.

After 1860, he returned home to Hungary every other year to visit his loved ones. His last visit to his homeland was in 1871.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

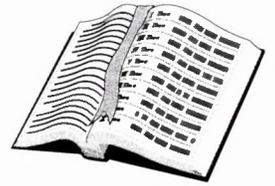
Concluding data on Bro. Joseph Bella



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Unconditional Love”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It has been said that God’s love is unconditional, and that is true, inasmuch as He loved us before we loved Him and that He continues to love us and offer us salvation even though we reject Him. Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Parents have unconditional love toward their children. No matter what they do, we can’t help but love them. I suppose you can disown a child who has become an adult and does many bad things, but the sorrow only increases and the tears roll down your cheeks.

Married people should have unconditional love for their spouse. Marriage vows indicate as much. This is not a matter where we can think that we will love our mate if he or she meets certain conditions. We must work on helping our mate to be comfortable in our presence, and thereby able to return our love.

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

However, the concept of unconditional love can be misunderstood. If your child is a slave to illegal drugs and you say that your love is unconditional so you will continue to supply the money to support the habit, obviously that is a mistake. If we have true love for our children and for one another, we do not support that which is wrong and in error, which would only lead to misery, sorrow, and possibly death, on the part of the individual concerned. I Cor. 10:31 “Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God,” and that includes how we support and influence others.

God’s tolerance is not unconditional. There is a limit to what He will put up with if there is no repentance. Hebrews 10:30-31 “The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

In the story of the prodigal son, we read in Luke 15:20, “And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.” This does not at all mean that the father approved of what the son had done, it only means that his love was unconditional. Fortunately, the son repented and was forgiven and was reinstated as a member of the family.

It is all right for us to love ourselves unconditionally; I suppose we all do, or should. It should lead us to repentance and righteous living. However, we are not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. Romans 12:3

Let’s do what we can to have love for all people at all times, but we must remember that unconditional love does not mean unconditional approval or tolerance.

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