



The Silver Lining

*The LORD God is my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds' feet,
and He will make me to walk upon mine high places.*

February 2003

Sermon by Brother Marvin Steffen, North Fort Myers, FL

Job 40:15-24 and Chapter 41; and I Thessalonians 2

He says to them in the second verse here, "...we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention." I Thessalonians 2:2. When they ministered in the various cities, we know at this particular period of time that there was persecution of the church. When he makes this statement to them then, I have to think about how it is today. I don't look at those that stand at the pulpit as the ministers of Christ. I look at the whole body, each one of us individually as ministers of Christ. Actually, we are told in His word that we are each one to be ministering the Word wherever we go. Our speech should be seasoned with salt and with grace. That we would be always ready to give an answer in love.

I have to look inside and ask myself first, how bold am I today? It is easy to be bold here in a group of believers and boldly speak the Word. But when we go among the unbelievers in the world, how bold are we? I know sometimes I am not as such that I would fall into that category; boldness. I say that to my shame.

It says that, "...we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." I Thessalonians 2:4. That means a great deal to us if we stand

here and open God's Word. But it also means a great deal to each of you wherever we go among men here below. Each one of us has been put in trust. We have all received the spiritual blessings. We have received the joy and the truth and the peace of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news. Then wherever we go out into the world, whether it would be our place of employment or a place where we would meet with others, whatever the occasion would be, perhaps in a place that we live, our neighbors, each one of us has been put in trust with the gospel. Each one of us is carrying it around with us. And each one of us is called to be a steward of it and of all that God gives us; the spiritual things and everything else.

Then that we would speak and not be pleasers of men, but God which trieth our hearts. If we spoke the gospel where we went, and I am thinking of where I work, if I would speak it in boldness always, it is not always pleasing to men. It is convicting. Sometimes they don't really want to hear it. Yet we are not to be seeking after so much the pleasing of men, we are not to be scratching their itching ears, but we are to be sowing seeds that will go deep into their heart. Some days the ground is fertile and some days it is not. We go on our way and

another comes along and perhaps waters it. Then by the grace of God and the power of God, one day hopefully and we pray, that that seed will grow

Sermon continued on page 44

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cleman@lonewillow.com

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

February 2003

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

Redeeming Our Time

"The time flies on; and death draws nigh;..." ("Redeeming Our Time" Zion's Harp p. 188). Each of us knows that we have limited time on earth. Solomon wrote that there is "A time to be born, and a time to die;..." (Ec. 3:2). Time can be defined as the interval between two events. The time in question, of course is our life. What we do with that time will determine where we spend eternity.

What does it mean to redeem our time? How can we redeem this valuable commodity? "Redeem" has a variety of meanings. Perhaps the meanings that are applicable here are to convert into something valuable and to set free or to ransom.

The scripture reminds us that our time is short and we need to use it wisely. The Psalmist wrote "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:12). Solomon wrote "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" (Ec. 12:1). Paul wrote "But this I say, brethren, the time is short:..." (I Cor. 7:20).

As children we may have thought that eighty years was a long time. However, those who attain a high age can readily identify with the Psalmist who understood the brevity of life. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, ... for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Ps. 90:10).

Since our allotted time is short, we want to use it wisely. The scripture gives us guidance on how we can accomplish this.

Paul wrote "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16). Circumspectly means to give careful attention to all the circumstances that relate to an action or judgment.

Although we may not be able to see all the circumstances that relate to what we think or do, God gives us enough insight to help us make good decisions. A fool would give little attention to the results of his behavior. He would do what appeals to the

flesh and then suffer the consequences of his decision. Since "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God..." (Ps. 14:1), we should not be surprised that he would not use his time wisely.

A wise man, however, will give careful consideration to what he is planning to do so he can weigh the likely results. The wise man may not be able to consider every detail nor understand all of the potential results of a decision, "For now we see through a glass darkly;..." (I Cor. 13:12), but he will, by the grace of God, see many potential pitfalls that must be avoided.

God has given us a variety of tools to use that will help us make wise decisions including prayer, reading His Word, and speaking to faithful brethren.

Through prayer we have a special opportunity to seek help in learning to use our time wisely. There are many examples of prayers in the scripture, in which wise men of old entreated the Lord for wisdom and guidance. Because Solomon recognized that he needed help to rule the people wisely, he entreated God to "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart ..., that I may discern between good and bad:..." (I Ki. 3:9).

Job sought wisdom in his time of distress. He asked "But where shall wisdom be found?... Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living" (Job 28:12-13). He acknowledged that "God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. For he looketh to the ends of the whole earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; (Job 28:23-24).

As Paul was giving Timothy instructions, he told him "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding..." (II Tim. 2:7). Paul knew that true understanding comes from the Lord. What we say, by the grace of God, may be worth considering, but understanding comes from the Lord.

The Lord also helps us gain understanding by providing faithful people in our lives. Many of us were blessed with parents who studied the Word of God and applied it to their lives. The scripture explains the im-

pact that parents should have on their children. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7).

The thoroughness of this command makes it clear that the time fathers spend in instructing their children is very valuable. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pr. 22:6).

We do not find scriptural references that advise us to simply fill our time. We do, however, find numerous admonitions against slothfulness. The servant who hid his lord's money was called "... wicked and slothful ..." and was admonished for not having "...put my money to the exchangers,..." (Mt. 25:26-27). The Apostle Paul rebuked those who did not put their time to good use. "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies" (II Thess. 3:11).

We also know that our time must be used to free ourselves from Satan. Jesus paid the ransom that was required to free us from sin. We must make good use of our time and take advantage of this opportunity.

Timothy was encouraged by the Apostle Paul to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Paul also applied the need for diligence to himself. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14).

The time we have is limited. The energy and resources are also limited. Let us not waste the most valuable resource God has given us. Let us redeem our time for we "...know not when the master of the house cometh,..." (Mk. 13:35).

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

Opportunities to Serve in the U.S.

Have you ever had the desire to volunteer on a World Relief Work Project? This would give you an opportunity to join with others to "do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith".

Have you been unaware of the needs or of the opportunities to serve? The World Relief Committee provides opportunities for service in many areas such as food packaging, building new buildings, cleanup and rebuilding after disastrous storms and floods or serving on medical work teams.

Are you feeling that you do not have a skill to offer? Work teams include those that have skills who can give guidance to others and also those that come with willing hands and hearts and the desire to learn.

Recent projects in the U.S.

Are you concerned about traveling long distances or going to a foreign country? The U.S.A. Board of the World Relief Committee provides involvement in projects in the United States. A recently completed project is the construction of a group home for abused children, which will be operated by the Navajo Christian Foundation. The home is located in Dilkon, AZ. The dedication of the facility has been set for January 25, 2003.

Another project that was completed during the last year is the education building at the Galilean Home, located in Liberty, KY. We have had numerous projects at this location during the past years. Among these projects are the "Angel House" and the "Mary and Martha House". We are continually looking for projects like these in the U.S.

Disaster response

The Disaster Work Project Sub-Committee, under the U.S.A. Board, has a First Response Truck which is fitted with equipment to cleanup after storm or flood. It has been used for cleanup projects in Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Area representatives were added to provide greater local involvement. This sub-committee also has an equipment trailer, which has been used for rebuilding projects after tornados in Georgia and Mississippi. The equipment trailer has been used at our church building sites and other projects that World Relief has sponsored.

Local opportunities

We want to encourage local projects, which will give opportunities for each congregation to help meet the needs of their communities. An effort has been made during the last two summers to promote local projects for each congregation in central Illinois. These activities have been well accepted as they have allowed many individuals to spend an hour or a day, volunteering close to home, rather than having to travel a distance and take unavailable time. Plans are being developed to expand this effort to additional areas.

New church building

A new church building project is scheduled to begin in April 2003. It will be located at Bloomfield, IA. This is a replacement edifice for our Pulaski congregation, which has been blessed with growth, necessitating the construction of a larger building. All of the building trade skills will be needed. A more defined schedule will be listed as plans develop.

New work projects

Work projects do not just happen. Each begins with an individual's recognition of a need. If anyone believes he or she has a good suggestion for a work project, the local World Relief Representative should be contacted. He will then investigate and discuss his findings with his local Elder. If it is considered to be a possible project, the recommendation should be sent to the area World Relief Committeeman, who in turn will forward it to the U.S.A. Board, for approval.

After the approval process, the funding and logistical planning would begin. Do not let the approval process, nor the recommendation details, dampen the resolve to suggest a new project. If you have any questions, please contact Bro. Arnold Gerst, U.S.A. Board Chairman, by phone (217) 223-8424, fax (217) 223-0116, or e-mail agerst@met.com.

World Relief Review

Another area of involvement is to attend a very inspiring and informative World Relief Review, a meeting on the projects and opportunities available in World Relief. A host church in both the Eastern and Western U.S offers these meetings each year. The Western meeting is March 8 in Taylor, Missouri and the Eastern meeting will be November 8 in Leo, Indiana.

Enthusiastic speakers and slide presentations will show local church projects, opportunities in the U.S. and foreign work teams in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. There are also updates on our brethren in Eastern Europe. If you have a heart for serving others, we encourage you to take this opportunity to see the many opportunities in World Relief.



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

So Send I You

As we consider being a laborer in the "fields that are white unto harvest", it is important to consider what the harvest is and what preparation is necessary to be a laborer. The "harvest" can be our workplace, a school classroom or any place where there are people. One example in the scripture of the Lord preparing a laborer is the prophet Isaiah who was active during the reign of five kings... but he did not set out to be a prophet. Isaiah had a position as a scribe in the royal palace of Jerusalem. It was a respectable career, but God had other plans for his servant. In a dramatic vision, God revealed His holiness to Isaiah. The following verses contain Isaiah's response to this revelation from heaven:

"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

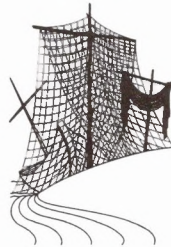
Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." (ISAIAH 6:5-8)

Isaiah realized he was common and unclean before God, with no hope of measuring up to God's standard of holiness. When his lips were touched with a burning coal, however, he was told his sins were forgiven. It wasn't the coal that cleansed him, but God. In response

he submitted himself entirely to God's service. The painful cleansing process was necessary before Isaiah could fulfill the task to which God was calling him. Letting God purify us may be painful, but we must be purified so that we can truly represent God, who is pure and holy. Also, after we have experienced God's forgiveness, we will have a desire to share that forgiveness with others. Isaiah responded in gratitude. No matter how difficult his task would be, he said, "Here am I, send me." He was God's laborer.



And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.
Mark 1:17

Seven hundred years later, in a demonstration of mighty power, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ rose from the grave. His disciples, who had been filled with fear, shame and discouragement after his crucifixion were gathered in a small room:

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (JOHN 20: 19-21)

Jesus reminded them that it was by God's authority that He did his work, and then passed the job of

spreading the Gospel of salvation around the world to His disciples. It is so with us also, that we are under the authority of God, but also under those that God has placed in positions of authority here on earth. With the attitude of Isaiah and the blessing of God we can joyfully go forward into the harvest.

Our Mission Policy outlines the path by which individuals may be assigned to specific mission work away from their home environment. They must be directed by the Holy Spirit into this work and be of good report. When this is confirmed and adherence to the Apostolic Christian Mission Guidelines is assured, such individuals will be sent by the church on specific assignments to a particular area of need. There must be a unity of direction given by the Spirit working in the heart of the individual and through the church.

The Apostle Paul received a divine call when he was told "Depart, for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles" (ACTS 22:21). The church at Antioch was then directed by the Spirit to consecrate Paul and Barnabas and send them forth to spread the Gospel (Acts 13:1-3). Later, Paul sent Timothy to labor in Corinth: "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord..." (1 COR. 4:17).

When we follow the pattern established in the Word, the blessings of God will come forth. We plan to share examples in future articles of brothers and sisters who have followed this biblical path and who have been assigned to labor in the harvest fields.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

(MATTHEW 9:38)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

What is Love? I Corinthians 13:2 states "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." Love is the essence of our faith in God and without love we are nothing. So it doesn't matter what gifts you have such as prophecy, understanding, knowledge and faith. Having the love of God is what makes each one of us ready and able to use the other gifts that God has given us. Here we see unconditional love from the people we serve on a daily basis as well as the love from the people who work at all of the homes. Walk in any of our homes, and you will feel the love and hospitality of the people we serve as well as the people who work. The people may wish to visit with you with a communication device or want to hold your hand and walk with you. Others may wish to play a game or others may offer you coffee. The love they show is genuine and sincere. When they see you at church or in the community, they are excited to see a friend. Many of our people are unable to communicate their love for you. They do express their love in a variety of ways, such as touching your face, holding your hand, sign language, communication devices, sitting with you, giving you small gifts from the heart. At some of our smaller homes, they will spend Valentine's Day by having a Banquet. During the cold snowy winter months, the people enjoy puzzles, computer games, hot chocolate, board games, arts

and crafts, dining out, shopping and other activities that we all enjoy.

MARCH birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Judy Grimm (6), Susan Crose (15), Jeff Zimmerman (17), Tom Christensen (20), Edna Haynes (23), Jon Wilhelm (26), Nancy Meister (31). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Maretta Rokey (6), Sheila Steffen (9). At 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: Richard Bundy (12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Kirk Plattner

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In the midst of contemplation concerning the content of this article, I decided to ask my class what would be their message to readers. After a few minutes of mindless chatter, the question I asked slowly developed into, "What is the prevailing issue facing teens today and why?" The students then as a group started listing issues of loneliness, lack of security, poor self-image, hatred, and lack of respect for authorities. As these issues came out, my students slowly started internalizing what they were saying, and the questions started forming in their minds. "How do you continue to serve God when it feels like all I do is get let down?" "How do we sustain desire in the face of ongoing failure and loneliness?" "Will life ever be what I so deeply want it to be, in a way that cannot be lost?" All of these questions have the ruthless ability to cause me to put my tail between

my legs and run, but by the grace of God, and the help of a hot cup of coffee, we started to address these issues. Maybe I didn't come up with the perfect answer, but as I spoke, I realized that I wasn't just talking to them, but also to my own heart. So as I spoke, a message came out that maybe should be considered by all and the following is the essence of our discussion that day.

The issue in its broken down state comes to why we do what we do and feel what we feel. We all too often search within ourselves for answers, which makes us like the blind man in a dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there. Or maybe as scripture would say it, as we look for our life, we lose it, but as we lose it, we find true life. With no purpose, we are helpless to do anything except ask questions like "Why this" and "Why that." Purpose is such that it gives us vision into the future, and also allows us confidence in the present. Obviously, purpose, true purpose, only comes from a commitment to something beyond ourselves. As the great scientist Blaise Pascal once said, "Not only do we know God through Jesus Christ, we only know ourselves through Jesus Christ." Jesus is the only commitment that meets all of our needs. God, through His Father heart, Christ through His perfect sacrifice on the cross, and the Spirit through His indwelling of our heart, meets our needs. We have confidence in His love, we have security in His grace, we have assurance in His good plans for our life, and we have One that created us in His image. It is in these things that loneliness is lost, insecurity is di-

minished, hatred turns to love, respect for authority comes into perspective, and our self image is healed by our confidence in the beauty of His image. Although we often still have to walk the rocks to see the mountain view, we can have confidence that as we look back, we can see perfectly His lead (purpose) of love.

Gateway Woods wishes farewell to our residents, Vanessa F. and Gavin D. We pray that God would grant them His favor as they leave our home.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner (Princeville, IL) will be transitioning from Houseparents in the East House to Residential Support Staff in the next few months. We pray that this transition will go smoothly. Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann (Washington, IL) will be taking over the East House.

One of our counselors, Bro. Jeff Waibel (Bay City, MI), was recently announced for marriage to Sis. Margo Stettner (Leo, IN). We wish them God's blessings!

On January 10, Gateway Woods held an open house for its new school building. Despite the harsh weather, a nice crowd attended the event. Congressman Mark Souder made an appearance as well. Our students and teachers have settled in to the new building and are very thankful for the additional space.

Please note that the new school building will be dedicated during our annual Representatives Meeting on Saturday, March 22. Everyone is invited to attend the dedication. We are thankful for all the support of our churches throughout this building project.

May God continue to bless you all.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Exodus 20:8

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found."

Isaiah 55:6

"Thou God seest me."

Genesis 16:13

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks."

Psalms 75:1

February in Athens comes with a little easing of the winter chill and a promise of warmer Spring days ahead. We try to spend time outside as the weather allows and the children are grateful for the opportunity to stretch their legs and their lungs.

This month we will teach on the themes of the five senses and our emotions. Teaching children to be more aware of their surroundings helps them to be safer and less self-absorbed. Recognizing how we feel and learning how to handle that emotion appropriately is a big and important concept for children. They may be only 25 or 30 percent of their adult size, but by the time they are four years old they have acquired 80 percent of their personality. That's why teaching little ones about Jesus and His love is the best thing that we can offer them, especially when many of our children don't attend church on a regular basis.

Are you ready to give your best to God's little ones? Can you put

the needs of two, three and four year olds above your own desires? Are you ready to receive the unconditional love of twenty some sweet little boys and girls every day? The preschool needs a qualified teacher. The need is for sooner, NOT later. Please contact Bro. Tom Schrenk, the preschool administrator, as soon as possible at (256) 232-0037. You may also contact Bro. Bob Walder of Congerville, IL at (309) 965-2965.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

As the New Year begins, we find that every day brings us more and more reasons to hold on tight to the Lord's guiding hand. We have experienced a wealth of blessings and also a number of trials and pray daily for His continued grace and mercy.

Just before Christmas we had Sunday visitors, the Plattners from Nashville. Also, Josh Johnson who has been away at school in Indiana came home for the Christmas break. Early in January, Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) came to spend a few weeks of their winter with us.

Bro. Gary Tonner and his wife, Sis. Diann (Bluffton, IN), joined us for services on January 12. We thank the Lord for their willingness to travel this far at this time of the year. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm (Goodfield, IL) ministered to us on Sunday, January 26. Other visitors that day were Bro. Herbert and Sis. Jane Gramm and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig of Gridley, IL. We are thankful that they were able to join us and encourage anyone passing by to stop in and join us for church.

Many prayers have been offered for those in our church family who have lost loved ones in recent weeks. Sis. Katherine King's daughter, Frances Stefinsky of Chicago, IL, died at home on January 7. She is survived by her husband, Ronald, and two daughters, Erica and Josephine. Funeral services were held here in Athens with burial in our church cemetery.

Bro. David Coulter lost his brother, Billy, in a work accident on January 16. Bro. David and Sis. Barbara traveled to Pennsylvania for the funeral service.

Prayers are also offered for those who have been battling illnesses and injuries this month. Sis. Joyce Ray (Bro. Milton) was hospitalized and is home again. Corey Cottingham had his tonsils removed. Trey Haggemaker had surgery on his foot. Both are grandsons of Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Haggemaker. Karla Hargrove (Sis. Debbie and Mark) was referred to the Cleveland Clinic (OH) for extensive consultation and testing. The family has been there more than a week so far.

Amanda Cottingham and her son, Corey, were involved in a car accident on an icy road and were seriously injured. They were in Huntsville Hospital for several days. Amanda is the daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Louise Haggemaker.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Ephesians 5:20-21

December 29 was a beautiful sunny 67 degree day when Bro. Brandon Labudde and Sis. Jodi Hohulin exchanged wedding vows before Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and many relatives and brethren. A lovely reception was held in the Congregational Room. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin and Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde. We pray God's blessings and years of His enduring love on our happy couple.

We rejoice with Jeff and Sis. Candice Klopfenstein on the birth of Anna Kate on January 9. Her siblings are Erin and Emily. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein.

Richard Kraft and Adam Ebert gave their testimonies on January 18 and were baptized January 19. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle came from Altadena to assist Bro. Jon Kokanovich. Bro. Adam and Bro. Richard enjoyed greeting the brethren as brothers at our fellowship dinner and singing in the early evening.

We welcome Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart back to our Phoenix congregation. Their address is: Sun Grove Resort Village #1033, 10134 W. Mohawk Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382. Their phone number is (623) 825-1688.

The Mountain View Villas being built on church property are progressing well and are now ready for inside work. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in

unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

Sis. Ruth Baer was hospitalized and is recovering at home. Sis. Dorothy Zollinger was hospitalized January 17 and remains in serious condition. Remember them in your prayers.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) on December 29.

The Crown of the house
Is Godliness
The Beauty of the house
Is Order
The Glory of the house
Is Hospitality
The Blessing of the house
Is Contentment.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

We give thanks and praise to God for answered prayers for our Bro. Glen Furrer, who is assembling with us again after suffering a heart attack at the end of December and being hospitalized for over a week. His son, Bro. Tom Furrer (Sis. Jill) and family from Morris, MN; and daughter, Sis. Linda Isch (Bro. Jerry) and family from Philadelphia, PA, were visiting Prescott over the holidays, so were here at the time of Bro. Glen's attack.

Our visiting ministers this last month included Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Bros. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO). Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marjorie plan to be in Prescott for a month. We thank these brothers and their families for their love and service to our congregation and pray the Lord will richly reward them.

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Lisa Knapp**

As we began 2003, there were some changes in our little church. We said farewell to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart as they are making their home in Phoenix once again. We enjoyed some farewell cake with them on their last Sunday with us. We look forward to seeing them when we visit Phoenix and wish them many blessings there.

We joyfully welcomed back Sis. Mindy Bauer, who had been going to college in Spain for a semester. We were thankful for her safe return and anxious to hear stories of her adventures. It's good to have you home, Mindy!

As we were saying goodbyes and welcomes, we learned that Catie Dienst (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman) was being deployed to Kuwait. Catie's husband, Bill, is already in Oman serving our country. Catie has arrived safely at her destination, for which we are thankful, but we will certainly keep praying for her and Bill and all of our men and women in the military.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss and their family spent the day with us recently, and Bro. Jim served alone on the pulpit. Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline were in Florida helping Catie prepare for her deployment. We thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy for their efforts to travel and be with us, and special thanks to Bro. Jim for serving on the pulpit alone. We pray he felt the Holy Spirit's presence.

Our winter visitors have been arriving since Christmas and are helping fill some more benches. It's good to see familiar faces and catch up on their lives. In honor of

their arrival, we ordered lots of sunshine and temperatures in the 70s.

**CALIFORNIA
ALTADENA
Robin Moser**

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:3

We praise God that He loved us enough to die for us while we were yet in our sins. Our congregation rejoices with Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) as she begins her new walk of faith with our Lord. We were also thankful to welcome a new brother into the family of God. Bro. Daniel Luthi (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Shirley) shared his testimony and was baptized on Dec. 22. We appreciated the visiting ministers that weekend including: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Herb Knochel, (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN).

Bro. Fred Witzig also encouraged us with a Bible study on the historical context of Christmas and Bro. Greg Lehman shared the Word with us on Christmas Eve. We were thankful to have Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) with us for New Year's Eve services.

We continue to pray for many in our congregation with health concerns. Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) was hospitalized this month and we're thankful for his return to worship with us again.

We welcome you all to come worship with our small congregation. Please contact Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle if you are considering assisting in the ministry here in Altadena. The weather has been beautiful so if you need a reprieve from the cold, now would be a wonderful opportunity to visit California.

**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov**

We are so thankful to welcome two newcomers into our congregation. Sis. Ethel Bednarski from Minneapolis, MN, is wintering in our area, and Mark Stefan is presently working here. We feel blessed to have them assemble with us and pray they will find a blessing here also.

As always, we so appreciate all our visitors. This past month we were privileged to have visiting ministering brethren in our midst. Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) shared God's Word with us. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to be used in His service.

Our prayers are with Bro. Rory Strahm as his health has prevented him from assembling with us for several weeks. May he feel God's nearness and grace each day as he gains strength.

We rejoice as four new souls have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. They are Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy), Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy), Breana Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian), and Mika Milovancev. We pray the Lord will bless them richly with

His grace and mercy as they humbly seek His will in their lives.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Ingrid Fortenbacher**

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

December 15 was a blessed day for all as our small Sunday School presented to us the Christmas story. May we always remember that the story of Christ's birth isn't complete if we celebrate only His birth. We must go to the cross if we are to have a hope of salvation.

Our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) helped with our annual business meeting on December 18. Sis. Astrid Schlauch has the responsibility of teaching the junior Sunday School class. Sis. Justine Piticaru and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are the new Kitchen committee. We wish them each God's richest blessings as they take on these new duties.

Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach was able to assemble with us and minister to us on December 22. As we look back to our small beginnings and see the many changes, and the growth that has occurred, we know that the Lord has blessed our small congregation.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

At this time of the year, when the world around us is brown and bare and nature seems to be dead, what a comfort it is to know that though “the grass withereth” and “the flower fadeth ... the word of our God shall stand for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

Our annual business meeting was held January 11. New officers elected were: Bro. Mike Martin – Trustee; Sis. Lorraine Hohulin – Kitchen Committee; and Sis. Lanette Meyer – World Relief Sewing Committee. We are thankful for faithful brothers and sisters who take on the work of the church.

On January 12 we were happy to have Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) share God's Word with us.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Mike Martin and his family in the death of his grandmother in Texas.

Reminder: Singings are held at the church on the second Saturday of every month at 7:00.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Cherie Galat**

From the world now turn thy vision;

“Forward go” be thy decision,
To God and eternity.

Zion's Harp #39

We rejoice with the angels in heaven over four dear souls who are turning to God in repentance. May He continue to lead Heidi Ballasy (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane), Amber Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan), Rebekah Viens (Bro.

Steve and Sis. Dorothy), and Amanda Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen).

“And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”

Genesis 2:22

Believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. Nathan Zahner (Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Sarah Crary (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb) was made known unto us. As they prepare in the days ahead, may they look to Him for continued guidance.

On January 11, Matthew Mangold and Danielle Peace were united as husband and wife. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry Mangold and Eric and Barbara Lillibridge. May they look to him to guide them as they walk together.

At our annual business meeting, many new church positions were filled as some of our loved ones have retired. May God bless the service that each one gave, and may He guide the brethren who are just beginning.

We appreciate when our dear ministering brethren share to us out of God's Word. Visiting in past weeks was Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

May God go with Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori Martin and family as they return to Oregon. Our hope is that they have felt the love of the Rockville brethren while they fellowshiped with us.

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have been sick or hospitalized lately: Bro. Werner Kupferschmid (Sis. Esther), Bro. Ken Virkler, and Bro. Emanuel

Zahner. May He be with each one.

On January 11, Arthur Spielman passed from this life. He leaves his wife, Agnes, his brother, Bro. Walter Spielman, and other family members. May God console each one in their loss of their loved one.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Henrietta Meyer

“...joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth”

Luke 15:7

Our congregation is rejoicing with Phil Steffen (Mona) as he had made the decision to repent.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth”

Rev. 21:1

My mother, Sis. Lydia Meyer, visited here so often and for long, many of our visitors thought she lived here. One of her favorite times to visit was in the Spring. We spent a Saturday taking pictures of all the flowers so folks in Illinois could better understand why she liked to visit. The Apostle John used word pictures to tell us what heaven would be like. In December, Mom took her final journey. She won't be coming back, but we can anticipate joining her and all who have gone before.

This month we said farewell to Sis. Janet Wysong as she returned to her home in Lester, IA, after a lengthy stay with her son Kouri and his family.

We welcome Lize-Mari Venter who is living with the Rapp-Cardwell family this year.

Visiting ministers the past

month have been Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Wally Ramsier (Mansfield, OH). We are always thankful for visiting ministers and those that travel with them. Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH.

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 and Sis. Doreen Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 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.

Note of thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for the flowers, cards and other expressions of sympathy following the death of my mother, Sis. Lydia Meyer. May God bless you for your kindness.

Sis. Henrietta Meyer

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Our congregation has been richly blessed by many visiting ministers as well as brethren from all over the nation. A heartfelt

thanks goes out to all and especially to those who lent themselves in ministering the Word. These include: Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Doug Sabo (Sis. Linda, Sarasota, FL), Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN).

Hospitalized this month for a few days was our dear friend, Connie Furrer. We are so glad to have her back assembling with us once again. Please include in your prayers for returned health for Sis. Jeanette Yergler and Sis. Bev Gerber. Both of these sisters have battled health concerns this month.

In this time, when talk of war hangs heavy in the air, it's good to be reminded of Bible passages such as I Thess. 5:15, “See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men.” It's easy to get caught up in our own opinions and viewpoints, but God's Word, through our own ministering Bro. Marvin Steffen, points out that as followers of Christ, we are to love one another and be at peace. He added, “We are not to do as the world, but as the WORD.”

On Sunday, January 19, Bro. Andy Stoller was with us as representative of the Elder Body to transfer Eldership responsibilities to Bro. Ed Schwartz. Our Elder Bro. Doug Sabo has asked to take a medical leave of absence

from his duties of shepherding our flock. After prayerful consideration, Bro. Ed has graciously accepted this added responsibility, for which we are so grateful. Bro. Andy pointed out to us passages of Scripture in I Peter Chapter 5 and I Thess. 5:12-13, where it reminds us to submit ourselves unto the Elder and to be subject one to another. Also, esteeming our Elders very highly for their work's sake, and be at peace one with another. Dear brothers and sisters, let us all do our part in making Bro. Ed's responsibilities a joy! We wish for him many trips to Fort Myers for the joy of baptisms!

We would like to thank our dear Sis. Marie Keller (Bro. Art) for her many years of service as a Sunday School teacher. She may well hold a record for the number of years of service. She couldn't remember exactly how long it had been, but estimates it to be about 13 years. May God reward her for the many years of faithful service she has given.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

This past month we have been richly blessed with the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL) and Brandon Plattner (Sabetha, KS).

Groundbreaking services for our new Fellowship Hall were held under beautiful sunny skies on Sunday, December 22. Anyone interested in volunteering labor for this project may contact Bro. Dave

Eisenmann or Bro. Glenn Price.

We rejoice with Bro. Laszlo, Sis. Katalin and Kata Fodor as they have just recently become U.S. citizens.

It is good to see Helen Mitchell back in church again. Other than the usual winter flu and colds, I am thankful not to have any health problems to report at this time.

We are still welcoming many visitors and winter residents. There's always room for more, so please be encouraged to come visit us in Sarasota!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

John Brewer

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we have come down in January. Bros. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, Ft. Myers, FL) and Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) came down to share the Word with us and we appreciate the time they took to come down.

A new blessing has been added to our congregation. On January 17, Win Waldbeser was born to Sis. Sue and Bro. Tom. Win is also welcomed by his siblings, Drew, Elise, Sheree and Ashlyn.

If you plan to be in the Atlanta area we would invite you to worship and fellowship with us. We start song service at 10:15. We also gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. 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

more information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

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

II Timothy 2:15

As our monthly Bible studies continue, we all are striving to learn more of God's Holy Word and hope to find ourselves worthy of God's love.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."

As a New Year has once again dawned, may we find time each day to praise the Lord for the many blessings and for the trials He has sent our way.

For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy begotten Son
That whosoEver
Believeth iN Him
Should noT
PerIsh but
Have everlastiNG
LiFE...

John 3:16

Long before the world made February 14 a special day, the Lord gave the best gift of Love anyone could give — His Son to die for us that we may live in Heaven some day.

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

We were thankful for the blessing of visiting ministers this past month. We thank Bros. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Nate Lehman (Denver, CO) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) for their service and for taking the time to come fellowship with us.

Our church family rejoices with Bro. Justin and Sis. Heather Meece who have welcomed a precious baby, Emma Marie, into the world. Emma's happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Meece and Byron and Sis. Katie Martin (Gridley, IL). May God bless Bro. Justin and Sis. Heather with wisdom and strength as they begin this new walk as parents.

We also had two more reasons to rejoice as two of our brothers have announced their engagements. On December 22, Bro. David Kieser, along with his parents, Bro. David and Sis. Wilma, announced his engagement to Sis. Haley Kruse of Morton. Sis. Haley's parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse of Morton. On January 19, Bro. John Steffen announced his engagement to Sis. Jenni Adams from Forrest. Bro. John's parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen. Sis. Jenni's parents are Sis. Sharon and the late Bro. Terry Adams of Forrest. We pray God's continued blessing upon each couple as they begin this new step in life.

On December 22, we were reminded of the humble beginning of Jesus in the manger as the Sunday School children sang their Christmas carols for the program. On

Christmas morning we once again gathered together as a church family and thanked God for His wonderful plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

It was good to come together again on New Year's Eve to look back on the year that was ending and look forward to the new year. We were encouraged to seek God's face in this new year.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers with us this month. Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) was with us on Christmas Day and Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) brought forth the Word early in January. We can be thankful that God is able to use mere mortals in such an important way.

We are thankful that Bro. Dennis Pyles (Sis. Becky) is recovering from his accident and can again assemble with us.

We look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming Elder Conference in February. It brings a special joy to be able to give to those whom we love and esteem. All of the preparation reminds us of the importance of preparing our souls for the end of time. It would be hard to imagine the chaos that would ensue if we didn't properly plan for the upcoming conference. Are we properly planning for eternity or are we thinking only about today or next week?

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Janelle Schlipf**

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Jeremiah 29:11

The beginning of each new year brings with it both the excitement of opportunity as well as the anticipation of new challenges. May we be thankful for the Lord's guidance and praise God that His promises are always true!

Our prayers are with our December graduates as they trust God's direction for the next step in their lives. Bro. Shayne Fehr will begin medical school in the fall and Bro. Grant Heinold plans to remain in Champaign to attend graduate school. Katy Sauder also graduated in December and is planning to continue her education after completing an internship this semester.

We wish to extend our congratulations to Sis. Lorna Clauss, who has recently retired from her job at the Department of Child and Family Services. We know that she will continue to be a blessing as she now volunteers her time in other areas! While Sis. Lorna has completed her years in the work force, Sis. Erica Schambach is just beginning. Erica has recently taken in a job in the Champaign area as a teacher's aide in a special education class at Bottenfield Elementary. We are thankful to have her continued support in our congregation and wish her God's blessings as she begins her new job.

We have set aside the last few Wednesday evenings in December

and January to listen to the conference tapes. The Bible promises that in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14) and we pray that God will encourage each one as we hear the words of love and wisdom from our Elder body.

Taking advantage of their time off from school, several students from Champaign joined a work team from Purdue as they traveled to the children's orphanage in Imuris, MX. "Jesus, Love and a Hug" was the theme of their week as they spent their time completing various construction projects, but also more importantly showing the love of Jesus to the many children there.

We always appreciate the visits of many former Champaign families and friends who come home over the holiday season. Sis. Krista Banwart (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen) was among those who came home for a short visit to Champaign before moving from Tucson, AZ, to Philadelphia, PA, for a six-month program studying hand therapy. We wish her God's blessings as she continues her education in Philadelphia.

Bro. David and Sis. Ethel Wiegand were also thankful to have their entire family, including their son, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), visiting them over Christmas. We appreciate Bro. Ben's willingness to share God's Word with us!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

We have several reasons to be thankful for good health as well as skillful doctors as the New Year has unfolded. Little Emmaus

Rassi (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Bridget), Sis. Bridget Rassi (Bro. Matthew) and Hope Nenadov have all three had surgery recently. It is truly amazing the renewed life we can feel when God chooses to heal us physically.

Our new Bro. Tim Zimmerman has experienced a spiritual healing performed by the Great Physician as he attested in his testimony and baptism in Morton, IL, on January 11-12. We rejoice with Bro. Tim and have enjoyed fellowship with him throughout his repentance process.

We are also thankful for the way God uses visiting ministers as instruments in repairing the spiritual ailment of our souls. Bros. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) were with us throughout the past month.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Ben Funk who has moved to Chicago from the Gridley, IL, congregation and look forward to becoming more acquainted with him as we share in this precious fellowship that we have.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Denise Walder

Susan Waldbeser

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have lended themselves on our behalf this past month. They are Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN). May God bless these brothers for being willing servants.

At our Christmas program on December 18, we were inspired with the verses and songs our Sunday School youth shared with us. May the teachers and students receive a special blessing for their efforts.

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital or had surgery recently and need our prayers are Bro. Melvin Stock, Sis. Clara Hofer, Sis. Adrea Wells (Ryan), and Braden Waldbeser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn). Bro. Les Maul (Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Kathy Stock (Bro. Gilbert) both have spent some time at Mayo Clinic this past month also.

Our prayers also will be with Bro. Melvin Stock as he moves into Heartland Nursing Home in Paxton, IL, for a few months.

"Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this past month. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb on the death of Steve's father, John Kaeb. Bro. Elmer Kaeb is also a brother to John. Sis. Grace Bauer is also grieving the death of her sister this month, Sis. Annie Koch, of Tremont. May God's comforting hand be upon each dear one who have lost those near and dear to them.

January 8 was the date of our annual business meeting and election. New Sunday School teachers elected were Bro. Steve Eisenmann, Sis. Alicia Maul, and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb. Bro. Max Kaeb was elected as trustee and Bro. David Maul to the Fellowship Hall

Committee. May God be their guide in their new assignments.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Sis. Kate Young is enjoying her new grandson, Gage Bowen, son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Jan Young (Congerville, IL). Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser also have a new grandson, Wynn Thomas, born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA).

We thank Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) for the Topical Bible Presentation he gave January 15 on the Middle East.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

When Fanny Crosby was just eight years old, she wrote her first poem, which reads in part:

O, what a happy soul am I!
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.

She wrote over 7,000 hymns in her 95 years. Some of her encouraging hymns we now sing in the Hymns of Zion are: #155 Near the Cross, #170 I am Thine O Lord, #218 Safe in the Arms of Jesus, and #288 Blessed Assurance. May we also resolve to be contented and follow the Scripture in Philippians 4:11.

It was such a joy to hear and see the Sunday School children present the Christmas story Wednesday evening, December 18.

Christmas Day was a special day, and in addition to celebrating our Lord's birth, we celebrated Gage Bowen Young's birth. Gage was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jan Young. Also welcoming him are his brother, Chase, and grandparents,

Sis. Kate Young (Cissna Park, IL) and our Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder.

January 12 we were thankful to witness the baptisms of Sis. Hallie Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary) and Kristin Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy). Our thanks also go to Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) for assisting our Elder. Mostly, we thank God for His plan of salvation and for continually calling souls.

Also bringing us God's Holy Word this past month were visiting Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

We uphold in prayer our dear ones who have been ill and suffered loss. Bro. Charles Rinkenberger is progressing satisfactorily with chemo treatments and his wife, Sis. Martha, is recovering from outpatient surgery. Ray Baer is somewhat stabilized now with cancer of the lung and Bev Schieber would also appreciate prayers as she continues alternate treatments for cancer. We sympathize with Sis. Nancy (Bro. Jerry) Knapp in the death of her mother, Margaret Gerber.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Amy Gasser

We are thankful this past month for the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones recently.

Verena "Fannie" Wieland passed away December 27 at Resthaven, where she had lived for several years. She and her sister, Caroline Wieland, attended the old Elgin church for many years. Jim (Mary) Krueger's father, Ken Krueger, passed away December 29. His funeral was held in Minnesota. Bro. Bob (Sis. Lynette) Buckheister's brother, Jim Buckheister, passed away December 31 after a long illness.

Our prayers are with Sis. Hilde (Bro. Georg) Schumacher who is recovering from major surgery. Also, at the time of this writing, Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach plan to travel to Iowa City, where Bro. Don plans to receive a kidney transplant from his daughter, Sis. Shaena (Bro. Fred) Dietz. Our prayers go with them.

We rejoice with Lynwood and Jamie Schambach who have begun their repentance. May God grant that they will lay a firm foundation in Him.

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

Luke 15:7

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Janet Zimmerman

Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris Leman welcomed Levi Kent into their hearts and home. Levi was born on December 23 and he is welcomed home by his sisters, Danielle, Sis. Kalsey, Caitlin, and his brother, Jesse. His grandparents are Sis. Millie (the late Bro. Ray) Schmidgall of Minneapolis, MN, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman of Eureka.

Believing that God has brought

them together, Bro. Chris Wynkoop and Sis. Jill Blunier made their engagement known on December 29. Their parents are Harold Wynkoop of Eureka and Vickie McQuellon of Peoria and Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine Blunier. We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance.

Our visiting minister on December 29 was Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA). We were glad to have Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty and their family home for a visit.

Our visiting ministers on New Year's Eve were Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL).

Our most recent visiting minister on January 12 was Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We sincerely thank each one for laboring on our behalf. May God bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Melvin (Sis. Marjorie) Stoller who has been hospitalized. We are also praying for Sis. Dorothy Hartter who was injured in a fall recently. May God provide His healing touch.

Have faith in God;
what can there be for Him too
hard to do for thee?
He gave His Son; now all is free;
Have faith in God,
Have faith in God.

Gospel Hymns #370

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God."

Mark 11:22

Found: A ladies long, light tan coat was left at church

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers and love as we observed our 50th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless each one.

Bro. Maury and Sis. Joyce Crawford

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr

Two homes were blessed with new babies. On December 22, Rick and Cheryl Hoffman welcomed Briley Diane. Her big brother is Morgan. Grandparents are Ron and Sis. June Slagel and Clyde and Donna Hoffman.

Josiah Scott was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara Moser on December 27. Damaris, Silas, Leighton, Gideon, Reena, and Elsa are his sisters and brothers. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser and the late Myrna Moser and Robert and Cheri Kaisner and Colleen Loschen. May God help each of these families in the rearing of their children.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Betty Wiegand (Bro. Richard) in the death of her sister, Sis. Anna Koch (Tremont, IL).

May God's healing mercies and love be with Sis. Sandra Schneider (Bro. Don) and Sis. Anna Lou Van Antwerp, who have been in the hospital.

We trust that Sis. Laura Knapp can feel the love of our congregation as she now assembles with us in Fairbury. We welcome her.

Our visiting ministers this last month have been Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Also, Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS),

Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) were with us over the Christmas holidays. We sincerely thank them for their love in bringing us God's Word.

The year of 2002 has drawn to a close. We had three weddings, four deaths, six baptisms, and 16 babies born. May God be with each of us as we embark on the New Year.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Linda Anliker
Lori Dotterer

We are thankful for brothers that willingly give of their time each Sunday morning as they teach our students in Sunday School and nurture the seed, and we pray it will continue to grow through the years. Finishing their terms at the end of the year were Bro. Glen Steidinger (Sis. Holly) and Bro. Rich Wenger (Sis. Jill). We pray that God will richly bless them for their labors.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Harlan), Bro. Eldon Kaeb (Sis. Stephanie), and Sis. Sheila Steidinger (Bro. Roger) as their father and grandfather John Kaeb (Adeline) passed away. May God be with them during this time.

We are thankful that God is still calling souls, and we rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller as their daughter Crystal has sought the Lord in repentance. May God grant her much grace to build upon the firm foundation.

Note of Thanks:

We thank our loved ones for remembering us in prayer and with cards and food after the passing of our father and grandfather. May

God add His blessings.

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb

Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila Steidinger

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

Our hearts ache for the family of Bro. Denny Martin. He was called Home last month just before Christmas. Our prayers are with Sis. Carol, Darin and Jenny, Darel and Shireen, Cendra and Donavan, and Cara and Jeff. What a day that will be when the clouds are rolled away and Jesus returns and we once again see those who have gone before us. It could be as soon as today!

Our congregation will miss Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodee, Breanna, Noah and Brinlee Bauman. They have relocated to the Princeville area. May God bless them.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah Stoller were united as one this past month. Parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Dorothy Leman and Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller of Roanoke. We wish them Gods blessings as they start their lives together.

Visiting ministers this past month were as follows: Elder Bro. Earl (Sis. Dixie) Ringger, Bro. Jim (Sis. Jeanne) Rinkenberger, Bro. Brian (Sis. Jacki) Huber, Bro. Greg (Sis. Mary Beth) Lehman, Bro. Darren (Sis. Sue) Plattner, and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Nancy) Dotterer. We are thankful for their service to us.

We pray for our Sis. Lucy Grusy, as she is in the hospital.

May she feel the healing hand of God.

Tatton Isaac was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Strassheim. They are currently living in California. Grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Joyce Hohulin and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim of Bloomington. We pray that God would be with this precious little bundle.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Forsake this world of vanity,
And all its lewd deception!
Invite the Prince of Peace to thee,
Give Him a true reception.
Approach Him humbly, low and meek,
Childlike His grace and mercy seek.

For surely He first loved thee.
And though upon the raging sea
By storms thou shalt be driven,
Thine anchor, guard and shield is He,
His love to thee is given.
He is thy light in night and grief,
Thy sword the vict'ry to achieve.
He never will forsake thee.

Zion's Harp #107

Our calling as believers is a high one. It is humbling to receive grace each day to serve a wonderful God, who in mercy, sent our Lord and Saviour as a sacrifice for our sins — for all who will repent and become converted. The Zion's Harp song above truly depicts our calling and our duties to serve God.

Our beloved nation faces threats from terrorist foes, and only God knows what the future holds. If and when war comes, we should realize that we as believers are already engaged in warfare —

a spiritual one. The day we turned to the Lord in repentance, we entered the fray. We have an enemy that does not sleep, but would be alert when we are sleeping (spiritually). May God grant us all grace to recognize the spiritual war we exist in — and that we not become drowsy and too comfortable in our secular doings. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. In both the carnal and spiritual war(s), let us commit our cares unto God. He will provide for His own!

During 2002, we had much activity in our Gridley congregation. There were 6 weddings, 12 births, 8 deaths, 8 baptisms, and at year's end 8 more souls awaited baptism. Bro. Louis and Sis. Jean Kieser were taken into the fold on their testimony, and we rejoice that they have found peace with God and man. They reside in Lexington, which is 12 miles from Gridley.

Amanda Harris became the bride of Corporal John R. Perry in Jacksonville, North Carolina. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris, who attend our Gridley congregation. John is in the Marine Corps, and this couple has our prayers with our nation facing conflict.

Sis. Marge Meiss continues to take treatment for her illness. Sis. Sarah Funk is recovering from back surgery. Burt Grusy was in the hospital for knee replacement. And Sis. Wava Kaupp has been ill.

Truly God is the Great Physician. We commit these dear souls to the Lord. May His will be done.

As brethren we have prayed for the Elders as they met in Bradford, Illinois, for their winter confer-

ence.

It is a wonderful benefit for each believer when brothers of special discernment can confer and recognize the dangers facing the flock(s). May God give them the grace to instruct, exhort and warn the souls they love. We surely feel the love of the Elder brethren, and if we can humbly follow their Biblically-prescribed advice, we will prosper spiritually. As they give definition to the Word (so it can be applied in a practical way), it surely accrues to our benefit on an individual basis. As the Word is preached (doctrine) and then lived (order), it strengthens our beloved faith. There is a correlation between doctrine and application. Applying the Word gives it a concrete illustration, and a practical dimension.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Many more loved ones have entered the Haven of Rest. Bro. Levi Schock passed away December 16. Robert Miller passed away December 18. He is the father to our Sis. Carol Schick (Bro. Stan). Sis. Anna Wiedman passed away. She is the sister to our Bro. Al Wiedman (Sis. Wilma) and to our Sis. Edna Dufelmeier. Verena Wieland passed away and she was buried in our Morton cemetery. She was from Elgin, IL. Erma Feucht passed away in Georgia where she had been living with her daughter. Morton was her home church when she still lived here. Sam Grimm passed away. He is the son to our Bro. Milt and Sis. Shirley Grimm. May God who is the ultimate Comforter for our souls be

with these dear families in their loss.

We are happy to announce the engagement of our Sis. Haley Kruse (Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry) to Bro. David "Tater" Kieser (Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma) from Bloomington, IL. May God bless them and their forthcoming marriage.

Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) brought us our Family Worship entitled "Is the Bible Reliable?" May God bless him for his labors of love.

We are extremely thankful for the baptism of our dear Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane) on January 12. Two more dear souls have repented and profess peace and are looking forward to baptism later this month: Ken Stevig and Matt Kupferschmid (Sis. Wendy). May God's continual grace be with them all.

Our visiting brothers for the month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL). God's blessings to these dear brothers for lending themselves so willingly.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Peter and Mabel Weber

Bro. Dave Obergfel linked heavenly visits, the special times God intervenes, in Gen. 18 and Luke 1 to show He doesn't want anyone to perish but invite us to spend eternity with Him. "Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, and Sarah shall have a son" (Gen. 18:14). In the visitations in Luke, after 400 years of silence, Gabriel

appeared to Zacharias and Elisabeth, both righteous before God, and said: "Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard" (vs. 13) ... for the deliverance of Israel. Then he came to Mary of obscure Nazareth, bypassing the temple. We may not see Gabriel, but have a spirit inside, which calls, according to His plan, for the lost to come home. God stays with us thru the Holy Spirit. Some believe, some question! Where are we? Today is the day of salvation... "for with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

Tradition-oriented people supposedly have a need for belonging. When the Sunday School students presented their Christmas program on December 22, it was evident their convictions went much deeper. Bro. Tim Funk thanked them for being in the service of God. "Rejoice with exceeding great joy" (I Peter 4:13) because the Lord came as a small child but with a name above all names.

Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) brought us the message of Jesus' birth and salvation on December 25. Seasons come and go and we cannot imagine one without God. Many of us have a good heritage, which we need to remember and share. Thru Caesar's decree, God caused Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem even though she knew her due date. There was no room in Bethlehem for Jesus; is there room now? Simeon understood, not the birth of a baby, but the fulfillment of the plan of God.

Are we our own? (I Cor. 6:19). We have two natures: to do which is good, and the nature which says: I want to do something else. When David wanted to build the temple,

Nathan told him to have patience. We need to take the short straw and be realistic, not idealistic. Many things are lawful, but they don't cause us to excel towards God. Do we realize how much we have been (for-) given? (Bro. Tim Funk). Acts 25 tells us Paul's accusers had superstition, not facts, and he was accused of doing what was right. "Give me the grace to do what is the will of God" ... take your burdens directly to Jesus. Let's commit ourselves into the Lord's hands and ask Him to lead and guide us (Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer 12/29).

"The Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9). When we look into our spiritual account, are we where we should be? The blood made it even. We can pay off our house, but never the debt of sin. It is going to be looked at and an accountability is coming. We see giants out there, but God will go with us. Are we risen with Christ? Have a commitment to read a little more, increase our knowledge of God? We can say "Times are tough!" but the best is yet to come (Bro. Dave Oberfel 12/31/02).

If 2003 looks like a fog, we need to slow down, wait on the Lord, give to Him first, keep our eyes on the cross and follow Him, not going the wrong way on our own. "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31). "Man that understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish (Ps. 49:20) (Bro. Mike Rieker, 1/5/03).

Kai Randall, created in the likeness of God, not cloned by the attempt of man, was born on October 18, 2002, and we extend sincere

congratulations to first-time parents, Bro. Joey and Sis. Julie Hoerr, and grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick (Morton, IL).

Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) recommended the careful use of the word "self" in his family night message: "Touching upon self-esteem", on January 8. "Gifted" can be a dangerous word as we are to humble ourselves, have high esteem for our brother and let God be in control. Do we push our children to be great, or be godly? When we are moderate, we are accepted by all people. Phil. 2-3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory." Don't think too high or too low of yourself; don't ridicule the other individual to make yourself look good. The key to self-esteem is serving, do things for others and learn from them. Self-esteem is measured in the joy to see what God does. Having peace is strong self-esteem; we need to rise above what Satan offers. We thank Bro. Jon for his profound statements about this important subject.

Bro. Ken Hoerr accompanied 42 young people on the annual trip (1/1 - 1/10/03) to CCCD in Jamaica, which was again a blessing to all and benefit to the deaf of that region.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Gabe Stickling to Sis. Molly Meister was announced on January 12. Bro. Gabe is an occupational therapist at OSF and Sis. Molly a preschool teacher. May the Lord richly bless them as they prepare for their life together. "Rejoice with the wife of thy youth" (Prov. 5:18).

At the annual business meeting on January 12, Bro. Ken Ober was elected as our new trustee and Bros. Dean Ramseyer, Tim Reinhard, Kyle Scholl and Sisters Stephanie Wieland and Judy Metzger as new Sunday School teachers. Thanks for the faithful services of those who have retired.

Note of Thanks:

We are humbled and deeply thankful for the outpouring of love and prayers from the many brethren during Bob's final days and his untimely passing away. We would like to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls, food, kind words and especially for your prayers. Our hearts were touched by each and everyone's love and kindness, especially all the trips the ministers from Belvidere, Chicago and Cissna Park made in our behalf to the Milwaukee hospital while we were there. I cannot tell you how much it has meant to my family and me. May God richly bless all of you.

*In Christian love,
Ethel Waibel and family*

**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter**

When my days on earth are ending
And I face the setting sun;
When the battle's nearly over
And the victory almost won...

I can look back on the pathway
That my weary feet have trod,
And rejoice I took the narrow way
And chose to walk with God.

Tho' mine eyes have never seen
Him
Yet I feel His arms so strong,

And I hear His voice so tender
As He gently leads me on.

He led sometimes through heart-
break,
Through suffering and pain,
As all things work for good to me;
These trials brought me gain.

—author unknown

Sis. Lydia Meyer, 90, who had been residing at Peoria Skylines, passed away December 19. She was a blessing to all of us that knew her here in Princeville. She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Henrietta Meyer, of Reston, VA, and a sister, Fredricka Bowman, of Rockford, IL.

On Christmas day we woke up to several inches of snow which was a gift from the Master's Hand. It was so beautiful! Then again, we were thankful to have several visiting ministers with us which included Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and John Grimm (Columbus, OH). The message was loud and clear and left us with happy hearts. Praise the Lord! Just a personal note here. My special daughter from Morton was with me for the holidays. On Christmas eve the two of us sang Christmas hymns and read the Bible. She told me that John, chapter one, was her favorite chapter in the whole Bible and that Silent Night was her favorite song. Bro. Mark announced that he would read in John, chapter one, and Angie beamed with delight. When she is happy it shows very clearly. Such a blessing to so many! Then before we left church, Bro. Joe said, "Let's finish with Silent Night". Another big smile! She told me how much she enjoyed

the morning at church. We all need to be a little more grateful for the many blessings we sometimes take for granted!

On January 3, little Nolan David was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach. He joins big sister, Kendra, who along with the rest of us is excited to have a new baby. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL) and great-grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Emma Gerber (West Bend, IA). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach.

In January we were excited to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) with us on the pulpit. He was filled with the Holy Spirit! He told us many interesting facts about the Zion's Harp and how it is so beneficial in a believer's life to sing solemn hymns along with the more cheerful ones.

Our hearts go out to our dear ones that spend time in the hospital. These would include: Sis. Donna (Bro. Kenny) Gehrig, Bro. Herman Baer (Sis. Mary), Sis. Alvina Streitmatter (Bro. Ben, dec.), Bro. John (Sis. Lil) Elsasser, and Sis. Marie (Bro. Leonard) Menold. We are praying for all of them.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for the many acts of love for our mother and aunt, Sis. Lydia Meyer. She was deeply touched by all who would stop and visit with her. We also wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the gifts of food, memorial contributions and other acts of kindness shown us at her recent passing.

The family of Sis. Lydia Meyer

We want to thank everyone who remembered us with their love, prayers, cards, gifts and visits during Mother's stay in the Home and during her passing. May God richly bless all for their deeds of love and kindness!

The family of Sis. Lillian Stahl

Dean Stahl

Diane Stahl

Sis. Charlotte Stahl and family

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold and family

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jenell Hodel

Joan Leman

"... God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

I John 4:16

We rejoice with three dear couples as they have been united in holy matrimony. Kristin Knepp (Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise) and Blake Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish, Goodfield, IL) were married on December 14. Bro. Matt Stoller (Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Sarah Leman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort, Goodfield, IL) were married on December 29. Bro. Luke Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette) and Sis. Allison Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) were married on January 5. It is our prayer that God will bless these couples as they walk hand in hand through this life.

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

Psalms 127:3

December 21 was a joyous day for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel as God blessed them with a precious baby girl. Jessie Marie was welcomed home by her brothers, Jake, Max and Reuben, and her grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Kathy Hodel and Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel (Wichita, KS).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp are thankful for the arrival of their granddaughter, Haley Marie, born on December 27 to Pete and Cisne Schaffer.

We rejoice with Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer as they welcome granddaughter, Rebekah Lynn, into their family. She was born in China on March 15 and adopted by Troy and Jennifer Eckman on December 10.

We were blessed on Wednesday evening, December 18, as our Prairie Choristers reminded us through song and scripture of God's greatest gift, His Son.

In appreciation we thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) and Steve Baner (Gridley, IL) for sharing God's Word with us. We thank Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) for speaking to us at our monthly Bible study. May the Lord bless these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

We bid farewell to Sis. Sandy Leman as she has felt God's direction to move to Ixtlan, Mexico, to serve as a physician's assistant. May she ever feel God's love and protection.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Richard Burton (Joan) as he was hospitalized due to an accident. We are thankful he is now home and pray he can feel God's healing touch.

Our prayers will be with our dear shepherds as they gather for the mid-winter Elder Conference. May they ever feel the Spirit's presence as they strive to preserve our precious faith.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the kind expressions of sympathy extended to us at the time of my father's death. May the Lord richly bless each of you.

Sis. Joan Leman and family

Notice: Megan Schwind has been missing a coat since the Sunday before Christmas. It is a ladies' black leather coat, size large, with a zipper and tie belt. Her name is stitched in red at the neck. There are red gloves in the pockets. Another black leather coat was left on the same coat rack. You may reach Megan at (309) 923-7795.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Psalm 32:8

As a new year is upon us, what a comfort it is to have God as our Guide and to trust our future to Him.

Recently, we were visited by ministering Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). Our hearts are thankful for their service to God and our congregation.

We are saddened at the passing

of Sis. Anna Koch. May the Comforter come to her husband, Bro. Gene, and their children, Becky Roots (Rick), Ron Koch (Julie), and Sis. Peggy Stoecker (Darryl) at this time of loss. Our sympathy is also with Bro. Willis Sauder (Sis. Pauline) in the passing of his sister, Sis. Irene Bertschi (Bro. Rudy, Phoenix, AZ).

Hospitalizations this month included Bro. Ken Huetter (Sis. Arlene) and Sandy Johnson. Our prayer is that God would attend to their individual needs. May they feel His healing power.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for all the love and kindness shown to us and for the many prayers, cards, food, Christmas caroling, and anonymous gifts of money. All of these have truly been a blessing from God.

With our sincere appreciation,
Bro. Walt, Sis. Vera, and Carol Aberle

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch

"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Psalm 15:1-2

We were thankful for the visiting ministers who encouraged and exhorted us to walk uprightly, to do works of righteousness and to speak the truth: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach

(Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). May the Lord be their support and reward.

"Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong." We are thankful that we can entrust our "little ones" into the sovereign care of a living and loving Lord. We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Judy Mangold, along with young Michael, at the birth of Erika Marie. May the Lord give us all wisdom as we train our children.

We have remembered Bro. Harvey Martin (Sis. Sharon), Bro. Harold Meiss (Sis. Ann) and Tressa Schumacher (Jeff) who were all hospitalized this month. As believers, we give thanks that in each trial and test, the Lord has a purpose and a plan.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tiffany Aschliman
Elizabeth Aschliman

We are thankful this month for several more souls who have turned their backs on the world and begun repenting. James Isch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel), Andy Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann), Jordan Stroup (Bro. Joe and Sis. Julie) and Brady Ripple have taken this essential step in life.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of three new babies this month. William Andrew Pfister was born on December 17 to Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister (Leo, IN). He was welcomed by a sister, Katelyn, and his grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager

and Al and Becky Pfister.

Carlie Jordyn Gongaware was born on December 30. Carlie's parents are Jeff and Micki Gongaware and grandparents are Bro. Ked and Sis. Shelley Ringger.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia Isch welcomed their fourth child, Elly Kristine, on January 8. Elly joins Ryan, Sophie, and Madelyn. Her grandparents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz.

"Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power."

Psalm 21:13

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Rosie Kipfer (Bro. Richard) in the death of her brother, Danny Gerber, on December 16. We hope that their family can feel the prayers that have been offered on their behalf.

Wedding bells were ringing on January 5 as Bro. Joel Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Erin Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) were united in marriage. We pray that God will bless them as they begin their walk as husband and wife.

We pray for God's healing for those spending time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Bruce Raber (Sis. Mary), Bro. Jeff McAfee (Sis. Linda), Sis. Dorothy Frank, and Bro. Vic Gerber (Sis. Julia).

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. We are thankful that Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Sis. Marjorie, Congerville, IL), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy,

Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) were willing to share the Word with us.

On December 29, the engagement of Bro. Krent Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) and Sis. Elizabeth Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy) was announced. We pray that God will be in the center of their wedding and marriage plans.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:13

Our Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner were pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Margo, to Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN), son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI). May the Lord bless their engagement and upcoming marriage as they seek to draw closer to each other and to the Lord.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber became grandparents two more times this month. The first was Tanner James Felger born to P.J. and Tonya Felger. Tanner joins two older brothers, Cody and Dylan. Their second bundle of joy that came later in the month was Christian Thomas Hohulin, the first born to Adam and Lisa Hohulin. Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer also became grandparents again with the birth of Jack Edward Klopfenstein. Jack is the son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby

Klopfenstein (Indianapolis, IN), and he joins big brother Drew. We pray that each of these baby boys will be brought up hearing about Christ's love.

We were thankful to have Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) share with us on New Year's Eve. Ministering to us on a Sunday was Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN).

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Sis. Imogene (Bro. Walt) Aeschliman, Bro. Dale (Sis. Carol) Gerber, Bro. Vic (Sis. Julia) Gerber, and Sis. Nora Gilliom. We pray that they may all feel God's hand as they go through this uncertain time.

As we start into another year, let us not fear what may happen but remember what the Lord commanded us:

"Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:9

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

Luke 1:31

As we once again had the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we give thanks to Almighty God. It is so important to know that Jesus was born, walked the earth, as we do daily, and died for our sins, then rose again and is now at the right hand of God our

Father. As we go forth in this new year, may we strive every day to become more like Jesus and turn our hearts and the hearts of others toward eternal salvation.

On January 4, we had a dear brother pass from this life unto life eternal. Bro. Glen Boehning (Sis. Eileen) was taken to his reward. May we keep this dear family in our prayers. We also want to extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Walter Culp (Sis. Valera) whose sister passed away and to Bro. Bob Pfladderer (Sis. Norma) as his sister, too, went to be with the Lord. May God comfort each of you now!

We started the year off with two families traveling to do the Lord's will in their lives. Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family are traveling to Haiti to spend three months doing God's work there. Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family are in Imuris, Mexico, where they plan to stay as missionaries for the next few years. May they continue to seek God's will and be richly rewarded for their willingness to serve. We will miss them and certainly keep them in our hearts and prayers. May God be your guide and bless you and keep you.

"...and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing."

Luke 9:11

As I looked at the reference of this verse, it reminded me of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and how God still is healing the lives of the many touched by that day. As we keep our nation, Presi-

dent, and leaders in our prayers, may we not forget those here at home who need our prayers that have had injuries, illness, or surgery this past month. Sis. Valera Culp (Bro. Walter) spent some time in the hospital. Several have had surgery: Sis. Maxine Novonty (Bro. Art) had carpal tunnel surgery; Dustin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy) had the final surgery on his eye; Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) had surgery for a recent eye socket/head injury; Bro. Larry Linback (Sis. Connie) had surgery on his knee; and Sis. Sandi Ward (Bro. Roger) had surgery for a broken leg. Thankfully, no surgery was required for Jonathan Pelsy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Lily) but he did fracture his arm. May we keep them all in our prayers and ask the Lord for His continued strength in healing. May the Lord be with each and every one of you as you recover.

We rejoice with Scott and Sis. Colleen Wuethrich as they welcomed home a baby girl on January 17. To welcome home Mercy Pearl are big sisters, Ingrid and Ivy, and big brothers, Henry and Simon. May the Lord bless your wonderful family.

We want to thank our dear brothers and their families as they traveled home for the holidays and were kind enough to share the Word with us. Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) had a wonderful and uplifting Christmas morning service and again shared the Word on Sunday. Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) was with us to close the year and bring in a new one. Also visiting with a topical Bible study was Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis.

Kristine, West Lafayette, IN) as he shared the topic of our relationship with God. Thank you, brothers, for giving of your time. May the Word continue to go forth and touch the lives of others.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

II Cor. 5:21

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS**

**Sue Levy
Sandy Lichtle**

We rejoice with Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby Klopfenstein on the birth of their second son, Jack Edward, born on January 8. He is welcomed home by his brother, Drew. Jack's grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Chris Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Valerie Kipfer (Bluffton North, IN).

We would like to express our thanks to our visiting minister this month. Bro. James Emch (Phoenix, AZ) and his wife, Sis. Gina, were here to share the Word with us.

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

I John 3:1

Let us keep loving, trusting and obeying our Heavenly Father who has blessed us so richly.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Hymns of Zion #210

We rejoice as we welcome two dear souls into our congregation as sisters in Christ following their testimony and baptism on January 11 and 12. Sis. Megan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) and Sis. Fern Antrim each gave such a beautiful testimony of faith on how the Lord has worked in their lives in such unique and different ways. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) was with us to help share in this special weekend. We thank Elder Bros. Curt and Steve for lending themselves in service to the Lord. There were many visitors for this weekend. A special thanks to our ministering brethren: Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), and Retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN).

We were thankful to have several ministering brothers share the Gospel with us as they visited over the Holiday Season: Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), and Bro. Ned

Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). We thank each of them for their willingness to bring the Word of God to our congregation.

Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest are the blessed grandparents of Rachel Joy, born to Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen of Alto, MI, on November 1, 2002. Rachel is welcomed home by siblings Tasha, Heather, Nicole, Abigail, Daniel, and Michael.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

On December 17, William Andrew was born to Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister. He is welcomed by his sister, Caitlin, and grandparents, Al and Becky Pfister (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager (Bluffton, IN). Congratulations to all.

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Waibel to Sis. Margo Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was announced January 12. Their parents are Bro. William and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Phillip and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Our prayers are for the Lord's blessings in their lives.

We were exceedingly enriched by visiting ministers. Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) visited December 22. They expounded the Word from Esther 7; II Cor. 9; Deut. 28 and I Cor. 13. God clearly spoke to us in our need. What a blessing when we edify one another.

On January 12, Bro. William and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI) visited. He delivered a very convicting message on Luke 15; the lost sheep, lost coin and lost

son. "...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." (vs. 20)

Bro. James Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) came to visit family. Our church family appreciated his message on Exodus 20 and Luke 8:5-15 (the parable of the sower). "The seed is the word of God" (vs. 11). We all are to be sowing the seed... with patience. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (vs. 8).

We were so grateful for our brothers' visit and pray God's blessings on their labors. We anticipate a return visit as they all have family here.

Bro. Gene Stoller is still in Minnesota, but hopes to return soon. He will still be needing therapy so cannot go to his home yet. We pray for restored healing.

I set My love upon thee, child,
I knew thee far away.
I wept to see thee wandering wild,
I yearned till thou didst pray.

One of a rebel, hateful band,
Strong in thy lust for sin,
A furtive, fitful, fiery soul -
I loved, I called thee in.

I stripped thee of thy grimy pride,
Laid bare thy secret want -
Poor vagabond of empty ways!
I sent My Spirit to haunt.

Now, desert son, the choice is
thine;
My love thou canst forget
And go to roaming wasteland
paths.

Wilt, willful, wander yet?
—*Jim Elliot*

O, marvelous grace of our lov-

ing Lord. Come, come, He is calling yet.

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab

We have been fortunate that our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and his wife, Sis. Ann (Latty, OH) have been willing to spend quite a bit of time with us. Joining them on a Wednesday evening was Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Sis. Jeni (Bluffton, IN), and on another Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Sis. Judy (Chicago, IL) were able to be with us. It is heartwarming to see and to feel the love these brothers have for us. Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery (Rittman, OH) visited family here, and Bro. Earl shared the Gospel with us, using Luke 8 as his text. His message was that it is not only what we hear, but how we hear it. What food for thought!

Once again our prayers have been answered as Mary Cockburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue) is looking well and has been able to be in church. She battled a serious health problem this past year. Not feeling so well is Sis. Linda (Bro. Bob) Beer. After being able to be at several family gatherings, the day after Christmas she became very sick. Her illness has progressed very rapidly and is being cared for at home. Bro. Phil Beer had to have some corrective hand surgery. We need to pray for these loved ones as well as so many others of our church family and community that have health concerns and burdens in this life.

Tim Troup has graduated from Officer's training and will now move his family from Florida to North Dakota. What a change for

children and his wife, Angie, who has been fairly close to her parents. Our prayers and thoughts go with them as well as for all of our servicemen and women who leave home and family to help protect our freedoms that we so often take for granted.

It is good to have Bro. Jeff Beer back home after spending several months in Ixtlan, Mexico. Also home safely from a work team trip to Juarez, Mexico, is Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer and their daughter, Sis. Julie.

Rick and Kathy Holderbaum and her children have worshipped with us from time to time for a few years. Just recently, Kathy has found grace to begin her repentance. May she and her family feel our love and support, but more importantly, may she feel God's mercies and compassions new every morning.

We had our business meeting, and we are thankful for the willing workers, those that have completed terms and those that will begin their duties. Bro. Alvin Haab replaces Bro. John Hurd as trustee. Sis. Janie Price will replace Sis. Judy Longcor as church secretary. Sis. Martha Haab will be on the Food Committee as Sis. Kathy Schlipf's term expired. Ushering will be Bros. Phil Beer and Stan Wuthrich in place of Bros. Maurice and Bob Beer who willingly did this for many years. Bro. Dean Lehman will help with speaker system, replacing Bro. Stan Wuthrich. Bro. Dan Beer will take care of our Charity fund. Many thanks to Bro. Walter Steffen who did this for many years. Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen and Bro. Troy and Sis.

Briana Wuthrich volunteered to host our monthly Hymn singings at our Fellowship center. May God bless all of those who labor in our behalf.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Rochelle Ward

The year of 2002 brought these events to our congregation: seven baptisms, one convert, five babies, four weddings and no deaths. Following is the results of our annual meeting: Sunday School – Bro. Dan Weerts, Bro. Jason Getz and Sis. Rachel Bahler; Trustees – Bro. Bruce Waibel and Bro. Fred Wahl; Fellowship Hall Treasurer – Bro. Paul Virkler; Church Secretary – Sis. Kristin Schneider; Hospitality Committee – Sis. Patti Bahler.

Chloe-Anne (Dave and Charity) Pratt spent a few days in the hospital with pneumonia.

We marvel at God's miracles and rejoice with Amanda Price (Sis. Jayne) as she has made a beginning in repentance.

On January 19, Sis. Joy Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) announced her engagement to Bro. Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty, OH). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their lives together.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank the church for their prayers, concerns and cards for my niece, Megan Lock, who spent a week in the hospital with an appendectomy.

Sis. Mary Bobbitt

**INDIANA
SOUTH BEND
Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe**

As we reflect upon the past year, we rejoice that the Lord is so faithful. In the midst of sorrow and pain, we find strength in the mighty arm of our Savior. It is in those times that we realize how great our God is. May we see each day as an opportunity to thank the Lord for all the good things that He has done for us.

We were blessed to have ministering Bros. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lila, La-Crosse, IN) here to share the Word with us this past month. Also Elder Bros. Curt Frank and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) willingly came on a Wednesday evening to share the Memorandum with us. We were reminded what a precious heritage and faith we have. May the Lord bless the Elder body for their efforts on our behalf and their love and care for us.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Darel and Janet Walker**

Winter has settled in around northern Indiana as we are enjoying "Lake Effect" snow and bright sunny days with highs in the 20's. A few miles from our house it snowed 14-20" last week in one morning. There is something comforting about a big snowstorm. Being stranded at home, no school, no work, no responsibilities. We can understand just how great God's power is from extreme weather. And maybe it humbles us a little to know that God can bring all of our plans to a screeching halt

with one snowstorm.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) visit us December 22. Thanks, Bro. Dale, for encouraging us with God's Word. Thanks also for serving as our Elder and shepherding us along the way.

On January 10, our junior high Sunday School class had a unique experience. Their community service project this spring is working with a local homeless shelter. The junior high students volunteered to baby-sit the children of residents at the homeless shelter for a few hours. The class also prepared and served a meal for the residents. We wish to thank Bro. Lance and Sis. Hope Bucher and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha Weiss for organizing this ministry. They hope to make this an ongoing service project one night per month.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth..."

Psalm 41:1-2

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston**

As the end of February is near, the year is still new that the Lord has provided us with. Our country is sending many armed service troops abroad, young men and women who all need our prayers along with President Bush. Let us also remember those in the mission field, too, as they continue to spread God's Word.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), and Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN). We thank them for bringing God's Word to us.

We are keeping in prayer Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon, Wolcott, IN) who enjoy fellowshiping with us frequently. Sis. Reva is recovering from knee replacement surgery and will be going through extensive therapy. Sis. Reva is the mother of Bro. Gerry Waibel (Sis. Marcia).

Congratulations to our dear friend, Erica Schieler, and Brandon Hicks who were married January 4. May they seek the Lord always as they grow in their marriage together.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Heidi Bahler

Luann Gerber

It is so special to start off the New Year sitting and hearing the Word of God. Our congregation shared New Year's Day services with Remington and this year, Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Jenna, Remington) preached the hope of salvation in these times when we hear the rumblings of war. The following Sunday, Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) shared the Word with us. May God bless them for their efforts!

Starting in January and going through the end of February is our World Relief sewing. Also, January through March is our World Relief soapmaking time and we thank everyone who comes and does their part with the packaging.

It has been a wonderful blessing for our whole community to be able to take part in this! The local people seem to really enjoy coming to help!

We had our annual meeting the first Monday in January and want to thank each one of our departing brothers and sisters who have taught our dear children or had other responsibilities in the church. Those who have taken over these responsibilities have our support and prayers!

We have two dear Sisters who have had surgery this past month. They are Sis. Ruth Lehman (Bro. John) and Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon). May the Lord grant them healing mercies as they continue to recover.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz

Lana Metzger

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) here with us. Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) also helped minister God's Word. We appreciate their labors very much; may God be their rich rewarder and strength.

We also had our Sunday School Christmas program. Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) came down for the day. It was a blessing to all to see the children and young adults say their pieces and sing songs.

Sis. Maye Heiniger was a hospital patient. We wish her God's healing hand. May our prayers be with her and others who have afflictions of the body and spirit.

We welcome back Sis. Karla Gerst. She spent the last several

months in European countries, including Hungary and Germany. We are thankful to God that He safely brought her back to the United States and her family here.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

This has been a rather quiet month for news from Elgin, IA, but since February seems to be the "Heart" month, let's see what the Bible tells us about our heart.

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart." *I Sam. 16:7*

"Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God..." *I Kings 8:61*

"Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord." *I Chron. 16:10*

"Your heart shall live forever." *Psalms 22:26*

"God...knoweth the secrets of the heart." *Psalms 44:21*

"Him that hath a high look and a proud heart will I not suffer." *Psalms 101:5*

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." *Proverbs 4:23*

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh." *Prov. 14:30*

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance..." *Prov. 15:13*

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." *Prov. 23:7*

"A wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment." *Eccles. 8:5*

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked..." *Jer. 17:9*

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." *Matt. 5:8*

"Out of the heart proceed evil

thoughts." *Matt. 15:19*

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." *John 14:1*

"Harden not your heart..." *Hebrews 3:8*

Our thanks to Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on January 19. May God richly bless him with a double portion of His love and Spirit.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willia Clark**

Our church has been blessed by visits from Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford, IL) and Bros. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Rex Freiden (Lamar, MO). We thank them for their wisdom and encouragement from God's Word.

In a recent workplace incident, ordinary fluorescent light bulbs were replaced with light bulbs recommended for lifting spirits and aiding those with seasonal depression. As Christians, we are directed to be the light of the world. A Christian's light, reflecting the light and the love of Christ, can be much more effective in lifting spirits in this dark world than a specially-formulated light bulb.

Our friend, Katie Newton, has been hospitalized and had surgery to repair a broken leg. We are thankful she is now home and experiencing the miracle of healing.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We were thankful to have Bros. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) with

us on the Sunday before Christmas. We appreciate their labor on our behalf and trust the Lord will reward them.

Last weekend we had the opportunity to attend a marriage seminar that was presented to the Oakville, Burlington, and Iowa City churches. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), as part of the Gateway Woods Counseling staff, presented to us rules for communication as well as scriptural teachings and guidelines on living as husband and wife. We appreciate Bro. Jeff's message and his willingness to travel and teach us.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Eunice Feller following the death of her sister. We pray God will comfort her.

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

We are always thankful to hear that a soul has found peace with God and man. We rejoice with Cory Lemman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee, West Bend, IA) and pray God will continue to be with him as he awaits his baptism.

This past month we were blessed to have a number of visitors with us and among them were ministering brethren. Sharing the Word with us over the holidays were Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). Other visiting ministers during the month were Bro. Dale Moore and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Paul Messner

(Winthrop, MN), Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH). May the Spirit always direct our ministering brethren as they labor on our behalf.

Four little babies were welcomed into their family circles this past month. Bro. Brad and Sis. Trinda Meyer were blessed with the arrival of Emma Mae on December 19. Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla Meyer are the grandparents and Sis. Emma Meyer is a great-grandmother. Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie Knobloch were blessed with a special Christmas blessing with the arrival of Talin Jon on December 24. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Roger and Sis. Illene Hartter (Sabetha, KS) are Talin's grandparents. Korey Jay was born on December 30 to Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather Knobloch. Kerrick is now a big brother and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch are Korey's grandparents. Sis. Zelma Knobloch of our congregation is Korey's great-grandmother. On January 9 Mark and Lee Leuthold became first-time parents when Jenna Lee was born. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold are grandparents and Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger along with Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold are great-grandparents.

Travis Dettwyler and Tammy Wulf are engaged to be married. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings and direction as they plan for a June wedding. Parents of this couple are

Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf.

Bro. Don Metzger (Mary Jane) was hospitalized recently and we trust good health has been restored to him.

On January 19, Bro. Seth Miller and Sis. Lori Nester were united as one in the Lord. Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester are the parents to this couple. May God's blessings be upon them as they begin life's journey together. We will miss having Sis. Lori in our congregation but we trust she will feel welcomed into the Smithville congregation. As Sis. Lori will leave her position as a Sunday School teacher, Sis. JoAnn Meyer will complete her term. We wish Sis. JoAnn God's grace as she assumes this duty.

There were some within our congregation this past month that have fulfilled their college requirements and received their degrees. They were Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie), Sis. JoAnn Meyer (Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla), Sis. Katie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) and Alex Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther). We extend our congratulations to them and wish God's guidance as they make their future plans.

It is a tradition in Lester at the end of the New Year's Eve service to share the past years statistics with the congregation. During this past year of 2002, our congregation experienced three deaths, four baptisms and twenty births.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach Melody Steiner

This past month we have been strengthened and encouraged by the Word shared with us by our visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bernie Messner (Morris, MN) and Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We thank each one for their many labors on our behalf.

Believing that God has directed their lives together, Sis. Heidi Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) was announced to Bro. Brian Schmidgall (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) to be joined in marriage. May they continue to feel the Lord's direction and leading as they soon become one with Him.

We truly rejoice each time a new little one blesses the hearts and homes of dear ones in our church family. Allison Jo Kuntz is the new little bundle from Heaven sent to bless the home of her parents, Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura. Also rejoicing with her safe arrival are her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra Kuntz and Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner.

A baby boy, Brendan Alan, is the newest blessing in the hearts and lives of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Frank. Also thankful are his grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank and Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema (Lester, IA).

Bro. Brent and Sis. Bethany Frank welcome their firstborn son, Neil Allen, with much love and thankfulness. Rejoicing also are first-time grandparents on each side, Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina

Frank and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman of Quincy are the parents of twins, a boy and a girl, Jonathan Lee and Natalie Dawn. Brett, Philip and Kristin are thrilled to have two new little playmates. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman and Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr (Taylor, MO).

May the Lord continue to bless each one of these dear families as they strive to raise these little ones He's entrusted to their care.

IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton OR) and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor MO) here to share the reading of the Memorandum with us. A special thanks to them and to our visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA).

Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp are thankful for the arrival of another granddaughter. Brian, Karla, Baxter and Morgan Knapp welcomed Alexis Marie on December 29.

IOWA, WEST BEND Berniece Banwart Lori Skoglund

Many good teachings were brought to us this past month by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). They must grow

weary at times with the responsibilities before them. They need our prayers, support, and encouragement.

We have recently heard of two dear ones who have succeeded in their quest for peace: Cory Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) and Kent Fehr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon).

I know not what the future holds,
But I know God holds my hand,
And with God Almighty leading,
I don't need to understand.

—Helen Steiner Rice

May those words also offer encouragement to those who have recently undergone surgery: Sis. Deb Bruellman (Bro. Mark), Bro. Bill Zaugg (Connie), Archie Banwart, and Eli Gerber (Pearl).

Jacob Johnson (Bro. Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp), formerly of Cissna Park, IL, has found employment after moving to our area. We hope he has felt a loving welcome and finds support from all of us—especially our single group.

Only God's Love Is Forever
Everything in life is passing and
whatever we possess
Cannot endure forever, but ends in
nothingness,
For there are no safety boxes nor
vaults that can contain
The possessions we've collected
and desire to retain...
For only in God's Kingdom do our
treasures last forever.
So use the word "forever" with
sanctity and love,
For nothing is forever, but the love
of God above.

—Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, SHIODA

Toru Saegusa

Every year we visit a hospital near our Shioda Church for Christmas caroling. On December 15, we visited there with hymn books and some small gifts. Some of the patients were interested in our songs and joined us for singing.

Sis. Reiko Furuya's father passed away on November 6 at the age of 95 years. Sis. Reiko had taken care of him for many years. Bro. Willis Ehnle had the funeral service for the family at the home. Later, a large, non-religious funeral was held at the university which he and his wife founded.

On January 5 there was a dedication of Tokyo Church in Tsutsujigaoka, Tokyo. A lot of contributions were sent us for the new building from our churches in United States. We appreciate such kindness.

After the dedication service our guests from America, Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr, and their daughter, Sis. Amber, from Detroit, Michigan, as well as Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz from Bluffton, Indiana, were able to come to the country and visit the homes of several of our members and also to visit the Mt. Fuji area which is only about 30 minutes from our Shioda Church.

Now many people have the flu in Japan and some of us in our church also have the flu. We hope Sis. Tamino Inoue and Sis. Tsuneyo Misawa will get well soon.

At the end of the year, Hisato and Kathy Inoue and all their family visited us in Japan from Bloomington, Illinois. We were so glad to see them again here in Ja-

pan.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

The new year of 2003 began with overflowing joy and thankfulness to our Lord for the many blessings He has given to us. The first Sunday of the year was our dedication Sunday for the addition to our church. New Year's is a busy time for Japanese families so we appreciated each one who could come to spend the day in God's house. Many prayers were answered as our visiting Elder brethren and wives (named below) from Detroit and Bluffton safely arrived on our shores. I Thess. 5 was the text meditated on by Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) in our morning service. So plain and clear was the message of faith, love and hope. As we experience each of these we feel the great love God has for us through Jesus Christ. We are living in a world of fear and trials. God tells us we need not fear as we walk in the light and trust in Him. The lost were reminded of the tender call of Jesus for their undying soul to prepare now for the return of the Lord. We thank Bro. Mark, Sis. Bev, and daughter, Sis. Amber, a college student, who accompanied them, for their loving countenance over the years to the dear ones here as renewed loving ties and memories.

After a time of singing and Scripture reading by our own Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana), our dedication began at 2:30 p.m. Our Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois) gave a short history of our faith in Japan from its early beginnings with his hospital work and Tokyo church, and the work in Yamanashi-Ken

which began from passing out Bible portions in Shinjuku train station. Through joys and disappointments the Lord is still providing and caring for us. Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni) mentioned that we not only are dedicating this building but much more our hearts and minds together as we serve Him in unity. I Tim. 2:4 says God desires "all men to be saved" and God uses the church as a tool to share the way of salvation to mankind.

After the dedication a sister mentioned to me that it was encouraging to hear that Elder brethren also have to "wait upon the Lord" and spend time on their knees to find God's will whether "to go or to stay" with their plans as Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni experienced in the following. When approached if they would be willing to fly to Japan to assist with the dedication service, it seemed a big step for them. They have a love for small churches and desire to visit them, but going that far with a large church to leave behind and also young families seemed almost too much. They needed assurance that this was God's plan for them either way. They took it to God in prayer and after two weeks nothing surfaced. The time came for them to make a decision and it was a Wednesday evening. Before going to church they again asked the Lord to reveal His will for them. That evening at church before going to the pulpit the song, "Anywhere with Jesus" was sung, and after the ministers were assembled on the pulpit and silent prayer was offered, the minister began the evening message with, "Yes, anywhere with Jesus we can safely

go, even to Haiti or Japan." This minister never knew the thoughts or plans of Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni, but spoke as the Spirit prompted him, and thus the answer was given to the Schwartz'. They were given strength for the journey and we praise God for His direction to His servants.

Our dear sister who was unable to attend these services because of a death in her family was Sis. Haruyo Onoda. Her husband's father passed away at the age of 90 of throat cancer just detected. He was hospitalized for just a week. Living next door to Sis. Haruyo's family they were great help to him when he needed their assistance. May the Lord comfort the Onoda family as the care given him was done in our Lord's name through our sister.

Other special visitors this month were Dan and Joy Klaus, family to our Bro. Andrew Klaus, Bro. Jason Huber (West Lafayette), our good friend, Ben Weber, returning from Phoenix, AZ, to his home in Yap, Micronesia, where he practices law. A special family visiting from the Bloomington, IL, area was the Hisato Inoue family. They moved from our area 13 years ago and it was special to meet each one again, Hisato, Sis. Kathie, daughters, Sisters Heidi and Tami, and Rebekah and her husband, Bro. Matt Kaufmann. We appreciated all these visitors and welcome them back. All added to our fellowship and were granted safe journeys home. How we thank the Lord.

KANSAS, BERN Sally Strahm Lori Baumgartner

In a recent sermon, we were exhorted to be as Nehemiah and the Jews who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. We were encouraged to be prepared for battle in one hand as we work with the other. As we all know, the battle against the enemy of our souls is not short-lived, but rather, it lasts a lifetime. May we all continue to put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to overcome our adversary, the devil.

We rejoice with Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) who has made a beginning in repentance. Rebekah is currently going to school in Altadena, CA, and attending church there. We pray that she may feel the Lord's grace and nearness as she works out her soul's salvation.

We wish to thank the visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us in recent weeks. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here on Christmas Day, and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) assembled with us on January 12. We also had two visiting ministers here for Wednesday evening services on January 15. They were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR). May the Lord bless each one for their service on our behalf.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Don Menold (Sis. Pat) who underwent surgery during the past month. May we continue to uphold him in prayer as he continues with medical treatments.

Jesus know thy sorrow,
Knows thine ev'ry care;
Hymns of Zion #74

We wish to express our sympathy and prayers to Roger and Sis. Liz Brey upon hearing of the death of Roger's mother, Dorothy Brey, of Topeka, KS.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 9. We thank those who have completed their terms of office and offer our prayerful support to those who were given various duties in our congregation. May we all remember that we do not have to hold a specific office to be useful in the Lord's service. God has given each one of us special talents. Let us not hide our lights under a bushel but have willing hearts to serve wherever God places us.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

Alyssa Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta) is recovering very well from surgery on January 3. Thanksgiving Day she tore the ACL, medial and lateral miniscus in her leg. She is thankful for the many prayers for her recovery.

January 8 we held our annual business meeting. May sincere stewardship be practiced. Every office has its own special meaning to the edification of the church.

Our visiting ministers this month were: Bros. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL). Their labors of love are appreciated.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jenny Stewart
On the Friday night before

Christmas, the Sunday School and many others went caroling at various places around the Kiowa area. The weather was perfect and it was a very uplifting occasion.

To celebrate the coming in of the new year, on December 31 after the New Year's Eve services, we had snacks and just enjoyed the fellowship of one another.

Kiowa has had its share of flu and other sickness this winter season. Our hospital patients last month have been Sis. Alice Tanner (Bro. Elmer) and Sis. Mildred Farney.

Congratulations to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alice Tanner on their 77th wedding anniversary.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Florence Guthrie on the passing of her brother, Bro. Levi Schook, of Morton.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder

We want to thank Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), John Lehman (Bern, KS) and ministering Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) for their labors of love shown toward our congregation. May God richly bless them.

The annual business meeting was held Sunday afternoon, January 19. May we prayerfully support those who have been elected to serve new terms.

Our prayers were with the Elder Brethren as they gathered recently in Bradford, IL, for the mid-winter conference. May the Lord reward them for the many hours spent to preserve our precious faith.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner

It is with much thankfulness that we start the year with a convert. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy) has taken the most important step by beginning his repentance. May God provide him with much grace.

Hospital patients requiring surgery were Sis. Irene Aberle, Sis. Lucille Kellenberger, Sis. Charlotte Aberle (Bro. Fred), and Sis. Marie Weiss (Bro. Oliver). We pray for God's healing where it can be His will. We continue to keep Sis. Lucille in our prayers as she proceeds with treatment.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Edwin Strahm and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN). May God bless them for assisting in His service.

During the year 2003 we had six births, three marriages, one baptism, and four deaths.

The Way to a Happy New Year
To leave the old with a burst of
song;
To recall the right and forgive the
wrong;
To forget the things that bind you
fast
To the vain regrets of the year
that's past;
To have the strength to let go your
hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days
grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose
true
To the unknown task of the year
that's new;
To help your brother along the
road,

To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's
good cheer
Is to have and to give a Happy
New Year.

—Author Unknown

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Remschisel were blessed with another grandchild when Jessie Marie was born December 21 to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny Hodel. The grandparents were privileged to make a trip to Roanoke, IL, to welcome Jessie Marie into the family circle.

Our church neighbor, Marie Geary, is experiencing much pain as a result of her accident last fall. We pray that the problem can be corrected and she will regain the use of her right arm. Also, we are offering prayers for Bro. Milton Bowers as he was hospitalized briefly for treatment and is now home recuperating.

Bro. Glen Funk recently exhorted the church to focus on prayers for our Wichita congregation, especially that souls would be moved to repent and seek baptism. James 5:16 tells us "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." We invite you to join us in this prayer. Also, we welcome visitors, and we invite you to come worship with us as you travel through our area.

We are currently experiencing the bitter sting of cold weather for the first time this winter. While we do not have sub-zero temperatures, the wind chill factor is near zero. This is a time to give thanks for the conveniences that make it possible to be comfortable in spite

of the elements!

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Glenda Neukomm

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

Ephesians 2:8

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic as their daughter, Denise, is seeking the Lord in repentance. We pray the Lord will give her much grace as she begins this walk with the Lord.

Also we rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic as a granddaughter, Madalyn Rose, was born to their son, Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy at Rittman, OH. May the Lord richly bless this precious little bundle that has been added to their family.

"Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth and with my song will I praise him. The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed."

Psalms 28:6-8

Bro. Lester Huber had surgery this past month. He is recovering very well. We are thankful for the answer to prayer, and the Lord's healing hand in it all. We appreciate those of you who remembered him in prayer.

We are very grateful to the Lord for the ministering brothers who visited us over these past months. They are Bros. Greg Lehman (Sis.

Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen) and Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene), both of Fairbury, IL, Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy, Congerville, IL) and Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH). It is our prayer the Lord will richly bless them for the many efforts put forth to come and bring us the inspired Word of God.

The times and seasons and years, including this new year, are in God's hand (Psalm 31:15). As Christians, we have nothing to fear, for God's goodness is great (vs. 19). We can walk with Christ each day and join the psalmist in saying, "But I trusted in thee, O Lord; I said, Thou art my God." (Psalm 31:14). We're trusting the Lord, for He is all-sufficient for the coming year of 2003.

As many of you may be traveling, we extend a welcome to you to visit us in Lexington. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Penny Stahl

On December 22 we rejoiced with Sis. Elsa Sibaja (Felix and Sis. Lourdes Sibaja) and Bro. Mario Cabrera (Salvador and Sis. Guadalupe Cabrera) as they exchanged vows on their wedding day. We wish them God's grace and guidance in their lives together.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and his family spent a week of fellowship here in Ixtlán. We appreciated the time Bro. Mike was able to share from God's

Word. May God bless them richly.

On New Year's Eve, the Sunday School children and the Young Group shared with us the message of Christmas. Each class sang songs and various individuals shared from the Word of God. The final song sung by the Young Group, "Know Ye the Son?", provided each person with a question to answer. We pray that more will be able to answer this question affirmatively in the upcoming year.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

II Peter 3:18

Below are the updates from the December issue that we failed to submit:

On October 23 we welcomed Bro. Jose Roque and his family back to Ixtlan. They spent the past seven months helping at Casa de Elizabeth, the orphanage in Imuris, Sonora, Mexico.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Revelation 22:14

The weekend of October 26 we heard the testimonies of faith of five dear souls. The souls were: Javier Gonzalez, Efrain and Ana Cabrera, Lupita Cabrera and Noé Vazquez. On Sunday, they each made a promise before God and man to be faithful and follow our Lord's steps all the days of their lives. We thank Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville,

IN) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria, IL) for having the services during this special occasion.

The same Sunday, we rejoiced with the engagement of Bro. Eduardo (Lalo) Ugalde (Jose Luis Ugalde and Maria Elena de Santiago) to Sis. Silvia Cabrera (Salvador and Sis. Guadalupe Cabrera). Both of them are from our congregation. We pray for the Lord's blessing in their lives.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

Ephesians 6:24

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Cassy Sanders has found the grace to give her life to the Lord. We rejoice in her repentance with her parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie. The door of grace is yet open and the call continues to go forth!

The annual business meeting was held in January. Thanks and appreciation to Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan) for his unflagging efforts as Sunday School Superintendent for the past three years. Bro. Terry Steffen (Sis. Laurie) is his replacement. Also undertaking new positions are Bro. Marvin Blough as Trustee, Bro. Justin Ooms as Usher, Sis. Terri Huber on the World Relief committee and Sisters Michelle Oesch and Liz Blough on the Kitchen Committee.

We are sorry to report that Sis. Christine Wingeier had a fall and is not able to come to church. Our prayer is that the Lord will lift her spirits and ease her pain. Please remember the housebound and

bedridden in your prayers as winter can be an especially difficult time, both physically and emotionally.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Sarah Knochel Janelle Ramseyer

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;"

Eccles. 3:1-2

In the past month, our congregation has seen this verse in action. Sis. Inez Grew was called to her heavenly home after a lingering illness. Our prayers go out to her husband, Delor, her children, grandchildren, and sister, Sis. Irma Bragiel; that each would be comforted in knowing that Sis. Inez is no longer in pain and suffering.

Just a few weeks later, Sis. Helen Meylan was also called from this earth to the glories of heaven while in the hospital. Our prayers and support are with her family, her husband, Bro. Henry, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and brother, Bro. Dave Schlatter, that they would each be comforted and lifted up and look forward to the joy of seeing Sis. Helen again some day in Heaven.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Robert Knochel, Sis. Nina Wieland (Bro. Erwin) and Sis. Lois Wieland (Bro. Gerald) on the sudden death of their sister, Viola Northup. We pray that the Lord will comfort them in this time of sorrow.

Three families welcomed little ones into their homes recently. Josh and Brooke McTaggart along

with brother, Cameron, welcome Emma Kathryn into their family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Rhonda Knochel.

Tom and Sharyn Hine welcome their third child, Caleb Thomas, into their home. Siblings are Forrest and Daphne and grandparents are Tom and Anita (Ruegsegger) Hine.

Sis. Sharon Schlatter is also delighting in the birth of her third grandchild. Grey Joseph Schrock was born into the family of Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer Schrock (Detroit, MI). Grey has two sisters, Navy and Merritt.

Those who were hospitalized or suffered from infirmities of the flesh this past month were Clinton Meier, Bro. Wallace Wackerle, Bro. Erwin Wieland, Bro. Gerald Wieland, Sis. Irma Bragiel, Sis. Esther Waibel, Sis. Loretta Mosher and Millie Wackerle. We pray that each one would experience a full recovery and that the Lord would continue to provide for them.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary, Detroit, MI), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN). We would like to thank each of these brothers for their willingness to be used in the service of the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel as their son, Bro. Jeff's (Leo, IN) engagement was announced to Sis. Margo Stettner (Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN).

At our recent business meeting,

several positions were filled. We want to thank the brothers and sisters who have completed their terms and pray for those who will be replacing them. They are: Bro. Darrell Steffen (Treasurer), Bro. Gene Meylan (Trustee) and Sis. Nancy Ruegsegger (Cook). We also pray for Bro. Rod Wieland (Secretary) and Bro. Dan Kaisner (Sunday School Superintendent) as their terms were renewed.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Sarah Beard
Holly Barton**

Our congregation's first baby of the year, Grey Joseph Schrock, arrived on January 8. The first boy in the family is welcomed by parents, Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer Schrock, sisters, Navy and Merritt, and grandparents, Sis. Sharon Schlatter (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock (Washington, IL). We wish God's blessings on all!

We appreciated having two visiting ministers this month: Bros. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). Bro. Doug was here for our monthly Woodhaven service.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this month. May God's blessing continue to be on them and their family!

As 2003 unfolds, may the following prayer be on our hearts:

Lord, grant to me a quiet mind,
That, trusting Thee – for Thou art
kind –
I may go on without a fear,
For Thou, my Lord, art always
near.

—author unknown

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Cheryl Messner Katie Messner

Speak the gospel of salvation,
Boldly in the wilderness!
In the Saviour's blood there's heal-
ing,
Grace and pardon He's revealing
To the sinner in distress.
Speak the gospel of salvation
Boldly in the wilderness!
Zion's Harp #112

How thankful we are that we have those dear brothers that stand before us and preach the true gospel. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) were here during Christmas. Then, in January we were very blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) here to help in the reading of the Memorandum. Also, we were very thankful to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) to help with the proving and baptisms of our dear friend, Tony Ascherman (Sis. Peggy). We pray that God will richly bless them for their labors.

The engagement of Bro. Matt Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) to Sis. Katie Messner (Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce) was announced. We trust that they will continue to seek out God's will for their lives.

Those who have been hospitalized this month have been Sis. Shawn Schmidgall (Bro. Paul), Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Bro. Wallis) and Cathy Joos (Jerry). We pray that God will provide for them all.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

The congregation was blessed by the children's efforts at the annual Christmas Program – they were full of zeal to share the story of Christ!

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) was here on Christmas Eve to share the message of Christ's birth with us. We are thankful for Bro. Ron's willingness to be used in the work of God's kingdom.

Our prayers and support are with Bro. Nick Schmidt as he takes a position as one of our song leaders.

McKenzie, EmmaJo, and Madelyn are excited to announce the birth of Evan Herrold James born on December 17. Thankful parents are Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder.

Our hospital patients and outpatients this month were Sis. Sophie Miller, Bro. Bill Messner (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Ernie Dapper (Sis. Marcelle), Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), and Bro. Ed Stoll (Sis. Ginny).

God has truly blessed our small congregation as He has placed another family in our midst. We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner and their children, Heather, Emily, Lena, Noah, Claire and Benji. The Steiners have come to Winthrop from the Tremont, IL, area.

Notes of Thanks:

To each and every one who remembered us with cards, prayers, and a very special "Precious Moments" gift in the death of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. It is very

much appreciated. God bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Sis. Geri, Bro. Marvin Messner
Sis. Kim, Bro. Todd, and
Heather Moser

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us with prayers, phone calls, cards, and gifts when Ed's father passed away. May God richly bless each of you.

Love in Him,
Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll
Victoria, Trey, Stephanie, Michael, Thomas and David

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti

Our congregation enjoyed our many visitors this past month. We especially appreciate Bro. James Koehl's (San Diego, CA) willingness to serve us in the ministry.

Fred Marti and Sis. Carol Marti are thankful for the safe arrival of two grandbabies. Cooper Jay was born on December 21 to Andy and Misty Marti. Delaney Ann was born on January 9 to Jon and JoAnn Wentland and big sister, Caitlin. Great-grandparents from our congregation are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker. Great-great-grandmother is Sis. Anna Marti.

Reminder: March is the month the Lamar congregation collects for the Silver Lining.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Betsy Schrenk

Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) so generously brought God's Word to us in December. Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) shared the pulpit the first weekend of the New Year. We thank them and our other visitors. God has blessed us with a wonderful fellowship. Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona Grimm were among our visitors, and we have to get used to having Bro. Roy stay seated among the congregation now. They have shown us so much love through our years here, back when we assembled in a motel, and then were so encouraging during the construction of our present building. Our love and esteem for them continues. We hope they can enjoy their retirement.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Susan Haerr

We are thankful for four converts who feel they are at peace and are planning for testimonies and baptisms: Lindsey Yackley, Heidi Heimer, Jenae Sutter, and Josh Sutter. They continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

We held our annual business meeting on January 8 and, as always, are so thankful for the way God provides for us and through us.

Our visiting ministers in the last month were Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We are thankful for their services here, blessing us by sharing the Word. God bless them and their families. Hospital/medi-

cal patients in the last month include Nikki Haerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally), Bro. James Sutter (Sis. Lois), and Bro. Brad Gehring (Sis. Ellen). May God bless and heal them. It's a comfort to know, especially when things seem uncertain, that He is always in control.

We don't know what 2003 will bring, but we hope that some of the blessings will include you and your families traveling our way!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have our Sunday School children present their Christmas program on December 22. Following the program, we gathered in the church basement for refreshments and fellowship. We then spent the evening singing Christmas carols to those at Steeple View, Karcher Estates, and East Road Adult Home. We are thankful for each one of our Sunday School children and pray that the seeds that are planted so young in life may take root and grow in later years.

On New Year's Eve we gathered at church for a potluck dinner followed by a singing in the church basement. What a wonderful way to finish out the year and then be able to look forward to the blessings the Lord has in store for us in the year ahead.

Our prayers are with the family of Donna Johnson (Stewart) as she was taken out of this life on January 7. We also extend sympathy to the family of Urban Karcher who passed away on January 14. Urban is survived by his wife, Sis. Julia, and daughter, Peggy

Nuspliger. We pray for the Lord's comfort to descend from above to be with each one affected by the loss of these loved ones.

We are thankful for another dear soul answering the call of repentance. Laura Virkler, daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler, has begun upon the pathway that the Lord has set out for her, and we pray that He will grant her much grace and strength in the days ahead. How rewarding it is for our congregation to see those in the younger and older years of life working out their soul's salvation.

Thou, Jesus, canst alone deliver
me from sorrow.

The strength to overcome from
Thy strong hands I borrow.

The longings of my heart will
bring me naught but pain,

Unless the grace to live anew from
Thee I gain.

Have mercy then, O Lord! Before
Thy feet I'm bowing,
Let into my weak heart the stream
of grace be flowing.

I pray I'll leave Thee not, until
Thy blessing's power,
Can conquer death in me, and
bring life's blessed shower.

Zion's Harp #45 vs. 4-5

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Three of our brothers were in the work project in Haiti recently. We are thankful they could help in Haiti, and are glad they are home safely.

Valentine's Day was the birth date for Sis. Esther Grossenbacher. This year it is four score years for Sis. Esther, as she was born on Valentine's Day in 1923.

Two couples will be having a 40th anniversary in March. Bro. Art and Sis. Audrey Graf will be having their 40th anniversary on March 10, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder's 40th is March 16.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

Our congregation gathered on the evening of January 18 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was present to help our Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) with this work. We appreciate so much the efforts of our dear Elder brothers and hope they can feel our prayerful support. We were grateful to have Bro. Ron with us the following day to minister to us and were also blessed to have Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) as a visiting minister this month.

Our annual business meeting was held January 19 and the following positions were filled: Trustee - Bro. John Grimm; Usher - Bro. Bill Sauder; Sunday School Teacher - Sis. Wendy Miller; Sunday School Teacher substitutes - Bro. Bill Sauder and Sis. Nancy Banks; Gateway Woods representative - Bro. Larry Banks; and Kitchen Committee - Sis. Becky Sauder and Sis. Nancy Banks. We appreciate the efforts of those brothers and sisters who have so willingly served in this last year and pray for those in their newly-elected positions for the coming year.

Many busy hands were working on World Relief night as the health kits enter into their final stage of completion. Several college students were present to help us with

the task at hand.

We would like to welcome Rick Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie, Mansfield) to the Columbus area as he begins new employment.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) with us on a recent Sunday. It was a blessing to have you, Bro. Larry, and trust God will bless you for your labors.

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

Luke 15:7

Henry Manz (Bro. Roger and Lisa) has caused joy in Heaven as he has recently begun his repentance. Christa Font has also recently started repenting. It is our prayer that these two precious souls dig deep and build a firm foundation in the Lord.

We are thankful that Natalie Schlatter (Bro. Corbin and Sis. Audrey) had a speedy recovery after a recent fall. We pray the same speedy recovery for Sis. Connie Manz (Bro. Don).

January 5 was the day that Bro. Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Cheree Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) of Nashville, TN, became one in the Lord. We welcome Sis. Cheree into our congregation and pray that God will continue to lead, guide and direct this young couple. We were thankful for the many visitors that made the effort to be with us on this weekend. Among them were ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Paul Eisenmann

(Burlington, IA), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), and Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN). Many thanks for those who labored on our behalf.

On January 12, we enjoyed the wedding of Bro. Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) of Rittman, OH, and Sis. Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen). We will miss having Sis. Cindy in Junction, but know she will feel at home in Rittman. It was a blessing to have many visitors who included Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We thank each one and hope you will visit us again as the Lord would open the way.

The beginning of the New Year brought a change in church offices for our congregation. We offer our prayers and support to those who begin their work: Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy), Trustee; Bro. Doug Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila), Usher; Sis. Cheryl Schlatter (Bro. Ed), Kitchen Committee; Sis. Vera Manz (Bro. Russell), World Relief Committee; Bro. Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen), Cemetery Clerk; and Bro. Les Manz (Sis. Karen), Secretary/Treasurer. We appreciate the work of those who have completed their terms and trust God will bless them.

OHIO, LATTY

Kathy Sinn

Bonny Wenninger

Once again this year we enjoyed the singing and recitations by our Sunday School children during the Christmas program. We trust

the verses and songs will remain in their hearts and serve as a call to repentance to serve the Babe of Bethlehem. We also need to thank those who gave of their time enabling the program to be carried out in good order.

The families of two sisters suffered loss during the month. Sis. June Rager's sister, Dorothy Wood, passed away. We are thankful for Sis. June's safety during the accident. Sis. Sheila Sinn (Bro. Bob) also laid to rest her grandmother, Alta Franklin. We remember each of these families and trust that the Lord will comfort in the time of loss.

We rejoice with Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) as she has been announced as having peace with God and man. We look forward to her evening of testimony and continue to pray for God's nearness and guidance in her life.

Ministering Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) gathered with his family during the Christmas season. We welcome him back "home" and to our pulpit as he ministers the Word of God. Bro. Greg Steiglitz (Indianapolis, IN) also served our congregation from the pulpit during the month.

December 28 was the wedding day of Johanna Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn) and Brandon Pardon (Allen and Katherine). We pray for God's presence to guide them in their married life.

Several brethren are in need of our prayers as they recover from surgery. They include: Bro. Ken Laukhuf (Sis. Marge), Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy). We look forward to seeing them gather with

us in church again. Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken) has improved and now is able to live at home. We are so thankful for her.

The mother of Tom Evans (Bonnie) passed from this life into eternal life during the month. Our prayer is that God will be ever near during this time of loss.

Our congregation began the 2003 year by gathering for our New Year's service on January 1. How comforting is it to realize that God's grace and power will not diminish and His Word will not change during the coming year. Our annual business meeting followed the worship service. Elder Bro. Ray accounted for the following changes in our congregation during the past year. We had 3 deaths, 13 births, 13 weddings, 4 baptisms, and have 17 converts. May God continue to strengthen and encourage all who experienced changes in their family circle. After reports were given by several offices, we turned in our ballots for positions which were open. The results of the voting were announced the following Sunday. They include: Bro. Greg Greutman (Sis. Kristy) for Sunday School, Sis. Wendy Baumle (Pat) and Sis. Kathy Sinn (Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee) for Sunday School, Bro. Eric Rager (Sis. Sherry) for Church trustee, Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel) for Fellowship Hall Trustee, Sis. Becky Schlatter (Bro. Tim) for Kitchen Committee, Bro. Lee Klopfenstein (Sis. Desma) for Christian Country Villa Board, and Bro. Donn Steffen (Sis. Karen) for Gateway Woods Representative.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

John and Marci Pfeiffer

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Elisabeth Betsch and Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank). May God heal and comfort our loved ones who suffer sickness according to His will.

After seeking the Lord in repentance, Denise Sauder (Bruce) has been relieved of the burden of sin. We are very glad she has found peace from our Father in Heaven. We look forward to hearing her testimony.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Webel were pleased to welcome their fourth child on January 4. Hallie, Leanna, and Dominic are excited to have a baby sister! Her name is Victoria Rose. Her grandparents are Jim and Jane Somers and Bro. Pete and Sis. Linda Webel.

On December 29, we were blessed with another son named Aaron John. Isaac loves his little brother! Aaron's grandparents are Bro. Michael and Sis. Norene Miller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer.

We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for humbly sharing God's Word to us. We also appreciated the visits of brethren from Rittman and Smithville, OH, during the month of January.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Delores Hill (Bro. Mick), whose mother, Julie Stammler (Windsor, Ontario, Canada), went to her eternal rest. May God comfort her and her family.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Anna Schar Sandy Zollinger

Once again it is good to be winding down from the busy holiday

season. On December 22, we had our annual Christmas program. It is always a joy to see children of all ages raise their voices in song in honor of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Along with the holidays come visitors (for which we are grateful) and we would like to thank the following ministers who preached the Word so willingly: Elder Bro. Ray Sinn and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). May God bless their efforts.

We rejoice with Sis. Nancy Bauman as her daughter, Julie (Randy) Call, is turning her life over to the Lord.

There are several newborn babies to announce this month. Bro. Marc and Sis. Jody Beer (Milford, IN) are first-time parents. Justin Alan was born November 19, 2002. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer (Milford, IN).

Also, first-time parents are Michael and Molly Maag. Nolan Waltman was born November 29, 2002. Grandparents are Robert and Sis. Martha Maag and Dean and Alice Waltman.

Michael and Marietta Marquart welcome Marie Ange, who was born January 2. Grandparents are Walter and Betty Marquart.

Bro. John and Sis. Marci Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH) add another little boy to their home. Aaron John was born December 29, 2002. I'm sure big brother, Isaac,

will love having a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen Miller and Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH).

Madelyn Rose, born December 26, 2002, joins the Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic family. She is welcomed by Molly, Megan, Adam and grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY).

December 28, 2002 marked the wedding of Janice Blough (Sis. Lucille) and Jason Simmons (Judy and Allen Simmons).

In Junction on January 12, Bro. Chad Indermuhle (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Cindy Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) were united in Holy Matrimony. May these couples seek the help of the Lord for the years to come.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul: for I have sinned against thee."

Psalm 41:4

Prayers were answered as another soul has turned against sin and to repentance. Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) is seeking the Lord's grace to find peace with God and man and to be baptized in His name. May the Lord bless Jami during her time of restitution and penitence.

"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."

Nehemiah 1:4

Sympathy thoughts and prayers go out to Raymond Headley (Sis. Ruth) and family due to the loss of his sister-in-law. May the Lord comfort them during their time of sorrow.

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord."

Psalm 135:1

Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) found in his heart to visit and minister the Holy Word to our congregation. Thankfulness and appreciation are extended to Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie whenever they come to spend time with family that lives in this area and stay for Sunday services. May the Lord bless them abundantly.

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Job 38:22

When I arose this morning and looked outside, I found a fresh blanket of snow on the ground. The whiteness of the snow can make everything look cleaner and prettier. Our precious faith should be protected with the whiteness of the Lord Jesus so that we are clean from sin. May the Lord be merciful and forgiving for the weak and make us stronger to serve Him always.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Carrie Stoller Ruth Gasser

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.

Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here every burden bear;
And enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joy to share.

Zion's Harp #37

Our loved ones have experienced joys and trials again this past month. We are thankful for the Word of truth brought to us by God's servants, and for the labors of ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL).

Three couples are rejoicing over the birth of a child, a new change entrusted by the Heavenly Father. First time parents Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara Stoller received Hayden Thomas as their gift on December 24. Hayden's grandparents are Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman. Adrian Matthew was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy Dotterer on December 30 and, after a hospital stay, was welcomed home by Haley, Erika, and Austin. Adrian's grandparents are Keith Dotterer and Sis. Linda Dotterer and Bro. Dale and Sis. Carolyn Hartzler. Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier happily received another grandchild, Lauren Elizabeth, born on January 9 to Matthew and Carla Beaumont. We wish each of these parents the strength and wisdom to teach and guide their little ones

in the ways of the Lord.

We are encouraged as a church to witness rebirths as well. We are thankful that Becky Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) has felt the Lord's call and is seeking His will in repentance. May she feel God's grace as she takes this important step.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine) and family, who recently lost a brother, Roy. May the Lord be their Comforter and help us all realize how quickly life passes.

It's good to see Bro. Mark Maibach (Sis. Julie) back in church after a brief hospital stay.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting
Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving,
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training,
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

With the dawning of a new year, let us look to our Lord for guidance in all that we say and do. May our hearts be willing to be of service for

Him.

We appreciate the willingness of Bros. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) to minister to us in this past month. May the Lord bless them for their service.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Louisa Gallup

Greetings to all. At the beginning of yet another year, we trust the Lord will guide us through, no matter what might happen in the world around us.

We have no news from this past month to share with you. However, as always, we do want the visiting ministering brethren and their families, as well as any other visitors who came to Portland, to know they are very much appreciated. We thank Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) from Silverton, OR. Your support and willingness to serve is a true blessing to us. May the Lord bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Kuenzi

Joys are flowing like a river,
Since the Comforter has come;
He abides with us forever,
Makes the trusting heart His
home.

Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea,
He speaks peace to me,
How the billows cease to roll!

Tabernacle Hymns #169

This month we are rejoicing with five converts who have found that precious gift of peace with

God. They are: Rick and Miriam Hoach, Paul and Marie Jensen and Ryan Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann). They are in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for their testimonies and baptisms. A baptism date has been set for March 1-2 for Rick, Miriam and Ryan. We are expecting Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) to be here for the weekend to assist Elder Bro. Art (Sis. Betty) in the duties. April 5-6 will be the baptism weekend for Paul and Marie, and we are anticipating having Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) here for the weekend.

We also are rejoicing with Travis Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene) and Tammy Wulf from Lester, IA (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) as they announced their engagement. They are planning a wedding on June 28 in Lester, IA. Our prayers are with them that they may feel God's guidance as they join their lives. We look forward to welcoming Tammy into our congregation.

This month, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi welcomed a new son into their hearts and home. Jerome Paul was born on January 8. Also welcoming him are Nicole, Lorraine, Logan, Janelle, Leanne, and Byron. Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Chuck and Connie Mueller (Forrest, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and family in the loss of their father and grandfather, John Kaeb, from Forrest, IL. Surviving him is his wife, Adeline. May the God of comfort ever be near each of them.

Over Christmas time we were

blessed to have many visitors and family. We were thankful to have with us Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). May the Lord bless them for their labors to bring the Word to us in its truth and simplicity.

Special note: February is Silver Lining month for Silverton. You may put your donations in the box marked at church for the Silver Lining. This would also be a good time to talk to your correspondent if your address has changed, if you know of anyone who would like to receive the Silver Lining, or if you have any questions.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we were blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of our dear Sis. Lauren Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle). We were also pleased to have many visitors – family and friends from nearby and from several different states. It warms our hearts to see so many people come into God's house, especially at such a wonderful occasion as the baptism into His fold of one of His children. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) who was with us this weekend to assist with this work.

We also welcome Sis. Krista Banwart to our congregation. She moves here from Arizona to work and study for six months. We look forward to sharing Christian friendship and fellowship with her during her stay.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

On January 5, we were blessed that much of the Nashville congregation was able to attend church in Junction, OH, and share with us in witnessing the wedding of our daughter, Sis. Cheree Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica) and Bro. Larry Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen, Junction). We rejoice with them as they take this blessed step of faith in their lives. While we welcome Bro. Larry to our family, we will definitely miss Sis. Cheree in our home and our church.

We have been greatly encouraged by the Word brought to us by our visiting ministers: Bros. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) and Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends from Wolcott, IN; Congerville, IL; Bern, KS; and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Washington, IL (2/16), Milford, IN (2/23), Bradford, IL (3/2), Cissna Park, IL (3/9), Kansas City, MO (3/16), Alto, MI (3/23), and Bluffton North, IN (3/30). 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

Carrie Beyer

Although we only held services twice over the past month, our church in San Marcos appreciated the many visitors who made an effort to travel to central Texas. We especially wish to thank Bros. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Leland Plattner (Zapata), and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego) for serving as ministers those two Sundays. Other visitors traveled from Francesville, Forrest, La-Crosse, Eureka, Sabetha, and Morris.

During March, our congregation expects to have visiting ministers from the following churches: Philadelphia (3-2), Bluffton (3-9), Morton (3-16), Bern (3-23), and Tremont (3-30). We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. Please see the ministers' book for contact information.

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. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southwest side access road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Joyce Nohl

*No God
 No Peace*

*Know God
 Know Peace*

Isn't this so true? Before I knew God I would seek peace from other sources but it could not be found. When I repented and turned to God, peace came flowing into my heart. Words cannot describe the peace felt when one is right with God.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). May God bless Bro. Kevin for visiting and sharing God's Living Word with us. We appreciate each ministering brother who visits us and ministers to us.

We are always happy to have Bro. Thomas Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL) with us. We appreciate Bro. Thomas for sharing God's Word with us for the time he and Sis. Joan reside in Zapata.

We had worship services in the Valley on January 12. Bro. Thomas and Sis. Joan Schrenk came to the Valley from Zapata and Bro. Thomas had the services. May God richly bless Bro. Thomas and Sis. Joan for their efforts on our behalf. We met several for the first time and enjoyed the fellowship one with another.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 19. Elected were: Church trustee - Bro. Harlan Meyer; Dinner Committee - Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart. May God bless each one as they proceed with their duties. We thank those who have fulfilled their duties: Bro. Marlyn Messner

- Church trustee; Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Leuthold - Dinner committee.

Any winter visitors planning to visit the Valley for Sunday worship may want to contact Bro. Leland Plattner (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl (956) 581-8266 for location and schedule.

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

"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice." (Phil. 4:4). May we all daily rejoice in the goodness of His unfailing love. The past few months have been blessed ones here at the MCCS campus in Rio Bravo. We thank the Lord for His goodness and that He has given us the abundant life.

At the end of November we held our annual MCCS "garage sale". Each of the families of our deaf students and our Mexican staff were given \$1500.00 of MCCS play money in order to "purchase" clothing for their families. Each family left with four or five garbage bags full of clothes and very thankful hearts. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of our team members that brought or left clothing to make this event possible.

In December we finished our third semester of holding classes on campus and closed out the year with a beautiful Christmas party for our students, staff and their families. The children presented "Noche de Paz" (Silent Night) in sign language and the tears flowed as we watched these precious deaf children share with others the true meaning of Christmas. They then presented a reenactment of the Christmas story in sign language. It truly was a special site.

The holidays came and went

and we are now looking forward to the many blessings that we know God has in store for us in 2003. The year got off to a good start as all of us MCCS missionaries were blessed with a special trip to Peoria and Washington, IL, to partake in a Rio Bravo reunion. We had a wonderful time as we were reunited with the many team members that have participated in the various work teams that have come to Rio Bravo.

We were received with open arms and are so thankful for the love and hospitality that was extended to us. On behalf of all of the MCCS staff, I would like to sincerely thank all of the special people that worked hard to make the weekend event a possibility and a special thanks to Washington church for hosting all of us. May the Lord bless you each and every one for your generous hospitality and kindness.

The spring semester began January 9 and the children continue to advance daily. We ask that each of you continue to lift them up in prayer so that they may gain an understanding of sign language and come to know Jesus as their Saviour and their Lord. That is our prayer for each and every one.

We pray that you have a blessed year and that the Lord's mercies may be real to you each day. Thank you for your support and prayers and we pray that some day you may be able to experience a work team trip to Rio Bravo. The 2003 teams are scheduled as follows: March 15-22, March 22-29, June 14-21, June 28-July 5, July 5-12. For more information, see the Mexico Work Teams schedule listed in the Silver Lining.

Sermon continued from page 2

into fruit and the fruit of repentance. How important it is that as the stewards, God has blessed us with so much. He has blessed us with so much spiritually, that for us not to go out and share that would really be tragic.

“For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.” I Thessalonians 2:5-7. We have to be that way when we go out in the world. We do not want to ‘be in your face’, obnoxious, anything like that. We want to speak everything that we speak with salt and grace and love. Every word that we speak should be spoken completely encapsulated in love. If we do that, people notice the difference between our speech and the speech of another. Sooner or later they start paying attention. Even when we may think that we are having no effect around us, wherever God has placed us, we really don’t know. You may be touching an awful lot of souls that you don’t even realize it, if we are being true to Him and if we are being loving with those around us.

“...we were willing to have

imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.” I Thessalonians 2:8. As the body of Christ, I sometimes wonder if we really share deeply enough with one another. I often wonder, if we cannot share our burdens one with another, then what we are really doing is shortchanging the power of God, in that there could be many others praying for a specific need. And there is such great power in prayer. If we can just come one to another and unburden ourselves, and you know what? We are so hesitant to do that sometimes. Each and every one of us, we don’t want to be a burden. The Word tells us that there are many burdens that are never meant to be borne alone, but they are to be shared with others. Not only with our Lord but with one another, other believers.

On the other side of that, if somebody does come and share a burden with you, they are sharing that burden with you. It does not need to go any farther than the two of you at that point. We have to be discreet and discerning.

“For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved our-

selves among you that believe:” I Thessalonians 2:9,10. Paul was making a point there. But here again, I believe that each and every one of us in the body of Christ should seek to rise up and live holy and irreproachable, unblameable lives. We cannot do it of our own power, but through the power of God, we can do that. We can live as overcomers. We have been freed from the bondage of sin. Not that we won’t be tempted and not that we won’t stumble sometimes and make mistakes. But God has given us the tools. If we can trust in Him, tap into the power of God, then we can rise above our sinful nature. What we have to do is be able to trust only in His ability to keep us clean in this life.

Today, I went out to work construction for the first time since I injured my foot. I was pretty pleased with myself; I thought I had found a really good way to keep this cast clean. I had tied up a pillowslip around it thinking this will keep all the dirt out. At noon I checked it. My shoes and my socks never get anywhere near as dirty as this thing was. Somehow the pillowslip let all the dirt and the dust and the sand in and just completely saturated this cast.

I had to think, isn’t that so like each one of us if we try to go through this life trying to keep our garments clean under our own power and leaning on our own ability or understanding.

We slip and fall into that self-reliance. That is just so sad. I am sure it makes our Father very sad when He sees our attitudes ever get that way. He has to give us a little reminder here and there and remind us just how weak and fallible we really are when we get to relying on our own ideas. It was humorous and yet it drove home to me, really, a good example of just how impossible it is for us to go through this life of our own power or leaning on our own understanding as Proverbs says. (Proverbs 3:5) But rather that we would be trusting in Him and letting the leading of the Holy Spirit carry us through. That we would not ever get too far ahead or too far behind but that we would walk step in step with the Holy Spirit.

“As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” I Thessalonians 2:11,12. Here again, I think if anyone of us reads this verse, we have to look inside ourselves and say, worthy of God and His kingdom and glory - worthy is almost like saying deserving of. None of us really deserves it. Yet by His grace and His kind and gentle mercy and His longsuffering and patience with us, He continues to work with us. Just as a piece of clay. He is still pruning

a little here and there. We thank Him for that.

We realize that really the only way we will ever walk worthy of God is not through our own righteousness or our own deeds or doings, but only when we put on that righteousness of Christ. When we take and put on the robe of His shed blood and allow it to completely cleanse us and wash us. We have to keep going back day by day. We have to keep the garment unspotted. We have to walk carefully and prayerfully, leaning wholly on Him. We have to always remember that it is Him who gives us the power to walk even one hour or one day as an over comer, not our own, nothing that we can do or say or think.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” I Thessalonians 2:13. Aren't we thankful that we can come to church and know that we will hear the word of God? We thank God for that without ceasing. And as we receive it, it is not the word of man, but through the Holy Spirit it is the Word of God. We know it is the living Word. Each one of us receives what we need from it.

“For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God

which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:” I Thessalonians 2:14. When we stop and think how little we suffer for the cause of Jesus Christ and to further the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, how little we really suffer for it. The worst that we suffer, sometimes a little ridicule, perhaps a little embarrassment and just think of how so many even today of our brethren suffer right down to the giving of their lives for this cause of Jesus. We really have so much to be thankful for in this country, that we do not suffer this persecution where we have to watch terrible things done to our families and our loved ones.

The religious leaders of that day were “Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost. But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.” Thessalonians 2:16,17. When we give our greetings here in our congregations, I have to often think how it would have been in this day, when they traveled by mule and camel, and walking. How for long periods of time there would be no communication. Nowadays we can email, phone,

fax, mail. So many ways that we can communicate. Just think how it would be when they would not see their loved ones for years and then they would give greetings and salutations one to another when they would gather together and worship. I think sometimes maybe we take our greetings too lightly. Even though we can travel modern day and we do see one another, usually after just a period of months, yet it is so wonderful as we gather together after a season of being apart. It just makes us so appreciative of being able to be together in presence and in heart and see one another's faces and share one with another. One of

the blessings that the Lord gives us that we probably take too much for granted.

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy." I Thessalonians 2:19,20. We as believers, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are so thankful that day in and day out He walks with us and intercedes on our behalf. He is constantly interceding for you and I, on the right hand of the Father. And He gives us the Holy Spirit to walk with us and to talk with us and to lead us, encourage us and strengthen us. That is our hope and our joy and

our rejoicing. We are in the presence of our Lord Jesus day by day. Yet one day it will be where we will actually see Him face to face and see the hands that took the nails for you and I. That day will come where we will worship Him face to face, rather than now as we do from heart to heart. May we each one be carrying what we have been given, the spiritual blessings especially, with us. Redeeming the time as we sang. Making use of every moment to share the good that God has given us. To share the hope and the joy and the rejoicing that we have, with others around us.



Mark your calendar to attend:

**Tennessee Fellowship Singing (and Auction)
Memorial Day Weekend 2003
May 24-25, 2003**

(Singing and Auction located at the Apostolic Christian Tennessee Fellowship Area in Southern Tennessee, Sunday Worship Services in Athens, AL)

*More details to follow in subsequent issues of
the Silver Lining and in your local congregation.*

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002, 2003

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
SEED	Mar. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	Mar. 28-Apr. 5, '03	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11
AWA-FRW	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	May 5-23, '03	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9
JAMAICA					
CCCD	Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	70

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gberman@juno.com
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	941-485-4302	same as phone number	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
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mlreinhard@msn.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffi.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

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.

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of
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Bible Story Books,
Hymns of Zion,
Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn
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TRIBUTE THEM.**

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ter.

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Jerry and Arlene Banwart
307 First St
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

*Counseling for depression, anxi-
ety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
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USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

*"My son, keep my words, and
lay up my commandments with
thee.*

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

Proverbs 7:1-2



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

At the recent elder conference, the
elder body approved a request for a na-
tional World Relief Office. The staff at
the office will perform the following
duties:

- 1) Perform administrative duties for World Relief.
- 2) Answer questions concerning World Relief and work teams.
- 3) Warehouse and ship World Relief brochures, forms, and literature.
- 4) Provide information and vision of World Relief to visitors.

Everyone is welcome to contact this
office if they have World Relief related
questions or needs. The office is lo-
cated in the lower floor of the
Remington Fellowship Hall.

Contact Information:
Administrative Coordinator
Stan Virkler

Apostolic Christian World Relief
16448 S US Highway 231
Remington, IN 47977-8822
219-261-3200 (phone)
219-261-3280 (fax)
information@acwr.org (e-mail)

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

There is an immediate need for installers for floor tile, kitchen cabinetry, and bathroom components. Finish carpenters are also needed. Please contact: Bro. Arnold Gerst, 1107 Madonna Dr., Quincy, IL 62305-7149, phone 217-223-8424, or via e-mail: agerst@rnet.com.

Mexico Work Teams 2003

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer kurt@stevesconstruction.com	260-824-2829
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler ryergler@yahoo.com	260-824-4513
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Ron Kellenberger kberger@mtco.com	309-383-2325
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Agua Prieta	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Denis Fry dfry@adamswells.com	480-460-4531
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Pete Aberle dpabfrms@hotmail.com	309-925-5969
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb gal220@jvl.net	815-962-0612
Rio Bravo	Jun. 28 - July 5, '03	Construction	Joe Maller jmaller@adamswells.com	260-565-3211
Rio Bravo	July 5 - July 12, '03	Construction	Timothy Lehman timothy.lehman@ey.com	913-236-5721
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com



In re-establishing a new church based solely on the Word of God, Bro. Samuel Froehlich wrote many petitions, both to the state and to the hearts of men. In 1856, a year before his death, Bro. Froehlich was invited to a general conference of Baptist preachers in Germany, France and Switzerland in an attempt to unite all the various congregations. He declined and wrote a lengthy manuscript to the Conference. Below is Reugger's account in "History of the Apostolic Christian Church, Volume I".

"First and foremost, I have a poor opinion of such conferences, as to their good and result, at least as to what concerns the truth and the kingdom of God, by trying to substitute for the truth, that is lacking human opinion and learning, to the great harm of the truth and the church of God. For as truth is only one, so the true church also is only one and this unity is not first determined and mediated through conferences. Here the words of the high priestly prayer of our Lord (John 17:21) do not apply, for Jesus did not pray the Father that many already existing congregations, each resting on its own foundation, might be made one, as no other foundation can be laid under the already existing congregation than that which it has.

But that is the prayer of the Son

of God, that all who are converted to Him and through the word of the apostles believe in Him, are completely one, even as He and the Father are one. This unity, accordingly is given and exists through the true faith, by virtue of Jesus' prayer, and can and should not first be striven after, between different already existing and for themselves established congregations, through conferences and all sorts of human efforts.

The proposed union is impossible on the basis of the Word of God. For the very reason that the divine Word is not the foundation of the individual congregations, otherwise it would not first have to be fabricated. If a congregation rests on the foundation of truth, it will not afterwards confer with other congregations, else it would have to mix the truth with strange additions and errors, and what is worse, no congregation resting on error is inclined to depart from its false foundation. How can there be a union therefore on the basis of truth?

I maintain that every congregation which teaches and believes that also the man in Christ is a sinner (I John 3:5) like the man in Adam, rests on a false foundation. And if such, in addition, confidently believe that they establish a congregation according to the will and Word of the Lord, I must deny it. No apostle of the Lord

would acknowledge it as such, in as much as they say that the different congregation, regardless of their differing views should work together for the kingdom of God.

In a true congregation of God, one does not permit a differing view to arise. There must be unity and harmony, even in minor points; for it is just in this caprice of views that Satan has his holiday, and the door is opened to error (Phil. 3:15-18; I Cor. 14:33-38; I John 2:22-27; II John 10; Tit. 3:10-11). Separation is better than union of dissimilar elements.

In the end we would have to unite with those congregations which have received those who have gone out from us or were excluded by us; this proves sufficiently that we do not belong to one congregation; for the one congregation of Jesus Christ does not have different doors, but only one. Generally, differing congregations cannot become one in Christ. For the many local congregations, in apostolic days, were in fact only one congregation of Christ."

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

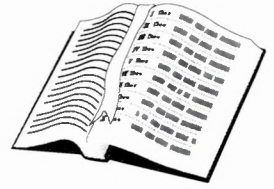
More Froehlich data



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“A Well of Water”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Jesus said to the woman at the well, “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:14). This spiritual well is to have a continuous flow, like a spring in the meadow.

The hymn writer wrote, “Open the wells of grace and salvation. Pour the rich streams deep into my heart.” God has a well that never runs dry.

Proverbs 10:11 reads, “The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life.” This relates to what Jesus said in that, it isn’t only God who has a well but He puts a well within us which springs up like a fountain. No pump is necessary.

Isaiah 12:3 reads, “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.” We should avail ourselves of all the blessings which God has in store for us. We get the picture of a great reservoir from which we

can draw freely. Jesus says in Matthew 10:8, “Freely ye have received, freely give.”

The Bible teaches that we can drink freely from God’s well. That’s a very good proposition. However, we are also taught to be a well from which others can drink and be nourished, and not to keep all the blessings to ourselves. Jesus said, “Freely give.”

All of us know how wonderful it is, when we are thirsty, to receive a good drink of water. When crossing the desert, the shortage of water is a problem. We are to be a well of water to others crossing the desert of life and who are in need of love, understanding, encouragement, a listening ear and a helping hand. The world is full of people who need that kind of water. In fact, we all need that kind of water but some of us receive more of it from others because we are in the fellowship of the saints.


We need that kind of water from others but most of all we need the water from God’s well

which springs up into everlasting life.

The words, a well of water, strikes a chord in our hearts of something which meets a great need which we all have. We need someone who has the water of respect, love, patience and forgiveness. We need someone who has warmth, humility, and gentleness. We need someone who doesn’t criticize or condemn us, but someone who explains to us in love where we may be mistaken, in light of the Word of God. We need lots of that kind of water and then maybe we ourselves can become a well of water from which someone else has the opportunity to drink.

We join with the Samaritan woman in saying in John 4:15, “Sir, give me this water that I thirst not.” Then let’s pray that God will make each of us a well of water from which others may drink, someone whom others like to be around.

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Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

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