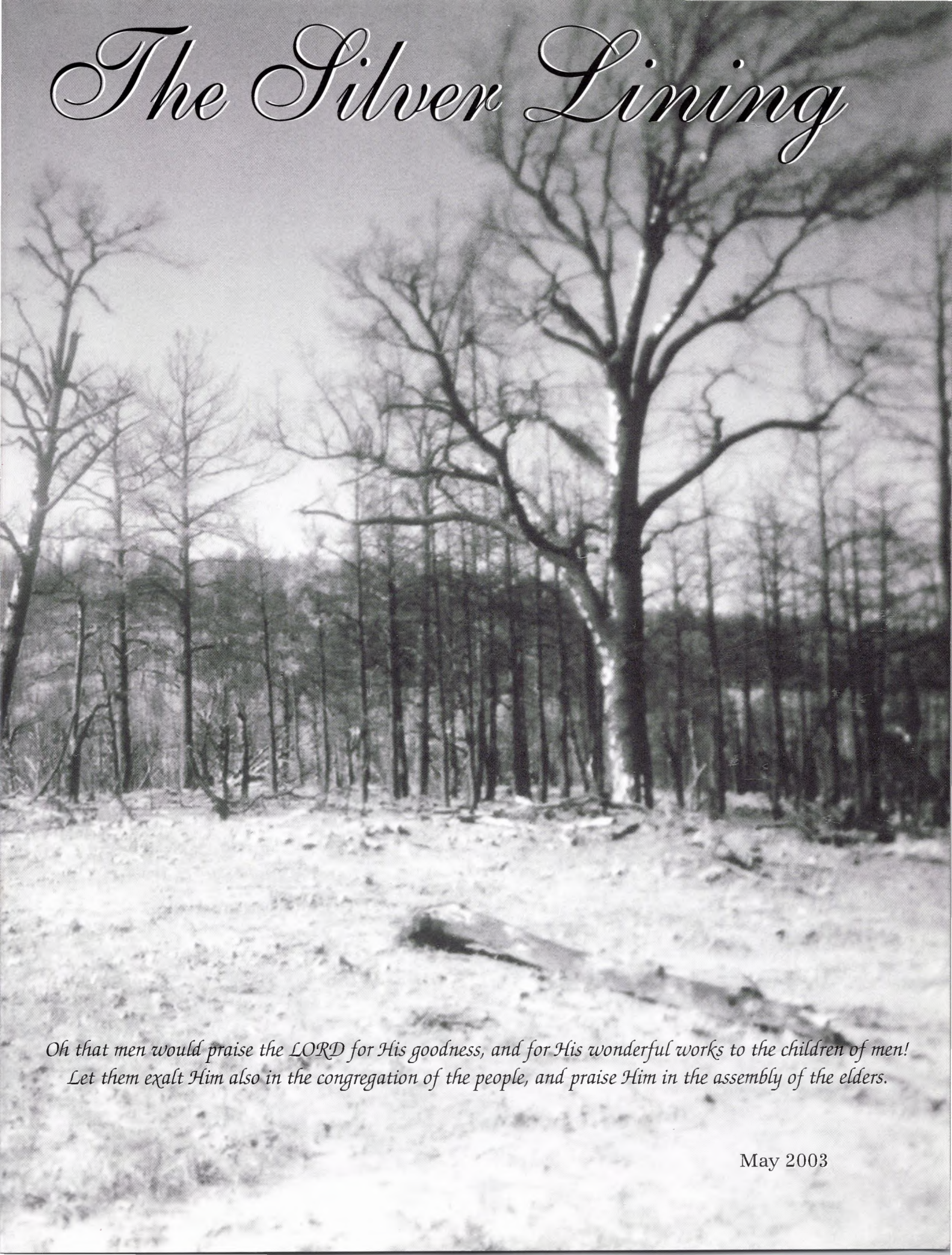


The Silver Lining



*Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!
Let them exalt Him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.*

May 2003

Sermon by Brother Jeff Grimm, Goodfield, IL

Psalm 148 and Ephesians 2

How many times, dear ones, have we read this scripture and have been encouraged by it in our lives? Many, many times. As we read this scripture, we are encouraged to stay on the true way and in the faith, in love for one another. And build upon what Christ has given us - where He died on the cross and shed His blood. The atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

We think of His life. There are many, many aspects of His life that we think of when we read this scripture. Of Jesus here on this earth and how He was a servant to all. How he came into this life, came into this world humbly there in a manger. In a place that none of us would even think of having a child. He came there and He served.

Even as a young man, in the temple when He went there, He said, "...I must be about my Father's business." St. Luke 2:49. He had no time for messing around in the things of this world, did He? He was serving His Lord. He was serving His Father in heaven and that is the example that He gave for you and I.

We have no time for messing around in this world, do we, brothers and sisters and friends? We don't even have the desire for it, or we shouldn't have. God will take that desire from our heart, just like Jesus showed us as He lived there. Lived His life and gave an example. Ultimately died on the cross and shed His blood and rose again that we might go free and have the hope of eternal life and be able to serve Him with all our mind, our heart and our soul.

We can be so thankful and we can praise our God, that He would do such a thing for you and I, individually. Think of it, in this life, what a wonderful blessing and what a wonderful privilege it is to be able to call ourselves brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ! There is no other higher standing in this life. There is nothing more to attain to. There is nothing more to achieve than to be a brother or a sister to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. There is nothing better than that.

We don't say that with pride. We say it with humility because we don't feel worthy to be a brother or sister with Jesus Christ, do we? Oh, He should be much more than that. And He is. He died there on the cross and shed His blood.

We have many examples that He had.

I think of Him when He turned the water into wine. The many, many blessings. Remember the story? How at those weddings they would use the good wine first and save the lousy wine for last. Obviously, it was because by the time they were drinking the lousy wine, they did not know that it was lousy. That was the reasoning behind it, man's reasoning. Jesus came there as they ran out. They had struggles there. He turned that water into wine and it was the best wine. The guests wondered and questioned. How then is it that you saved the best wine for last? (St. John 2:10)

That is the way it is with Jesus Christ. His wine is pure and it is the best in our life. We need it. We need the life that He led and the examples that He gave us. We need it in our lives as it says here in the word that we read.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1. We were all born sinners. No matter how much sin we had in our life, we were born sinners. It is amazing, isn't it? I remember going to a proving one time. The young lady, I think she was in eighth grade, and they asked her when she found peace. She said I went and confessed to the Elder, I think it was on a Sunday afternoon. That evening she found peace. I just could not hardly understand it when I heard that.

I thought of my own self and the sin that was in my life. I had to go back to many people and make things right. And yet, a vile sinner like that and what I would call this pure, young lady... She wasn't pure, was she? Even though she didn't have the sins in her life that I had had, she still was a born sinner. She recognized that and she knew that she fell short of the cross. She had to go in humility. Just by making that confession to God there, she was able to find peace, because she needed it.

The beautiful part, when you think about it, a lost sinner like myself, maybe it took a lot of time. Maybe there was a lot of things that needed to be taken care of. But in the end, the same result! Think about it. That is what Jesus has given. So He has quickened us, hasn't He, by His grace? We were dead in our trespasses and sins "...And you hath he quickened..." Ephesians 2:1.

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" Ephesians 2:2. So we walked in those ways, didn't we? Some more than others. But one way or the other we were sinners. We walked in those ways. Jesus came and we recognized that sin by coming under the sound of His Word. By reading the Word in our homes, by being taught. Maybe we weren't taught in our homes.

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2003

Self-Examination

There are numerous exhortations in the scriptures that encourage us to examine ourselves. As Jeremiah was lamenting his sins and the sins of God's people, he wrote "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord" (Lam. 3:40). In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasized the importance of self-examination when He told the people to "...first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Mt. 7:5). The Apostle Paul wrote "...let a man examine himself,..." (I Cor. 11:28) and "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith..." (II Cor. 13:5).

What does it mean to examine oneself? To examine means to search or scrutinize with a view to discover truth. Therefore, to examine ourselves requires a thorough searching to discover the truth about ourselves.

What is the purpose of self examination? What value does it bring to a child of God? In the scriptures that were cited above, there appears to be at least four different reasons for self-examination. Although there are differences among the reasons given, all are related.

In the first case Jeremiah recognized that the children of Israel had strayed far from the Lord. In the opening chapters of Lamentations, Jeremiah bewails the sad state of affairs in Jerusalem. He grieves over the afflictions that are placed upon the children of Israel because of their sins. "Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed..." (Lam. 1:8). He confessed his sins and the sins of the people. He ends with a prayer, pleading for God's mercy, recognizing that they have strayed far from the Lord.

The purpose of Jeremiah's examination was to encourage the children of Israel to return to serving the one true God. "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord" (Lam. 3:40). Jeremiah knew that as long as the people did not serve God, their lives would be very difficult. He also knew "The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him" (Lam. 3:25). Therefore, if the people would examine themselves they would find they had

strayed from the Lord and could again receive the blessings of the Lord if they changed their lifestyles.

When Jesus chastised the people who were self-righteous, He instructed them that because of their sins they would not be able to help others who were in need. They must first remove the beam, a large piece of wood, from their eye so they could see clearly to remove the mote, a small particle, out of their brother's eye.

If we want to be spiritually helpful to others, we must first make sure we are spiritually healthy ourselves. To do otherwise would be to have the "...blind lead the blind (and they), both shall fall into the ditch" (Mt. 15:14). The Pharisees believed that they were righteous and had no sin. "Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth" (Jn. 9:41). They refused to receive help, therefore, they were unable to be helpful to others.

Paul explained the importance of self-examination in relation to taking part in the Lord's supper. As we remember the Lord's broken body and His shed blood, we are reminded of the seriousness of making preparation before taking part in communion. Surely children of God would not want to pollute the Lord's body or His blood by partaking with sin in our lives. If we eat or drink unworthily, we eat and drink "...damnation to(ourselves), not discerning the Lord's body" (I Cor. 11:29). Are we unable to tell the difference between the Lord's body or blood and sin? We can make this discernment if we examine ourselves.

Consequently, we have the opportunity to escape the fate of the world if we are willing to complete this self-examination. Who among us would want to be judged and condemned with the world? If we are willing to examine ourselves and be "...chastened of the Lord, ...we should not be condemned with the world" (I Cor. 11:32). By a careful self-examination in the light of God's Word and by then receiving the cleansing chastisement of the Lord, we can be found worthy to participate in Holy Communion. By being

found worthy does not mean we have done so well we have earned the privilege of communion, but we have put our life in line with the Word of God.

The fourth reason for self-examination is to determine whether we have strayed from the narrow path that leads to eternal life. Satan is very cunning. He has many ways that he uses to cause confusion. One of these ways is to get us to gradually change from being in close communion with God to having veered off the path.

It is very difficult for us to recognize when we may be gradually drifting away from God. Small changes may not be noticed for some time. If we continue to drift slowly away from God, and if we have no check points we could eventually go too far. However, if on a regular basis we compare our lives to the Word of God we can easily recognize when we have gone astray. God's Word does not change. God does not change the principles of right and wrong, nor does He change what is required for salvation. Therefore by looking into the unchanging Word of God, we can readily tell if we have moved away from God.

What are the results of effective self-examination? One who is willing to hold his life up to the light of God's Word and is willing to say "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24) will find a blessing in self examination. God does not require more than we can do. He understands the trials Satan brings before us. Therefore, He has provided a method whereby we can remain true to Him and He is willing to help us accomplish it.

Self-examination is not always easy, nor is it always pleasant. However, the results of self-examination are such that, if conducted properly, will have eternal benefits. It can help us get back to the Lord if we have strayed. We can be more useful to God and His people. We can be assured that we are found worthy to take part in Holy Communion and we can detect if we are straying from God's plan for our life while there is still an opportunity to correct it.



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

History of Child Sponsorship

For many years, some brethren and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church have had an interest in helping individual children in poor countries receive a Christian education. For example, Haitian parents often go without food in an attempt to pay for their children's education. The only hope these parents have is for one of their children to be educated so that child can be a help to the family and support the parents in their old age.

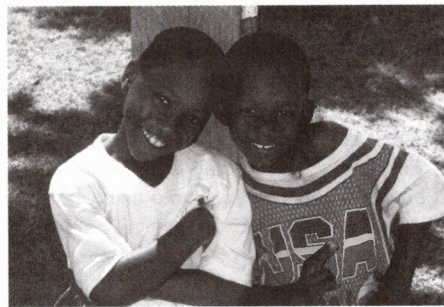
Although we did not have a sponsorship program until 1998, our people provided assistance through the sponsorship programs of World Team, Christian Aid Ministries, and others. As World Relief began sending work teams to Haiti and Jamaica, these team members learned that they could sponsor students through the organizations we worked with.

Organization development

In 1996, Bro. Tim Butikofer, a World Relief Committee member, developed and presented a proposal for a child sponsorship program at the August Committee meeting. The Committee approved the formation of a board to investigate this exciting opportunity. By January 1997, three Morton couples joined Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy to complete the board. In February 1997, the four brothers on the board traveled to Haiti to investigate what organizations we could partner with in developing a World Relief sponsorship program.

Based on meetings with three organizations, the board decided to work with MEBSH (Mission of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti) and Living Word Ministries (Eris

Labady's organization). A key factor in selecting these organizations was the good working relationships that World Relief had already established with them. With the World Relief Committee's approval, a small pilot Child Sponsorship Program was begun with MEBSH in May 1997, including both individual students and schools.



Program is expanded

During the spring and summer of 1997, the board had discussions with CCCD (Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf). Based on these discussions, and World Relief's good working relationship with them, the board felt God's leading to add CCCD to the pilot program. An educational outreach at our Ixtlan, Mexico church was also added to the pilot program in 1997.

In August of 1998, the pilot phase of the Child Sponsorship Program was completed and it was announced to the Brotherhood. For a small monthly donation, a sponsor can help a child receive an education which enables them to read the Word for themselves to learn about salvation.

In September of 2001, the AMMAR organization in Juarez, Mexico was added to the Program. The Mexico committee from Bluffton fulfills the role of the field sponsorship organization by using your sponsorship donations to

provide uniforms, school supplies, and teachers' salaries.

Current sponsorships

Currently we are sponsoring 80 students at CCCD in Jamaica. Jamaica has an estimated 2,500 deaf children with little opportunity for education. In Haiti, we are sponsoring 184 MEBSH students and 234 Living Word Ministries students. We are also sponsoring 63 MEBSH schools.

The outreach at Ixtlan, Mexico has 25 sponsors and we sponsor 110 students at AMMAR in Juarez, Mexico. Since the beginning of the program \$1,170,000 has been given to these less fortunate students, through your generosity.

How the children benefit

Sponsorship money provides uniforms, school supplies, teacher salary subsidies, and in some cases, student family assistance. The Jamaican students live on campus so sponsorship donations there also cover room and board. In addition to these physical needs, the students receive a Christian education where they are taught about Jesus. This education helps them be productive and enables them to spread the Word of God.

The Child Sponsorship office is open on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Five sisters volunteer their time each week to run the office. Three other volunteers come once a month to help with correspondence and mailing. Please feel free to contact the office if you have a desire to sponsor a student on the waiting list.

ACWR Child Sponsorship
P. O. Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: (309) 266-6080
Fax: (309) 266-5281
E-mail: acwr@mtco.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Rural Gospel & Medical Missions Of India (RGMMI)

In the mid-1930's a young Christian from India named Bhagwant Bhagwat came to the U.S. to study agriculture. In 1938 he and his wife felt called of the Lord to return to India where they founded the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India with its doctrines based solely on the Holy Bible.

This mission operated mostly in the tribal areas north and east of Bombay. In 1964, because of poor health, the Bhagwats came to the U.S. to reside in Pasadena, CA. They traveled to various places to promote support for RGMMI. While inspecting some Amish farms in Ohio, they drove past our church in Rittman. Making inquiry they were directed to the elder who shared with them our doctrines. They attended evening services and were impressed. Mr. Bhagwat said to his wife, "This is a faith just like ours—founded only on the Word of God!"

Upon returning to California they contacted our elder in Altadena who invited them to worship there. After a number of months, Mr. Bhagwat expressed his concerns about the need in India for spiritual counsel and guidance and material support for RGMMI after his demise, and his hope that our church would become involved. Subsequently two visits were made by several of our brothers to review the work in India, and they felt it worthy of our consideration.

Mr. Bhagwat passed away in 1980 followed by his wife in 1981. A decision was made by our Elder Body to provide spiritual counsel and guidance along with material assistance. Our church was given full

control of RGMMI. Periodic visits by brethren are made to India to assist and encourage the RGMMI staff and congregations.

Purpose

- 1) To bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost souls in India.
- 2) To provide medical services to the sick and suffering.
- 3) To provide food, shelter, clothing and education for orphaned, abandoned or destitute boys and girls.

Organization

In the U.S. RGMMI is administered by a Board of Directors serving under our Mission and World Relief Committees. In India it is operated by a Director/Administrator (Dr. Parkhe) and the India Management Group. Dr. Parkhe reports to the U.S. Board who have full responsibility for the spiritual and material operations.

The principal arms of operation in India are: spiritual, medical, orphanage and administration. The spiritual arm consists of over 500 church members in 17 locations served by four pastors (elders), five full time evangelists (ministers) and six volunteer evangelists.

Spiritual Work

There are over 900 Sunday School children. In the past nine months there have been 55 baptisms. Within the past year there were many spiritual trials which strained the faith of the believers. By God's grace and the many prayers they have mostly withstood these rigors. The spiritual staff needs our ongoing prayers to strengthen the churches.

Medical

The medical arm includes several doctors and nurses serving at three primary dispensary/clinic locations. There is a mobile medical unit serving the tribal locations. Respiratory, musculo-skeletal conditions and malaria are the most frequent diseases treated. Over 2000 patients are served each month.

Orphanage/Boarding

The orphanage/boarding arm has locations at Nasik and Khardi serving 79 boys and another at Manmad serving 49 girls. All receive good Christian teachings, food, clothing and education. The monthly budget per child is \$16.50. The children's training includes many spiritual songs, Bible Story lessons and Scripture memorization. They attend Sunday School at the compound churches.

Administrative

The administrative arm is led by Dr. Parkhe, who has visited the U.S. several times with his wife Damayanti. There is very thorough accounting of all funds received and distributed. Overall management of the mission is under Dr. Parkhe's purview which reaches into all of the operating arms and facilities.

The great need in India is for prayers. The Lord has provided gifts from loving and generous supporters of the mission through the Mission and World Relief funds. However, it is only by God's grace that it has been sustained through 65 years of spiritual toil and dependency on His care and blessing. May His name be praised and His message continued in India!



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Patriotism and prayer – two words that came to me as I thought about the past few weeks. One of the participants at our monthly Bible Study at Timber Ridge came to class with a newspaper in her hand. She speaks in two or three word sentences, but was clearly able to communicate to the rest of us that she wanted to pray for the soldiers she was pointing to in the picture. One of the men in the group agreed, “The Marines – Yep, let’s pray for the Marines.” And we did, believing that our God heard the hearts of that small group of prayer warriors.

About two weeks later, a staff member from a group home told us she was touched by a scene she saw. She heard music from a room and one of the guys in the mens’ hall singing along to the national anthem. The words were barely recognizable due to his language disorder, but the volume and intent of the heart was obvious! As she came down the hall, she saw another guy standing at attention with his hand over his heart as he saw a large picture of the American flag. “God bless America” took on new meaning as these two men in their own way stopped in their day to remember the soldiers in Iraq.

These simple prayers to our great God and the quiet unseen acts of devotions to our country inspire me to reach out with faith and say with the psalmist:

“In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”

Psalms 62:7-8

Spring weather brings people out of their homes taking walks, riding bikes and visiting friends and family. Some of the area church groups have been involved in planning game nights and Easter parties. Also, one group home hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for children and some residents participated in an Easter Program at church.

Invitations will soon be going out for our bi-annual Volunteer Dinner, tentatively scheduled for June 19. We want to welcome anyone who has donated their time at any of our Home’s facilities in 2001 or 2002. With an agency our size, we know it’s quite possible to overlook sending an invitation to any of our volunteers. If you volunteered in 2001 or 2002 and do not receive an invitation by the first of June, please call us at (309) 266-9781. An invitation will be sent to you with more details. Our volunteers are an important part of the work at Apostolic Christian Services. We want to take this opportunity to thank as many of you as we can.

JUNE birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Dale Plattner (6/5), Christopher Rogers (6/5), Sara Baker (6/6), Aldine Winger (6/15), Donnie Parks (6/18), Marianne McMenamin (6/19), Janet Wilt (6/21), Kim White (6/23). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Quentin Craig (6/7), Rodney Blaum (6/15). At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Chip Johann (6/22). At 1001 E. Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Brandon Graham (6/12). At 241 S. Minnesota, Morton, IL 61550: Sharilyn Rowell (6/19).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S HOME Ed Graf

“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...”

Eccles. 12:1

As I recently read this verse again I was struck by the word “Remember”. To remember means to call back to mind. It implies that something was learned at a previous time, and is brought to mind again later. To remember our Creator then would be to bring Him back into the forefront of our minds and lives. To remember our Creator means we would have received some foreknowledge or teaching at a prior time. To remember our Creator in the days of youth implies teaching at an even earlier time of youth. But what about those who have no knowledge of their Creator? How can they remember what they never knew?

That thought reminded me of a time just over nine years ago. My wife and I were spending a weekend volunteering at Gateway Woods because of a staff shortage. One of the children asked the question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” My wife started to answer with a reference to the sufferings of Job. The child immediately interrupted with, “Job? Who’s Job? I never heard of him.”

The following morning at the breakfast table we focused our devotions on the life of Job. The young people listened intently; it was a story they had not heard before. They were hearing for the first time

a story we had known from days of our youth. A story we could easily bring into remembrance.

That experience was one of many that helped call our family into service at Gateway Woods. The thought that relaying simple Bible stories could impact young lives was very moving to us. It changed our perspective on the work of Gateway Woods, and the calling to work at Gateway Woods changed our lives.

Today the work is still the same. Teach young people the truth of God's Word so that they might serve Him. Sometimes the results seem discouraging. Sometimes we might be tempted to give up. Yet, no one can remember what he never learned. We have an opportunity, even a responsibility to teach. The Word tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov 22:6. It would be wonderful if all the youth at Gateway Woods decided to remember the Creator in the days of their youth. Yet we cannot quit if that doesn't happen. We must continue to train them up in the way they should go, and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work.

As the staff of Gateway Woods teaches troubled children and their families, we need your prayers. We face an enemy who does not want these young people to hear God's truth. Our only hope of completing our mission is with God's help, and your prayers are an important part of that help. May God bless you for your support!

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Samantha T. to our campus in Leo. We would also like to say farewell to Angie K. We pray that God will work in their hearts as He draws them near to Himself.

There is always a need for Christian foster couples in the NE Indiana area. If you feel called to become

a foster couple, please call Bro. Bill or Sis. Jan Baumgartner at 888-443-4283.

Our Representatives Meeting on March 22, 2003, was a success! We would like to thank each Representative who attended and those who did not for their prayerful support. Bro. Lynn Stieglitz gave the dedication prayer for the Gateway Woods School building. Look for more information about the school, this ministry, and the Auction (which is on Saturday, August 16, 2003) in the spring issue of The Gate Post. It should be coming out in early May. You can find information about Gateway Woods, including scholarship forms, at any time by visiting our web-site at

www.gatewaywoods.org.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Melinda Matuch**

Oh, I'm ready to go off to kindergarten,
That is where I really want to
be-e-e.
'Cause when I go off to kindergarten,
Everyone will think that I am
neat!

This month marks the end of the preschool year and we will celebrate our preschool graduation on May 16. We have enjoyed a wonderful year of fun and learning. We have gone on field trips, had birthday and holiday parties, put on our Christmas play and worked very hard at learning our letters, colors, numbers and shapes. We have studied the calendar, the weather, the seasons, safety, music, nutrition, our five senses, plants and animals on land and in the ocean. We can spell our entire name, know our address,

phone number and birth date. We baked cookies, made jam, planted flowers and tasted seaweed. We have also learned about good manners and showing kindness to others. Most importantly, we have learned about Jesus Christ, the Saviour, and about how He wants us to live our lives. There are ten terrific five-year-olds that will receive their certificates and take the next big step in their lives. Brennen, Jasmine, Jalyne, Katelyn, Suzie, Shelby, Isaiah, Chenethia, Blake and Kaylee are ready to move up and we will miss their little smiling faces. The younger children will continue on next year until they are ready, too.

We are thankful that Ms. Doris Moore has recovered from her surgery and is back to work as our cook. Welcome back!

We are also thankful that Sis. Bethany Gerber of Wolcott, IN, has answered our plea and is coming to work here as a teacher beginning this summer. This fills one of our present openings. We still have another position open and need one more experienced teacher to come and work here as the preschool director. Please keep us in your prayers as the lack of a teacher may necessitate a cut-back in the number of classes offered next year. As the year end approaches for most teachers, we ask that you consider giving of your time and talents to little ones who really do need you. Please contact our administrator, Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037 or Bro. Bob Walder at (309) 965-2965.

Summertime offers a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to come to the preschool. Anyone who is interested in coming for a couple of days or a week or a weekend should contact the preschool at (256) 233-0591. Accommodations are

available in the church and fellowship hall for individuals or small groups.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us."

Psalm 67:1

We keep in our prayers those who have lost their dear loved ones in recent weeks. Our Sis. Amanda Glass passed on recently as well as Jim Kelly, the son of Bro. George Kelly.

It is joyful news for our small congregation that we have a new convert. Tim Hall has given his heart to the Lord. We lift him up to God in our prayers.

We rejoice that those who have been ill this month are recovering. Bro. J.R. Hall, Sis. Louise Hall and Bro. Andy Witzig are all on the mend. Sis. Naomi Hall awaits surgery.

We were blessed with many visitors for the preschool reunion. Our thanks go out to Bro. Jeff Waibel from Leo, IN, for teaching the adult Sunday School class and to Elder Bro. Ted Witzig of Morton, IL, for his service as minister.

We welcome Bro. Don and Sis. Enid Miller and their son, Brad, who have moved to our area from Mansfield, OH. They will be living at the Tennessee fellowship center.

Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller was here to read the Conference Memorandum on Wednesday, April 2. We were encouraged by the thoughtfulness of the message and were reminded that we all need to do our part.

Anna Hall, daughter of Tim Hall,

fell and broke her arm while playing.

The Athens Preschool held its semi-annual board meeting on April 13. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) gave the Sunday School message and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) led the worship service. Also present was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). We appreciate these brothers and their wives for coming and worshipping with us.

Easter Sunday was a blessed day. We enjoyed the Easter program put on by the children as well as a beautiful day to praise our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

Proverbs 16:20

It's a lovely day, 80 degrees on March 23, in Phoenix, but there's quite a chill inside. Our beloved ministering Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson are being transferred to Dallas for his employment. We pray God's blessings on them and those of us left behind. Our prayers are for their permanent return in a few years. We hope that keeping in touch with Nicholas, Matthew, and Brianna will bring our loved ones back to visit often. Their address is: Ken and Sharon Lawson, 2803 Lark Court, Keller, TX 76248.

Our sympathy to Bro. Floyd and Sis. Clara Banwart on the death of Sis. Clara's nephew, John Bradford, son of the late Sis. Margaret Bradford.

Our sympathy to Bro. Ken and

Sis. Sharon Lawson on the death of Sis. Sharon's nephew, Bro. Jerry Nohl, Morris, MN.

We need your prayers for the safety of Kari Riek (Niemeyer) as the Navy Reserves called her to duty on March 31. Two-year-old C.J. will miss his mom, even though his dad and grandparents (Bro. Ells and Sis. Lois Niemeyer) will give him lots of loving care.

Baby Kayla Ann Witzig arrived on March 26. Her parents are Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia and her siblings are Alyssa, Leah, and Dylan. What a joy to see these three so happy for a new baby sister.

Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich became first-time grandparents when Lincoln Samuel was born on April 4 to Mark and Paula Kokanovich in San Francisco. May God bless the new family.

An almost visit to Heaven on Palm Sunday. Our Sunday School children sang and recited Scripture that really touched our hearts. Our appreciation to the teachers as well as the children.

Our thanks and God's blessings to our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein, Bro. Brian Huber, Bro. Jeff Niehouser (all from Francesville, IN), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). Easter Sunrise Services were held on Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's patio, and breakfast was served after services. May God bless our dear loved ones for their love. There were many friends and visitors for Easter services in church. The way of the cross leads home.

If you can't be a tree on the top of a hill,

then be a shrub in the valley,
but be the best little shrub on the
side of the rill.

Be a bush if you can't be a tree.
We can't all be captains; there's
got to be a crew,
there's something for all of us
here.

There's big things to do and lesser
to do,
and the task you must do is the
near.

If you can't be a highway then just
be a trail.

—*author unknown*

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

On Sunday afternoon, March 23, we were presented the Memorandum by Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). After enjoying a fellowship dinner at the church, we were served Holy Communion.

At our annual business meeting held on April 5, Bro. Tim Furrer was voted as our new trustee treasurer with Bro. Rolf Kaepler retiring. We wish to thank Bro. Rolf for his service.

Our other visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL). We thank these brothers and their wives for their love and support.

We invite all who are traveling west this year to come to Prescott and worship with us.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

After much prayer and contemplation it was revealed to the Tucson church that Bro. Curt Kaufman would have two brothers join him on the pulpit in Tucson. On Sunday,

March 30, Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) installed Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa) into the ministry. I know I can speak for Bro. Brad, Sis. Sandy and Bro. Jay in saying that we are thankful for the prayers and words of encouragement offered by brothers and sisters close to home and family and friends across the miles. We certainly needed those prayers and have found that God is ever faithful so we need to lean heavily on Him. Please continue to keep this little church in your prayers as we seek to go forward with small numbers in an increasingly big city where our lights really need to shine brightly.

Speaking of small numbers, we will say goodbye to Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons this Sunday with a farewell cake and many wishes for a blessed future in Kansas where they will be moving. We hope they will return for visits once in awhile and ask that they remember us in their prayers as we will remember them in ours. God bless you both!

We enjoyed a breezy but sunny day in the park in lieu of our monthly fellowship supper for April. This was very popular with the kids who much preferred playing in the park with it's trees and playground to playing in the church parking lot!

Our summer schedule will vary from other times of the year. June and July will be vacation months for Sunday School and Fellowship Suppers. Both will resume in August. There will be no regular Wednesday evening services for the months of June, July and August; however, we will be having Bible Study the first and second Wednesday evenings in June and the third and fourth Wednesday evenings of July.

Wednesday evening services will resume in September.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

“Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

John 12:13

Easter season is such a reminder of the hope we can have in Jesus. His death and suffering paved the way for us to have access to the Father and atonement if we will receive it. Our Altadena congregation plans to hold a song service in the mountains on Easter morning to praise Him for the hope we have through His resurrection.

We're thankful for the visiting ministers who came to share the Word with us this month. Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) were here to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of retired Elder Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle. We were grateful Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR) was willing to assist with our Communion service later in the month.

Sis. Jody Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom) was a recent hospital patient as she had surgery to repair her collapsed lung. Aaron Yaussi (Ann) was also hospitalized this month and we continue to pray he'll regain complete strength. Bro. Laszlo Cser (Sis. Maria) has been very weak lately and we pray that he will be able to worship with us again soon. We continue to pray for Bro. Jeff (Sis. Shirley) Luthi and Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob) as they undergo chemotherapy.

Near the time of this writing, Bro. Jeff Luthi led an encouraging

Saturday night Bible study on why a good God allows evil and suffering. We thank him for his additional effort and research on our behalf.

We would encourage visitors to assemble with our congregation in Altadena as the Lord grants you the privilege to travel. Our smaller congregations receive an extra blessing when new and returning brethren join us in worship.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

This past month we have been blessed with many visitors. Our single group hosted the Silverton, OR; Phoenix, AZ; and Altadena single groups. Retired Elder Bro. Eugene Marti (Sis. Mary, Kansas City, MO) came and spoke to them on Saturday evening. We want to thank him for his willingness to come and share with them from his heart.

We shared a blessed weekend with Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) as they assisted our Elder Bro. Peter with serving Holy Communion to our congregation. May the Lord bless them for their service on our behalf.

Our dear Bro. Rory Strahm has had surgery and remains in the hospital at the present time. We pray the Lord will grant him a speedy recovery, that he may once again assemble with us.

As Mother's Day approaches, may we remember how blessed we are to have had believing mothers who taught us the way of Truth, and brought us to church even as babes in their arms. May we remember to thank them for all they have sacrificed for us and for all they continue to do.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Ingrid Fortenbacher

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). On Saturday, April 5, we were thankful that we were once again able to share the Lord's supper with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday, April 6, we heard the joyful news that Joshua Piticar (Bro. Vinny and Sis. Justine) has expressed his desire to repent and live for Christ. We are so happy for him and his family and wish him much grace as he strives to live the life of a true believer.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

On April 12, we celebrated Communion. We're thankful for Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) who shared this special time with us. He reminded us that "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53)

Our Sunday School continues to grow in number! They presented an Easter program to us; a special time of praising the Lord for His death and resurrection. We are blessed to have these children in our midst and are especially thankful that Taylor Henry (Kent and Deena Braun) is back with us after three months of chemotherapy and that she has been declared "cancer free". Students who will be graduating from high school this year are Kerry Berg (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary) and Jacob Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb). We wish them God's guidance as they begin their future lives. Eighth graders being promoted are Ema Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann),

Kelsie Henry (Kent and Deena Braun), Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn), Austin Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel), Daniel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) and Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy). May God bless these young people.

We are happy to have Bro. Javier Avina, Ernesto Avina and Victor Avina from Ixtlan, Mexico, worshipping and fellowshiping with us this summer.

Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) visited and ministered to us this past month. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Cherie Galat**

We rejoice with many of our dear brethren who have been blessed with precious children. Rhonda Jane was born March 18 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Schneider. She joins her siblings, Andrew, Laura, Lanae, Jesse and Jennie at home. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider and Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber. On March 20, Lois Marie was born to Bro. John and Sis. Erin Hoffman. Samantha and Elsa have another sister to love. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman and John and Gail Doyle. Emma Charlotte was born April 3 to Bruce and Karyn Kloter. Baby Emma joins her brothers, Benjamin, Owen and Luke. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter and Alfred and Margaret Krause. Twins Connor Liam and Nora Caitlin were born April 5 to Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy Hany. Joel now has a brother and sister to love. Grandparents are Bro. Pete Sr. and Sis. Jeanie Hany and Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan. On

April 8, Thomas John was born to Bro. John and Sis. Rhonda Garrow and joins brother Colin at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bernie and Marie Garrow and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner. May each family raise their children according to God's ways.

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

Genesis 24:58

Believing it is God's will, the engagement of Bro. Craig White (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Cherie Galat was made known unto us. Parents are Claude White of Rossville, IN, and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville, IL) and Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat.

The Rockville Single Group was invited to the Akron, OH, congregation for a weekend of fellowship. It is truly a blessing to greet our dearly beloved brethren amongst our congregations. May God bless the efforts of those that hosted the weekend.

We bid Bro. Aaron Stoller farewell as he moves from Connecticut. May God provide the guidance and direction in his life and pray that he has felt the love and support of the Rockville brethren.

Our prayers arise for our loved one, Marie Garrow (Bro. Bernie), as she has been hospitalized in past days. May He heal according to His will.

May God console Sis. Anna Lanz upon the passing of her dear husband, Bro. Alvin. He also leaves his daughters, Jacqueline Copeland and Linda Galligan (Jim), his son, Russell (Vicki), his sister, Sis. Gertrude Lanz, and extended family.

"Strength and honour are her

clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

Proverbs 31:25

May our heavenly Father provide for our dear mothers and give them wisdom and strength each day.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Henrietta Meyer

Last month I wrote about all our snow. This month we are enjoying our flowering trees and bushes and the early flowers.

The warmer weather is also bringing more visitors. Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL). Other visitors were from Champaign, IL; Bluffton, Leo, and LaCrosse, IN; and Rockville, CT.

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry 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.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Rene Mangold

We had opportunity for extra fellowship this month with our church potluck and our annual Sunday School dinner. An extra blessing comes our way when we get to spend extra time with our friends and brethren.

Worship time is special and we are always thankful for visiting ministers. Bros. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) shared God's Word with us. Also, Holy Communion was served to us by Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL). After a dinner in church, Bro. Ted conducted a Bible Study. We pray that God will bless them for being used in His service.

As the war in Iraq seems to be winding down, we pray for the safety and safe return both for our military personnel and for our loved ones.

We wish a fond farewell to our winter residents as they return to their other homes and, Lord willing, it would be our prayer that we will see them again next winter.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Our little congregation grieves at our loss and rejoices at Sis. Viola Keller's gain as she passed away at the age of 92 on April 13. She was born in Congerville, IL. Her husband of 71 years, Bro. Rolland, survives her, in addition to our dear brother and sister in Christ, Art and Marie Keller. Also surviving are a daughter, Eileen Moyers, of Cairo, GA; and sons, Wallace of Port Char-

lotte, and Dwayne of Punta Gorda.

Sis. Vi was an integral part of the Fort Myers church and it was said that she filled every duty that she saw needed done from kitchen to secretarial duties in the church. She was a wonderful example to us of a faithful Christian, serving the Lord for over 70 years. She will be sorely missed and we grieve with the family, but know that she is rejoicing with her Saviour in glory.

Our visiting ministers this month, who we so much appreciate, were Bros. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol) and Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou), both of Gridley, IL; Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN).

We were reminded yesterday (Easter Sunday) of Christ's suffering on the cross for the remission of our sins and as He hung there torn and bleeding, His concern was for the needs of others. He prayed for His tormentors, made provision for His Mother and His friend, John, comforted the dying thief who believed, and most of all completed the sacrifice that He had come to do. Among the three crosses on that Golgotha hillside was one man that was dying IN sin, one that was dying TO sin, and One that was dying FOR sin.

The end of this month (April) will be our final Wednesday evening service until November. Our pulpit services begin at 10:30 and 12:30 on Sunday and we invite anyone visiting in our area to come and join us.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Carol Koehl**

We rejoice with our convert, Kelly Hebert (Todd), who has found God's wonderful peace and is awaiting baptism in the near future.

This past month we had the privilege to partake in Holy Communion, served by our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and our retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach.

Other visiting ministers we also wish to thank are Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Howard Plattner (Alto, MI), Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

Once again, Sarasota wishes to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who are so willingly helping in the construction of our Fellowship Hall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with J.C. and Mary Ellen Ebach in the loss of his mother, Sis. Clara Bach (Eureka, IL). We also extend much sympathy and love to Bro. Roland Keller (North Fort Myers, FL) and his entire family in the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Viola. Her funeral and burial were at Sarasota on April 16.

Bro. Rich Martin (Sis. Aldine) and Sis. Sheila Sabo (Bro. Nate) both made trips to the hospital recently.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **John Brewer**

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 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 3:14-16

This verse was the theme for our

Sunday school Easter program on Good Friday. The students in their own words told about the different aspects of the Easter story, but in the light of the above verses. The congregation was blessed by how Christ's endearing love for us allowed Him to endure the pain, suffering, betrayals, loneliness, and eventually the separation from God. And that He did it for each one of us specifically. After the program Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver CO) had the service reminding us of Jesus' sufferings and how we should answer to His sacrifice, whether as believers or unbelievers.

This month we have been blessed with other visiting ministers. They include Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. Luann, Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). Our congregation is so appreciative of the time and energy to come down and to spend the Sunday with us.

With much prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit, the congregation gave the prayerful support in putting Bro. Ted Hirstein into the ministry to help assist Bro. Tom Waldbeser. Bro. Ted and his family moved down from Morton, IL, earlier this year where he was a minister in their congregation. We are so thankful for Bro. Ted's willingness to take on this mantle again and our prayers and support also go to his wife, Sis. Joyce, and their son, Troy.

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**

What does it mean to you, my
friend
That old rugged cross on a hill far
away?
Just your crutch in time of crisis
Or the very hope you cling to every
day?

Our Sunday School children told
the story of Easter on Palm Sunday.
As the children practice the pieces
and songs and shared them with the
congregation, we were all truly
blessed in being reminded of just
what that old rugged cross truly
means to us.

His cross is more than some old
symbol
To top our steeples and mark our
graves
His cross stands ever to remind us
Jesus Saves! Jesus Saves!

"Jesus Saves" is always the mes-
sage our ministers preach across our
pulpits. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin,
IL) and Bro. Kenneth Hoerr
(Peoria, IL) visited us this month.
Our visiting ministers are consis-
tent in bringing the same message
"Jesus Saves".

The cross commands our due at-
tention,
And forces us to face sin's shame;
It calls us to change our life's di-
rection,
And compels us to confess Christ's
name.

Our monthly Bible studies con-
tinue. As we continue to grow in the
Spirit and learn more of the Word of
God, may we be able to share God's
Word with others and confess
Christ's name to all.

And, oh, it speaks of so much
more...
How we should likewise love and
live
In light of His suffering and sacri-
fice
And His prayer to the Father to
forgive.

The Indianapolis Bible class
spent a weekend in Belvidere this
month. As our Bible classes are go-
ing to Mexico this summer on a joint
work team, may they be able to por-
tray the love of our Heavenly Father
to others even though language bar-
riers may exist.

Pray, take His cross as thy stan-
dard,
And His power will be thy stay,
And always, always live for Jesus,
And never, never from His pres-
ence stray.

The power of healing has been
with Melissa Waibel as she had
emergency surgery this month. We
are glad to have her back in church
and hopefully on the road to recov-
ery.

May the miracle of spring remind
us to praise God from whom all
blessings flow!

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Ann Kellenberger
Rebecca Kaufmann**

Our congregation was thankful
to have ministering Bro. Ken Hoerr
(Peoria, IL) here for our Family

night on April 2. 'Slay the Giants'
was the topic of Ken's very interest-
ing and encouraging message.
Many families attended this blessed
evening of worship.

Believing it is God's will that has
brought them together, the engage-
ment of Sis. Natalie Lehman and
Bro. Ben Knochel (Taylor, MO) was
announced to the congregation on
March 23. Natalie is the daughter of
Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman
(Denver, CO). Ben is the son of Bro.
Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel (Tay-
lor, MO). May God richly bless this
dear couple as they make plans for
their future life together.

What a joy it was to sit and listen
to our precious youth as they
brought us the beautiful Easter
story on Palm Sunday. We are
thankful for every grandparent who
came to witness this blessed event
with us. We trust that the seeds
planted in each of those tender
hearts will someday spring forth
and grow into a beautiful vessel for
our dear Lord, who so willingly went
to the cross for each of us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

Our church hosted the Illinois
ACYF singing for two weekends this
month. Many of us can recall those
days of youth where we were able to
make many acquaintances. It is al-
ways encouraging to meet these
friends down the road and learn that
they have turned to the Lord in re-
pentance.

We enjoyed having several visit-
ing Elders and ministering broth-
ers. Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL),
Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Sid
Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) were
with us for our invite-a-guest week-
end. Among other things, we were
reminded that to love others more

than ourselves means to be willing to let others have what we ourselves would desire. The Lord will bless us for this mindset, even as He did Abraham when Lot took the land that looked the best.

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) assisted in serving our congregation with Communion. Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) also served our congregation through the ministry of the Word.

We also appreciated having Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) here to help with the proving and baptism of Troy Pyles (Sis. Heather). We rejoice with his wife and parents (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) that Troy could give testimony of the working power of grace in a repentant heart. It is always so important to be reminded of the value of humility in the eyes of God.

We are remembering Sis. Bonnie Kieser in our prayers to God that He would bestow His healing touch if it would be His will. Sis. Bonnie suffered an aneurysm requiring immediate surgery. We hope that her recovery can be full so that she can once again care for her mother (Sis. Lucille) as she has faithfully done in the past.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Janelle Schlipf

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints...”

Hebrews 6:10

Although we each have many opportunities to share God's love every day, it was a special blessing to

hear of the work and labor of love that resulted from recent work teams to Mexico. Several students took advantage of their Spring Break to travel to the children's orphanage in Imuris. During the week they were able to provide the time and energy to complete several construction projects, but most importantly, to spend time with the children and share Christ's love with them. Thanks to the support of our World Relief organization, the students were also able to deliver school supplies and many other items for the children while they were there.

Also joining work teams to Mexico this month were our Sis. Isabelle Bauer, who recently traveled to Mexico with a work team from Indiana, and our Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart, who met up with a work team during their recent visit to Tucson, AZ.

The first weekend in April was our “Parents & Champaign Appreciation Weekend”, hosted by our college students. It was a joy to have many parents and families with us for dinner Saturday evening and church services on Sunday. We appreciate all the time and efforts of the many students who bless our congregation with their energy and talents whenever possible.

Palm Sunday was a special day as the Sunday School students shared the Easter story with us. “The Road to the Cross” was the topic of the annual program, as the children and teachers encouraged us to consider Jesus' example throughout the various stages of His life. A special thanks to each of the Sunday school teachers and parents for their commitment and dedication as they teach these young and tender hearts.

It is always a blessing to have vis-

iting ministers who share the Word with us. A special thanks to Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and their families for serving us this past month!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

The call came tonight, and I smiled as I thought of writing my first Silver Lining column. Due to my error, I believed I had an entire month until my first column was due. I felt quite at ease until I was reminded it was due now. That was a minor shock in my life, but I wonder what the feeling will be when Jesus returns? The Bible says not even Christ Himself knows the day or hour. How much more should we be prepared? The thought stirs my heart not only because of my wanting to be prepared, but thinking of my friends and colleagues who are around me daily and yet do not know I am expectant of Christ's return. I need to pray that I can be more willing to share with others the good news of Jesus Christ – with an acute awareness of the urgency of His return.

In this Easter season, we especially remember that Jesus has promised to come back for His own, because we read that Jesus told His disciples to be comforted as He ascended up to Heaven. We were privileged to have Bro. Arnie Gerst and his wife, Sis. Marjorie (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Wayne Laubscher and his wife, Sis. Gloria (Cissna Park, IL), with us as we remembered Christ's sufferings on Good Friday. We were reminded of the ridicule and taunting Jesus received as He hung on the cross, knowing that with one whis-

per He could have defeated them all and had gone to Heaven back to His Father. What courage, restraint, and most of all love, that He was willing to look down the corridor of time and see past His present anguish to the hope for future generations. We were thankful that Bro. Arnie was also able to be with us on Easter Sunday.

We were able to share in the joy of Bro. Mark Triplett (Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley, Peoria, IL) and Sis. Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy, Elgin, IL) as their wedding engagement was announced. We love them both and rejoice with them and their families.

We extend a farewell to Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder and their family as Bro. Paul has been transferred to Kansas. They will be assembling with the Wichita congregation. They will be dearly missed. We are thankful for the time and energy they have given to our congregation.

Some of our congregation traveled to Garden Grove, IA, for the annual bus trip. Even though the number of travelers was smaller than in some years, a blessed time was enjoyed by all. Helping on the pulpit in Chicago that Sunday was Bro. Chuck Kellenberger. Thank you.

Two of our sisters were hospitalized this month. Our prayers go out to Sis. Rose Yah and Sis. Erica Furj as they are home and recovering. We are in a large city, but we know that we can lean on our brothers and sisters for help and prayer when we are down.

"...he hath no form or comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men..."

Isaiah 53:2-3

This verse has been extra special to me this Easter season. Jesus would not have won any popularity contests. He would not have been on a "Top 10" list of any kind nor had trophies in His room. As a matter of fact, He was a nobody as far as the standards of the world went. If there are times when we feel like personal failures compared to those around us or as if our presence in this world may not be necessary, take courage! Jesus understands because He has been through the same thing. Let us go to Him in prayer as we have never done before, nothing doubting.

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

We would like to thank the ministering brothers who shared with us God's Word. May God bless Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI) and Dan Moser (Elgin, IL). We appreciate the willingness of these brothers. We also thank Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for having a topical Bible study on Wednesday, April 9.

Our congregation has been blessed with two baby boys this month. Luke Wilhelm was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Charlotte Waldbeser on March 27. Big sisters, Lisa and Molly, are excited to have a brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA).

Thankful first-time parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Andrea Walder as they welcome Drew Nicholas into their hearts and home. Drew was born on April 13. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul and

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder.

We also send congratulations to first-time grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young. Harrison Brett was born to Brett and Holli Young.

Sis. Judy and Urb Edelman are also thankful for a new granddaughter, Kristen Marie, born to Jerrold and Sally Haas. May God bless each one of these families and provide the help needed to raise these little ones in the fear of Him.

Those that have spent time in the hospital for various reasons this month are Sis. Clara Hofer and Sis. Em Eisenmann. We pray God will be by their side during this time. We are thankful that little Levi VanWyhe (Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany) was able to come home from the hospital after being born a few weeks early. Also, Bro. Melvin Stock is back home after spending some time in the nursing home. We pray God will provide for each one in whatever situation they encounter.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores Knapp on the death of her brother, James Moser, of Roanoke. May God comfort them during this time of loss.

April 13 is a day all of us will hold dear to our hearts and remember for years to come. We are thankful for God's provision as our Bro. Tom Stock was ordained as Elder. We are thankful for the willingness of Bro. Tom and his wife, Sis. Karol, to serve in this role. Our prayers are with them and their family, Mindy, Bonnie, Andy, Jenny and Bradley. We thank the Elder brothers who were with us for this blessed occasion. May God bless Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). At this time we want to thank Bro. Alfred

for his willingness to serve our congregation over the past several years. We appreciate his love and service given to us. May God bless Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances and continue to provide for them as He sees fit.

The following Wednesday evening we had the blessed opportunity to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Alfred and our Elder Bro. Tom for serving us.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

A very dear sister and former Sunday School teacher shared this:

"Thought for the Day"

Look backward – see Christ dying for you.

Look upward – see Christ pleading for you.

Look inward – see Christ living in you.

Look forward – see Christ caring for you.

We face many tests in life. How we cope with them — our attitude we have — is vitally important to the result of those tests.

As we think of our graduates, we wish them God's blessings and that they will ever trust in Him (Proverbs 3:5-6) and look forward knowing God cares. Graduating from high school are: Vic Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat), Craig Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth), Henry Wettstein (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Emily), Ben Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol), Rosie Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Brad Knapp (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary), Brandi Payne (Hal and Rhonda), Anna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna), Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue), Bro. Aaron Ott

(Bro. Glenn and Sis. Mardell) and Sis. Julie Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn). College graduates are Sis. Kayla and David Steffen (children of Kent and Sis. Beth), and Melissa Miller (Bro. Chris and Sis. Phyllis).

We pray for healing for those spending time in the hospital this past month: Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Mary), Sis. Rachel Schrock (Bro. Kevin), Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman (Bro. Fred), Chris Miller (Betty). Sis. Shirley Funk is thankful to have returned home.

Our Parents – A Gift from God

Lord, we thank Thee for our Parents,

Who have reared us in their care.
Gently, they'd sing "Jesus Loves Me"

As they'd rock us in their arms.
Soon, around their feet we'd scamper;

Curious as we could be.
Patiently they'd answer questions;
Listening so tenderly.

They would tell us how they loved us,
And about Thy Holy Word;
How those words would linger with us

As we made our way thru school.
We can think of Fam'ly gath' rings
Oh! We thank Thee Lord for these!
For without our loving parents,
Ne'er could we experience these.

As we started growing older,
They would teach us how to pray;
Reassure us that Thy love would
Strengthen us along our way.
Yes, they'd tell us about Jesus
And the wonders of His love;
Praying, hoping that we'd one day,
Turn our eyes upon the cross.

Now we've come to know the Sav-

iour,

And the riches of His love.

Oh, how sweet to think that we've been

Taught the straight and narrow way.

Lord, we thank Thee for our parents;

Bless and keep them, Lord, we pray!

Oh, how truly we do love them,
For their kind, unselfish ways!

—written by a sister in faith and
sung to the tune of "What A
Friend We Have In Jesus"

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Kay Kellenberger

We are thankful for Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IL) as he shared the precious Word with our congregation.

We rejoice with Bethany Bachtold and Ron Malloy as they welcome Sara Elizabeth Malloy into their family on March 17. Sara's grandparents are Sis. Betty and Bro. Sam Bachtold.

We want to remember to pray for Bro. Paul Weiss, Sis. Amy Gasser and Timothy Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda) as they have recently spent time in the hospital.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Albert Schambach and his family in the passing of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Sis. Dorothy, on March 30. We will greatly miss her. She was a precious light of Christ's love to all she came in contact with. Our prayers also go out to Sis. Rose Reber in the passing of her brother, Ernie Reber, on April 12. May each family find comfort in reflecting on precious memories shared.

The Elgin congregation rejoices with Sis. Aubrey Schmidgall (Rick and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Mark

Triplett (Bro. Willis and Sis. Shirley, Peoria, IL) in their recent engagement.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Janet Zimmerman

"Even as the spring-time flowers, grow beneath the sun's warm-rays...". It is a wonderful thing to see the beauty of God's creation springing forth new life all around us. Everything is new and fresh and ready to begin all over again after resting the long winter.

We are thankful that we could partake of Holy Communion once more and remember the pain and suffering the Lord endured because of His obedience to His Heavenly Father and His great love for mankind. We appreciated Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman's (Roanoke, IL) willingness to help our Elder Bro. Ervin with this. May God bless them for their labors. "Sit and pause awhile, my spirit, this great miracle behold..." It is so good to stop our work for a bit and think of heavenly things, those things that are most important and everlasting.

We are so thankful that Jodi Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol) has found grace to turn her back against the world. May God grant her grace as she begins her repentance.

"God of unlimited compassion, Thou never ending fount of love!" Even at an older age God patiently calls and beckons unto souls that are in need of His healing. We are thankful that Helen Rocke could give her testimony of faith and be baptized and become our sister-in-faith. We welcome her.

Our dear Sis. Clara Bach was called unto her Heavenly Home on April 2. We miss her presence, her smile and her kind, quiet way. We extend our sympathy to her daugh-

ter, Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid (Bro. Richard) of Eureka, and sons, Bro. Lyle Ebach (Fairbury, IL) and J.C. Ebach (Bloomington, IL) and to all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our High School graduates are Tim Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol), Doug Banwart (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa), Justin Bauman (Glen and Sis. Becky), Sis. Crystal Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen), Jared Ehnle (Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole), Jared Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Sis. Kate Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine), Lindsay Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn), Jeremy Knecht (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy), Adam Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirl), Kelli Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn), Kelli Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Bethany Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Marla Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne), Mark Sinn (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen), Curt Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) and Adair Zimmerman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Mary). We wish them God's grace and guidance as they begin this new step in life.

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of four souls April 5 and witness their baptisms the following day. Our new sister and brothers-in-faith are Sis. Marla Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne), Bro. Andy Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa), Bro. Greg Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) and Bro. Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori). We were thankful to have these visiting ministers with us for the weekend, Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA).

Sis. Jill Blunier and Bro. Chris Wynkoop were united in Holy Mat-

rimony March 30. Their parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine Blunier (Eureka) and Harold Wynkoop (Eureka) and Vickie McQuellon (Peoria). We wish them God's richest blessings. Visiting ministers were Bros. Vernon Wettstein and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger (Lester, IA) came to visit family and we appreciated his willingness to share the Word with us on a quiet Wednesday evening. We enjoyed having them with us the following weekend also.

Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) ministered to us on March 23. Bro. Don Manz was our visiting minister on Good Friday, April 18. We then enjoyed the visit of ministering Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) on Easter Sunday. May God richly bless each of these brothers for their labors.

Our prayers are with Sis. Eileen Blunier (Bro. Duane) who spent time in the hospital for surgery recently.

Our annual church housecleaning was held April 7. It is a good feeling to have a freshly cleaned church from top to bottom. We all enjoyed a lunch afterwards. Many thanks to the trustees. Also, a special thank you to all the young brothers who worked with the landscaping to clean it up and redo the mulch.

We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank all of our family and friends for the cards and gifts that we received for our 50th anniversary. God bless you all.

Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joann Zehr

Tammy Hinrichsen

Good Friday services are always very special. They cause you to stop and consider again just what Jesus went through for each of us. It shames us to know that our lives put the Saviour on that cross. Then comes the joy of Easter Sunday! All of the heaviness is lifted with His resurrection. We thank Thee, Lord Jesus!

Our congregation has been blessed this month with many visiting ministers and their families: Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). Thank you all for letting the Lord use you on our behalf!

Several in our church family have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Sis. Edna Stoller, Deann Steidinger, and Wayne Bittner. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery for each of these dear ones.

We rejoice with our Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Jodi Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) on their engagement. This is such a special time for you, full of great expectations and also uncertainties about the future. Keep looking to our Lord and He will continue to lead.

Our dear Sis. Clara Bender was laid to rest on April 11. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her loving husband, Bro. Marvin, and also to his family on their loss. On April 19, Maggie Louise Walter, infant

daughter of Bro. Alan and Sis. Linda, was stillborn. She will be mourned at home by her big brothers, Jacob, Jared and Eli, and by her sister, Elizabeth. Grandparents of Maggie are Bro. Rich and Sis. Colleen Walter. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family at their loss. May you feel God's loving arms around you as you go forward each day.

Even as there is sorrow in the church, there is also joy. Two of our families have been given the blessing of precious little ones. On March 15, Justin Corey was born to Bro. Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen. He is loved at home by big sisters, Tiffany, Tami and Renae, and by brothers, Ryan and Jeremy. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger and Bro. Albert and Sis. Karen Steffen. On April 14, Darla Maye Meiss surprised us all by coming early! Thankfully she is healthy and already home with mom and dad, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati. Grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner.

As we go on into spring, we also look forward to the day that is set aside to honor our mothers. May God bless each one, or those who may stand in their place, for sharing their love with us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Linda Anliker

Lori Dotterer

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

Matthew 28:6

As the Easter season approaches, we also look forward to our Sunday School children's program reminding us of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. We can never be

thankful enough for the victory won over death and the grave that we may have the precious gift of life eternal.

The weekend of April 5-6 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness baptisms. We welcome Bro. Trent Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet), Sis. Rebekah Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) and Sis. Kyrstin Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) into our church family. We are thankful these loved ones could turn their hearts to the Lord in their youth and pray they will find the grace to walk a close walk with God and heed His Word. We thank Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne in this work.

Other ministers feeding us with the Word of Life were Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Paul Kilgus and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). We appreciate those who are willing to serve us.

Weddings planned in the near future for three couples as they have announced their engagements. Jenna Walter (Pete and LaRae) and Matt Kilgus (Lisa, Fairbury, IL) are planning a June wedding. A June 15 wedding is being planned by Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Jodi Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol). We rejoice with Bro. Mike Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Amber Adams (Sis. Sharon) as their engagement was announced April 13. May God lead and guide each couple as they make plans to take this important step.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Janny (Bro. Duane) Schneider, Neva Farney and Weston Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis.

Devra). May God who knows our need, restore health and strength to them according to His will.

We extend sympathy to Jerry and Carol Turner in the death of her father, Bill Menold (Peoria, IL). Also experiencing a loss is Elda Mae Rieger in the death of her sister, Aldine Nussbaum (Forrest, IL). We sympathize with Bro. Lyle and Gloria Ebach in the death of his mother, Sis. Clara Bach, of Eureka, IL. May God comfort them during this time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin
Rita Bauman**

“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; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;”

Eccles. 3-1:4

Our sympathy is with the dear family of Sis. Clara Hunzicker, who was laid to rest in April. May each family member find strength and comfort from our Lord and Saviour.

We are thankful to report the engagement of Bro. Mike Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth) to Sis. Amber Adams (late Bro. Terry and Sis. Sharon) from the Forrest congregation. May God be with them and guide them as they make plans for their wedding.

We were thankful to hear our Sunday School children tell the Easter Story on Palm Sunday. We thank our students and teachers for a wonderful job. It is always good to

see our children participate with such enthusiasm.

Ray Wagner (Sis. Vi) has been in the hospital and now has moved to the Restmor Nursing Home in Morton to recuperate before his next surgery. May we continue to lift him up in prayer.

May God bless our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bros. Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL), and Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN). Many thanks to these brothers for their labors on the pulpit and for shepherding our flocks.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan and Reggie Plattner welcome their new little bundle from above. Toby Joseph was born on April 15. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all so much for your prayers and cards. It meant a lot to us.

Love, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcie Schieler

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Oh, to be nothing, nothing,
Only to lie at His feet.
A broken and emptied vessel,
For the Master's use made meet.
Emptied that He might fill me
As forth to His service I go,
Broken, that so unhindered,
His life through me might flow.

Hymns of Zion, # 76

If we become tested and tried — or weary in the battle — it's well to reflect on the above hymn. It is when we surrender all, and lay aside all

thoughts of self and selfishness, that we can find the grace and peace the Saviour gives. When we “empty” ourselves with worry and disappointment, etc., we can find an inner peace that only the dear Lord can give.

God has answered our prayers that the terrible war in Iraq could end, and that the killing could cease. I heard on the radio that 28,000 bombs were dropped on Iraq. May the binding up of wounds, both of the physically and emotionally wounded, take place. Our prayer is that the spirit of Christ could bring light to that, and surrounding, nations. Salvation is found only in the Lord Jesus.

We were happy on April 27 when two ministers spoke here. They were Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). On Easter weekend, Bro. Ron Bollier was a visiting minister. We are thankful for these efforts. Our simple worship mode of letting a brother open Scriptures, read and then meditate constitutes a positive means of allowing the Spirit of God to convey truth to us.

Sis. Marge Meiss continues to receive treatment for her illness, and surely our prayers are with her.

On Saturday, April 26, a supper was held to raise funds for little Alyssa Yoder, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Joan Yoder, who is in need of special medical treatment. According to God's will, may she be healed. The Lord is to be praised for the generous giving that took place.

Our farmer brothers are busy putting in the corn and soybean crops, and we wish them safety. A period of good weather saw most corn planted by May 1.

On June 15, Bro. Doug Hodel was announced to be married to Sis. Erin Witzig. Both are from our local con-

gregation. His parents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel. She is the daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig. We are happy that God's will can be revealed in their hearts. Lord willing, they plan to marry on June 15.

Bro. John Meiss was announced to marry Sis. Tamara Esteghamat of the Bloomington congregation.

His parents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss, Gridley. She is the daughter of Gary and Joan Lavorgna, Chenoa. Lord willing, they plan to marry on May 25. May God be with them.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Christie Zeller
Julie Bahr

What wonderful words of encouragement we shared by the reading of the Memorandum on March 19. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was here for the evening and we thank him for his labors.

"What In the World is Going On ... Red Alert?" was the topic of our family worship this month by our Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie). We were reminded to "take heed, let no man deceive you" as we read in Matthew 24:4-13.

Sis. Katie Sinn passed away at Restmor on April 9. She was 100 years old. Also, Sis. Vi Keller (Bro. Roland, Sarasota, FL) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Helen Schmidgall (Bro. Clarence). May God comfort these dear families.

The Easter program was held Sunday, April 13, and followed the theme of John 3:16. What a blessed story of our Saviour's love.

We are happy to announce the births of three new babies. Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Braker have a baby boy named Kyle Bryce. Bro. Brad

and Sis. Tonya Kaufmann have a new little girl named Sophia Richelle. She is welcomed home by big brother, Domniq. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi have a new baby boy named Lucas James. He is welcomed home by big brother, Timothy, and big sister, Kayla. God bless these growing little families.

Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) was our visiting minister for the month. May God bless Bro. Tim for his service.

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot express our thankfulness to our church family and friends for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the recent loss of both of our mothers, Lois Trimble and Emma Ackerman. Your expressions of love and comfort were deeply appreciated by our entire families. We thank God for this blessed fellowship.

In His love,
Roger and Margie Ackerman and family

A special and sincere thank you to all who remembered me with cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls and most of all the love and prayers offered for me during my surgery and convalescence. May God bless you all.

Sis. Millie Zimmerman

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23

Our thanks to Bro. Randy Mogler

(Washington, IL). Bro. Randy taught Bible Study on April 2. His topic was 'Communion'. "...This is my body which is given for you." (*Luke 22:19*)

"To walk with Him is to walk in the light." (*Psalms 27:1*)

Matthew Moser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Aimee) has made known his desire to walk with the Lord. Isaac Funk (Bro. Tim and Sis. Deb Funk) wishes to turn his back to the world and follow Jesus.

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (*Isaiah 30:10*)

Our congregation extends sympathy to Sis. Rosalie and Sis. Ella Marie Edelman in the death (on February 16) of their brother, Bro. Fred Edelman (Sis. Joann, Bern, KS).

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray..." (*Matthew 19:13*)

Bro. Brent and Sis. Fawn (Esslinger) Kieser welcome little Mason Dean to their hearts and home. Mason was born on February 19. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Burlington, IA) and paternal grandparents are Bro. Verl and Sis. Lavonne Kieser (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner welcome their new granddaughter, Lauren Ruth Messner, born on March 26. Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan welcomed little Lauren into their hearts and home along with their children, Landon and Leighton (Winthrop, MN).

"Two are better than one..." (*Ecclesiastes 4:9*)

On March 16, we heard the engagement announcement of Bro. Jason Getz and Sis. Lindsey Schroeder (Roanoke, IL). Parents are Sis. Judy Getz (Peoria) and Rodney Getz (East Peoria) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke). Their wedding date is set for August 10.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Wendy (Rieker) Menold were united in marriage on April 6. Parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville, IL).

"This do in remembrance of me..." (Luke 22:19)

Holy Communion was held on April 13, Palm Sunday. Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Bro. Ken Hoerr served the blessed remembrance of our Lord's sacrifice to purchase our eternal heavenly home. We appreciate the humble service of those who watch for our souls as dear fathers. We trust God to give a good reward for your labors of love in Christ Jesus.

"I've prayed for you, that your faith fail not..." (Luke 22:32)

Praying for improved health and healing for Bro. Dave Dunbar and Sis. Karen Dunbar, Bro. Dick Haefli, and Bro. Paul Meister. May the Great Physician hear and answer your prayers for much improved health and healing, and patience in suffering.

Thank you for your service to our country:

Heath Coburn, son of Bob and Sis. Michelle Coburn is stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann. Heath's mailing address is: Pfc. Coburn, Heath, B. Company, 101 FSB Box 267, Fort

Riley, KS 66442. Heath expresses his thanks for your continued prayers on his behalf as he continues to seek the Lord in his conversion experience.

Jeffrey M. Weber, son of Mike and Sis. Janet Weber. Grandmother, Sis. Bertie Kieser (Princeville), prays for Jeff's safe tour of duty. His address is: Lance Corporal Jeffery M. Weber, MWSS-271/Section DETA, Unit 7111, FPO AE 09509-711. Let's remember them in our prayers and drop a note of encouragement anytime.

"The Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another..." (Genesis 26:20)

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Rachel Waibel, Zoe, Ellie, Mia, and Tess have been transferred to North Carolina. Their new address is: 138 High Brace Road, Franklin, NC 28734-6807. May the Lord bless and keep you. Your family will be missed from our congregation.

Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts, and concerns during my illness and recovery.

Bro. Harry Eisenmann

The fruit of the Spirit begins with LOVE, the following eight in this precious cluster of fruit can be put in terms of love.

JOY is LOVE...EXULTING
PEACE is LOVE...in REPOSE
LONGSUFFERING is LOVE...on TRIAL

GENTLENESS is LOVE...in SOCIETY

GOODNESS is LOVE - in ACTION

FAITH is LOVE...on the BATTLEFIELD

MEEKNESS is LOVE...at

SCHOOL and TEMPERANCE is...LOVE in TRAINING.

God's Treasury of Virtues

Room at the Inn:

Our retirement home on Skyline Drive has openings of apartments and assisted living. Whether you can live independently, or choose assistance, we have various living arrangements at competitive rates to match your finances. Enjoy wonderful fellowship. You can listen to church services from your apartment or attend church via our door to door bus services. Meals, laundry, housekeeping, and assistance are options you can choose. Phone toll free to: 1-877-691-8091 and ask for Matt Feucht or Roger Herman. Apostolic Christian Skylines, Peoria, IL.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

Ye shepherds, who the Lord do love,
And through the Spirit from above,
Proclaim to men salvation,
How much the Lord to you has willed,
Who at His blessed kingdom build,
It is beyond expression!
Therefore, therefore,
Be ye faithful! How delightful!
God with pleasure
Will impart the crown and treasure.

Zion's Harp #210

Sunday evening, March 16, was the Elder ordination service for Bro. Jim Plattner. Elder Bros. Joe Stoller, Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Aaron

Steffen (Alto, MI) all took part in this special service. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily for their many years of serving our congregation as the shepherd of the flock. Bro. Joe has retired as Elder but continues to minister to us, for which we are grateful. We offer our prayerful support to Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene as they carry on in this important work.

Other visiting ministers recently were Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). Visits from our brothers and sisters across the land are an encouragement to us.

Bro. Ray Wagenbach (Sis. Betty) had surgery this past month and is steadily improving. God's miracle of healing in our bodies is truly a gift!

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold's son, Bro. Derek, was married to Sis. Wendy Rieker (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) in Peoria, IL, on April 6. We wish them God's blessings as they make their home there. The engagement of Bro. Craig White to Sis. Cherie Galat of Rockville, CT, was made known April 6. Bro. Craig is the son of Claude White and Sis. Gloria White, and Sis. Cherie's parents are Bro. David and Sis. Marlene Galat. We look forward to getting to know Sis. Cherie and welcome her into our congregation.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each of you for your prayers of love, cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls, visits and food during my time at the hospital, at the Skyline home, and since returning home. Bro. John wants to thank all the people who came to see him at the hospital and Skyline home, also. It means so much to have so many caring people. We wish you God's

many blessings.

Bro. John and Sis. Lill Elsasser

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Joan Leman
Jenell Hodel**

This cup is the blood of my new covenant,
Which for many sinners I have shed;
Therein lies the promise and the power
of each one who unto sin is dead.
So this blood, which flowed on Calvary's mountain,
unto full salvation is the fountain;
and this cup reminds us of the blood,
which for sin was made a cleansing flood.

*Communion Hymn - Zion's
Harp #26, vs. 4*

Palm Sunday is always a beautiful start of the Easter week for our congregation as we join together in the evening to share Communion. We are thankful for this opportunity to reflect upon the price that was paid for our salvation. It may be a free gift to us but it cost our Lord and Savior much suffering and His death and shed blood. We thank Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville) and Everett Hari (Bloomington) for assisting with this.

We appreciate our other visiting ministers who served us this past month. They were Bro. Clark Stoller and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend). May they feel God's Spirit work through them and also the love and prayers of our congregation.

Our Sunday School also reminded us of the Old Rugged Cross through scripture reading and song

as they presented their Easter program to us. We pray for each of the students from 3 years old to seniors that they will always keep the true meaning of Easter and desire to follow Jesus.

March 23 was a special day as we were able to witness baptisms. We welcome Bro. Jerry Hodel and Sis. Wendy Rebbec into the family of God and truly rejoice with them as they were able to express the true joy and peace they have found after surrendering their lives to our Heavenly Father.

We lift up in prayer our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital. May they feel God's comfort and healing. Please continue to pray for Sis. Leona Pfister, Sis. Ruth Scherer, Bro. Matthew Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Bro. Ed Sauder and Sis. Madelyn Zimmerman.

On March 19, we enjoyed the program put on by our Scripture Memory class. May the children hide these words of the Bible in their hearts and draw strength from them as they grow. We thank those who coordinated and taught these truths to our children.

On March 6, we were able to share a potluck supper together as a congregation and then enjoy our monthly hymn sing. We want to thank the group "Living Waters" for blessing us through their songs.

At the writing of this, it appears that the Iraq war is winding down. We commit our President and the leaders of nations to God. May they look to Him for wisdom and guidance. Our prayers are with all of our troops and especially those of our congregation that are serving in the armed forces. They are Jason Rassi (Bill and Jan) and Adam Ott (Bro. Jim and Lorna). May each one return home safely to their loved ones.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

Our onto Calvary's Hill
 Where Jesus died I'll go
 To hear the words He speaks
 To see Him in His woe...

Zion's Harp #89

We were richly blessed to have Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) with us to assist with Holy Communion. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Erik Givens and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). May the Lord bless these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

May we continue to remember Sis. Betty Schweigert in our prayers as she was hospitalized again.

May we also remember the leaders of our country and the troops in our prayers. We are thankful that those from our area have been protected, thus far.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Marcia Koch
Dianne Wyss

"Jesus saith unto her, Mary; She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni, which is to say, Master." As we heard in our Easter morning service, when Mary recognized the Master's voice, she immediately acknowledged Him. When we hear Him call our name, do we acknowledge Him as Lord and Master?

Palm Sunday weekend was a special weekend for our Washington church. Saturday evening we were humbled to be able to partake in Holy Communion as we remembered our Lord's life and His death, for our sakes. We appreciate Elder

Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) assisting with Communion. Sunday afternoon we enjoyed our Sunday School children presenting the Easter story through scripture and song.

Thank you to Bro. Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) for serving from the pulpit this month.

We rejoice with our Sis. Brittany Baker and Bro. Nathan Zeltwanger from Goodfield, as they have been announced for marriage. May the Lord bless this time of planning and their future together. Their parents are Joe and Sis. Karen Baker and Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger. May our Lord be with them as they make plans for their future together.

Sis. Karen Knapp (Bro. Benj) spent a few days in the hospital for tests. We are thankful for the Lord's healing mercies.

We continue to grow as three new children have been added to our church family.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke have a new son, Ryan James. Welcoming him home are Erin, Galen, Morgan, Gillian, Allison, Bryn and Shannon. Grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein and Bro. Norman and Sis. Doris Rocke.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth also have a new baby boy to love and enjoy. Henry Gene is gladly welcomed home by siblings, Sis. Laura, Bro. Trent, Peter and Anna. Grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth and Bro. John and Sis. Dot Hoerr.

Bro. John and Sis. Ellen Cox, along with Bro. Joel and Jenna, are thankful to have in their home Misha Joy. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward and Bill and Mary Cox. They traveled to China to meet their

16-month-old daughter/sister and are now enjoying her as she adjusts to her new family and home. We are thankful for safe travel and answered prayers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Elizabeth Frauhiger
Tiffany Aschliman

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

Mark 11:22

We rejoice with two young souls who have surrendered their lives to the Lord in repentance recently. Heather Price (Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia) and Tony Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) have begun their walk with the Lord.

Riley Josephine Tonner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Rochelle) was born on March 16. She joins Brittney, Brendon, Kaitlin, and Madison at home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber (Bluffton North).

On March 18, Mason Levi Schwartz (Rick and Jen) was brought into the world. He joins a brother, Spencer, at home. His grandparents are Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Jeni Schwartz.

Brian and June Crockett (Brook Park, OH) are first-time parents with the birth of their son, Noah Allan, born on March 29. Noah's grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy Crockett (Altadena, CA).

Deidra Irene Reinhard was born on March 24 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard. Desiah and Deena are thankful for another sister. Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North) are thankful for

another granddaughter.

April 5 is the birth date of Estella Danielle Ringger. Estella is the daughter of Darin and Kim Ringger. Her grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger. Courtney and Seth are thankful for another playmate.

Isaiah Frederic Brege was born on April 10 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Carla Brege (Bluffton North). Garrison is Isaiah's big brother. His grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat.

Bro. Gaius Gerber went Home to be with our Father as a result of a tragic traffic accident on March 27 at the age of 93. He left behind three sons, Bro. Harry T. Gerber (Sis. Lois), Bro. Larry Gerber (Sis. Pauline) and Bro. Duane Gerber (Sis. Betsy); three brothers, Bro. Floyd Gerber (Sis. Gladys), Bro. Sylven Gerber and Bro. Edward Gerber (Sis. Vi, Ft. Lauderdale, FL); and six sisters, Sis. Minnie Aschliman, Sis. Anna Isch, Sis. Leona Schwartz, Sis. Josephine Schwartz, Sis. Alice Schwartz (Bro. Ervin), and Sis. Sarah Kipfer (Bro. Arthur).

Sis. Esther Kipfer also passed away this month on March 29 at the age of 92. She left behind two sisters-in-law, Sis. Nova Kipfer and Sis. Marguerite Kipfer. Our prayers are with the families of these two loved ones.

Sis. Marie Gerber, Sis. Carolyn Gerber (Bro. Bill), Sis. Lavon Gerber (Bro. Rex), Bro. Paul Schladenhauffen (Sis. Mildred), Sis. Mary Raber (Bro. Bruce), Jonathan Kipfer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda), Sis. Sylvia Bertsch (Bro. Oscar) and R.J. Gerber (Shelley) have all spent some time in the hospital this month. We pray God's healing hand upon them.

On March 23, Bro. Lane Gerber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) took Sis.

Christen Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) to be his wife. We wish them God's richest blessings in their marriage.

Celebrating 50 years of marriage this month were Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen and Bro. Les and Sis. Sally Schwartz. We are thankful for the example they set for all of us.

We are thankful for several visiting ministers. Assisting our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz with Communion on April 5 were Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA). Also sharing the Word with us this month was Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North). We are thankful for the willingness of these brothers.

On March 30 we welcomed two young brothers into the fold. Bros. Kevin Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) and Tyler Scott shared their testimonies and were baptized.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Austin Smith as he said farewell to our congregation and is making his home in St. Louis, MO. We pray that God will continue to direct his life as he makes this change.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Ann Meyer**

We appreciated the willing servants that traveled to share the Word with us this month. A heartfelt thank you goes to Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Bro. Kent Kloter also gave the Gateway Woods seminar "Growing in Godliness" and "Growing a Godly Marriage". What good advice we received and a continual challenge to become more

like Christ in our own lives and in our marriages.

We were all blessed with the singing of the Sunday School students in the annual Easter program. Our Saviour's resurrection is the perfect reason to sing and celebrate and their bright faces did just that.

Bro. Jadon Rauch was joined in marriage to Sis. Tundy Namenyi in Budapest, Hungary, on March 23. His parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy and hers are Bro. Janos and Sis. Irma. A reception was also given here for the newlyweds. We welcome Sis. Tundy to our church family and hope she soon feels at "home". May the Lord bless their new life together.

Announcing their engagement was Bro. Michael Reinhard (Bluffton) and Sis. Jane Braselton. May their bond in Christ make their love grow stronger each day. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard and Lee and Julie Braselton.

May the Lord's grace comfort Bro. Duane and Sis. Betsy Gerber in the sudden death of his father, Bro. Gaius Gerber (Bluffton). We will all miss dear Bro. Gaius. Our sympathy also goes to Sis. Marguerite Kipfer in the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Esther Kipfer (Bluffton).

Please remember our Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rod) in prayer. She has been hospitalized several times already for complications. Pray for her and the baby they are expecting. Also include in your prayer R.J. Gerber (Shelley). He is the grandson of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn. He has spent several weeks in the hospital, which must be hard for a boy. We hope the Lord will heal them of their infirmities.

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

children are their fathers.”

Proverbs 17:6

We have lots of happy grandparents to report this month. Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber have a new granddaughter, Riley Josephine. Her parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle Tonner.

A new grandson arrived for Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen. Little Micah Paul was born to Eric and Elaine Olson.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger added another granddaughter. Deidra Irene joined Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard's home.

Sis. Pat Wall is rejoicing over her new grandbaby. Ainsley Elizabeth is the first child of Rob and Michele Muehlbauer. Their home is in Boston, MA.

On April 10, another son joined the family of Bro. Todd and Sis. Carla Brege. Isaiah Fredric was welcomed by brother, Garrison, and grandparents, Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber and Bill and Ruth Brege.

A valuable hint from a sermon this month:

A vessel (or vase) that is broken and we glue back together loses some of its value. It might look good, but we know it was once broke. Not so with God. We become so much more valuable when we're broken in Him and He glues us back together on His foundation.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Pam Huber

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.”

Eccles. 9:9

We are each assigned a different portion in this life, and we rejoice with Bro. Grant Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) at the announcement of his engagement to Sis. Cara Baumgartner (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan) of Leo, IN. You have so much to look forward to as you grow together in the Lord, and we pray for your continued grace.

Our dear Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emilie) lost his sister, Sis. Dorothy Schambach (Bro. Albert) from Elgin, IL, to be with the Lord this past month. May God's peace rest on those she has left behind.

Several ministering brothers visited last month to share God's Word with us. Bro. David Zehr (Gridley, IL) joined us for a Bible study and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was here for our Communion service. We were also privileged to have Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) with us again. It is so refreshing to us and we are thankful for the work you do.

Note of Thanks:

A special thank you for the many prayers, love and telephone calls I received while in the hospital and since returning home. Your thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. May God bless each one.

Bro. Morris Eshleman

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35

On March 29, we had “Outreach

Weekend”. Many young people cheerfully gave of their time and efforts to help those in need in our community.

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our dear couple, Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Beebe, on April 5-6. We are thankful for the servant hearts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) who were with us for this special weekend.

We partook of Holy Communion together on April 12. We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) who humbly served us. May we daily remember and be thankful for the price Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, we enjoyed a blessed Easter program. The Sunday School students' love for Jesus was shown as they sang joyfully from their hearts to the Lord.

We rejoice with first-time grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford, on the birth of their grandson, Guinness Joseph Thomas Czerwinsky. Guinness was born on April 11 and his parents are Tom and Jane Czerwinsky of South Bend, IN.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

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

He bows His head and cries,
“Tis finished, all is done.
O God, receive my soul.”

Life's victory is won.

Zion's Harp #89

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH) for sharing Holy Communion with us. It is always a special time to reflect upon the Lord's suffering and death on the cross, so that all who receive Him can be saved.

We also would like to thank Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for sharing the Word with us this past month. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Viola M. Smith who passed away on Wednesday, March 19. She is survived by her husband, Frank Smith, of LaCrosse; one son, James (Betty) DeHaven, LaCrosse; a step-daughter, Natalie (Dave) Clemens, Birchwood, WI; three sisters, Sis. Irene, Sis. Pearl and Sis. Lucille Nuest, LaCrosse; one brother, Bro. Lester Nuest, Kouts, IN; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Once again we were reminded by our precious Sunday School children of the death of our Lord and Saviour and His resurrection from the grave through songs and poems recited at our Easter program. It is such a blessing to hear the Easter story being told from each of our youth.

The arrival of a new family member brings much joy. Daniel Glen was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold on April 19. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold and Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber (Wolcott, IN).

INDIANA, LEO

Ethelyn Schlatter

On April 13, the Sunday School

presented the Easter Program to "Magnify the Lord". Many of the names of God were mentioned in song and verse. He is a refuge in times of trouble, Holy One, Redeemer and King of Kings. It was a very inspiring afternoon.

The evening of April 17 was a special time for our congregation. Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Pfister, who have been fellowshiping with us, gave their testimony of faith. They were baptized in the early 1970's at the Fort Wayne, IN, church. The church accepted them on their testimony of faithfulness. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn in the testimony service and in serving Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Phil read I Cor. 11:25, "...this cup is the new testament in my blood..." He also mentioned Psalm 23:5 where it reads "my cup runneth over" and believes the cup has a deep meaning, more than just to hold a drink.

I looked up cup in the concordance. The Greek and Hebrew have many words translated cup in English. I Cor. 11:25, the Greek word is poterion, a drinking vessel, but is also used figuratively as in John 18:11, I Cor. 10:16, etc. The Hebrew word, Kowc in Psalm 23:5 has a root meaning "to hold together", cup as a container, often figurative. It is an interesting study.

We were knit together in unity. And then Bro. Lynn revealed the results of our voting for minister. Bro. Steve (Sis. Jane) Stieglitz was selected. "...the hand of the Lord hath wrought this." (Job 12:9)

Good Friday evening we gathered for services to again remember our Lord's death and sacrifice for us. The unconverted were welcome to come.

The engagement of Sis. Cara Baumgartner to Bro. Grant

Gudeman was announced on April 13. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan. Bro. Grant is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman of Francesville.

The engagement of Bro. David Pfister Jr. to Sis. Jami Imel was made known on Easter Sunday. Sis. Jami and her parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel, are from Bluffton, IN. Bro. David Jr.'s parents are Bro. David and Sis. Sharon Pfister. We commend both couples to the grace of God.

Bros. James Ramseyer and William Waibel (Bay City, MI) ministered to us this month. They are always welcome.

We are enjoying the fellowship of Renate Fritz from Boblinger, Germany. She will be doing an internship this summer with Paragon Landscaping.

Elijah John Stoller arrived April 17 to bless first-time parents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tonya Stoller. He is welcome by grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland (Princeville, IL).

Easter morning we gathered together at our Fellowship Center for a Sunrise Service. "...blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29). Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand planned a very inspirational program. Rejoice. Breakfast together followed the Sunrise service.

Bro. Steve Stieglitz had the morning message, contrasting the fall of man (Gen. 3) to the redemption for all men (John 20) through the resurrection of Christ the Lord. He is risen.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Gene Stoller and his family in the sudden death of his grandson, Kim. His mother is Rose.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Carlton Beer
Paula Haab**

Greetings from Milford! Another month has passed and our congregation received many blessings.

One of these blessings was hearing the testimony of Regg Beer and also witnessing his baptism. Regg is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat. We are grateful that Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Bro. Ray Sinn came to help with this blessed event.

We were saddened by the passing of Stanley Mikel, the father of Russ Mikel (Sis. Pat) of our congregation. He was a very successful farmer and we feel we lost a good friend.

Two of our brothers spent some time in the hospital. They were Bros. Art Haab and Maurice Beer. Both are recovering nicely. Morris is at home and Art is in the Milford Nursing Home where he brightens up the place.

Dave and Mary Jo McGowan announce the engagement of their daughter to Matt Haab, the son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol. We wish them God's blessings as they take this important step in their lives.

Amy Cockburn has enlisted in the Army National Guard and is taking her basic training in Fort Leonard Wood. We pray for her protection as she helps defend our country and our freedom. Amy is the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz and Curt Frank, and Bros. Greg Lehman, Art Ingold, Scott Schaffer and Wayne Lehman. Each one gave us encouragement as well as challenges to keep the Faith.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter of our Junction congregation was with us for a topical Bible study. He spoke of the excellent way. Those of us who

have been on the way for many years agree that this is really the excellent way.

We had our Easter program on Palm Sunday. It is good to see the enthusiasm of our children and their devoted teachers and we are thankful for the committees that arrange these events. We also had the privilege of hosting the West Lafayette choir in the afternoon. We had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet some new ones. It is really refreshing to be able to hear such a talented and spirit filled group. Christian greetings and fellowship really are a blessing. Certainly the Lord is pleased when He sees His children using their God-given talents.

INDIANA, REMINGTON**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

On March 19 we appreciated a Bible presentation in which Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) encouraged us to find a "desert place" to commune with the Lord. A place that is quiet and away from distraction so that we can truly hear God. Thank you, Bro. Jeff, for your kind instruction and willingness to teach.

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

Psalm 127:3

We have been blessed with new life in our fellowship as first-time parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Miranda Virkler, welcomed their daughter, Alexandria Grace, into their hearts and home on March 28. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich (Francesville) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler.

Bob and Heather Schini also embraced their little bundle of joy on March 30. Marisa Anne was welcomed home by big brother, Michael, and big sister, Alexis. Great-grandmother is Sis. Amelia Schini (Parkview Haven, Francesville).

With the love of God inspired,
There is joy for us on earth.

Zion's Harp #237

We wish Bro. Ross and Sis. Joy (Bahler) Stoller God's blessings on their marriage and in their home as they were united in love on March 30. Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty, OH), who have also been blessed by adding a special member to each of their families. Bro. Ross and Sis. Joy's address is: P.O. Box 84, Haviland, OH 45851. Their phone number is 419-622- 1118.

We thank the following ministers for being with us on that special day: Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce), and uncle to the groom; Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), uncle to the bride; Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN).

On April 6 we appreciated being around the Lord's table and partaking in Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) were willing servants as they brought to us God's commandment that we eat and drink in remembrance of His Son.

As the sun warms the earth again, we too can be revived in the warmth of God's Son. The light that

only He can shed on our lives can bring us through the cold of winter to an everlasting hope of life with Him in a place where the roses never fade and the sun never sets.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe

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

We can rejoice with thankful hearts that Jesus Christ is risen indeed. We were reminded of this as we watched our Sunday School children sing and say their parts at the Easter program. It is such a joy to witness their enthusiasm. It encourages us to know that they are beginning to build their foundation on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe at the engagement of their son, David, to Jenna Lynch. Jenna is the daughter of Jim and Sue Lynch (South Bend, IN). We pray that they will seek the Lord's guidance as they look forward to uniting their lives.

We were blessed to have Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) here to minister the Word to us. We appreciate his willingness to come often and help our ministering brothers on the pulpit.

INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Ed Lester

We extend Easter greetings to all this holiday. Not much happening in Valparaiso this month. Earlier we welcomed Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). It was a blessing to have them with us.

A big thanks to everyone who

pitched in to help with spring cleaning. The church looks great!

Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy Susdorf would like to welcome home their daughter, Becky. Becky's husband, Chad, is serving in Iraq. Our love and prayers go out to all the troops serving our country.

Let's not take our freedom we have in this country for granted. We as a country are greatly blessed and not only for being allowed to worship freely, but for the love God shines down on us every day. We give thanks for our Lord and Saviour who gave His life to set us free from sin's bondage. And don't forget that our Lord is a Living God. Happy Easter!

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston

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

Matthew 28:5-6

We enjoyed our Sunday School children telling us the Easter story at our program. Their enthusiasm is always encouraging and uplifting.

We also met on a Saturday evening and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) served us Holy Communion. Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN). We thank them for their willingness to travel the miles and bring

us God's Word.

We recently elected new Sunday School teachers. They are Bros. Russ Walder, Lon Vogt, Rustin Meister, Sis. Sara Vogt and Sis. Amanda Meister. Teachers who have served faithfully the past two years are Sis. Jackie Hoerr, Sis. Angie Ginzel, Bros. Randy Leman and Geoff Ginzel.

We are sorry to see Bro. Geoff and Sis. Angie Ginzel and their children, Samantha, Alexandria and Joshua, move to Peoria, IL. They will be greatly missed.

Our church choir recently spent an enjoyable Sunday afternoon with the Milford, IN, congregation. We wish to thank them for their kind hospitality.

We are pleased to report the engagement of two of our Purdue students, Sis. Cara Baumgartner and Bro. Grant Gudeman. Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Janet Baumgartner from Leo, IN, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman from Francesville, IN.

Our college students graduating from Purdue this spring are Bros. Nicholas (Sis. Sandra) Waibel, Clint Steffen, Grant Gudeman, Luke (Sis. Jenny) Gutwein, John Sprunger and Kylie Clauss. We wish them all the best as they go on to the next phase in their lives.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Luann Gerber
Heidi Bahler

And when I think that God His
 Son not sparing
 Sent Him to die I scarce can take it
 in;
 That on the cross, My burden
 gladly bearing,
 He bled and died to take away my
 sin.

How Great Thou Art, vs. 3

Always a special time for the believer is the solemn assembly for Communion. We shared the loaf and cup in our congregation on April 5. Here to help our Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Dan Kilgus was Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY). Thanks to these dear brothers for their willingness to serve us.

On Good Friday it is traditional in Wolcott to have the Sunday School children say their Easter pieces. Many grandpas and grandmas, aunts, uncles and others joined us for a full house where the all-important message of our risen Lord was spoken. There is still power in the blood!

Our Bro. Ed Widmer had a surgical procedure done this month. We're glad to report his good progress and thank God for His help in healing our physical bodies!

The 7-12 grade Sunday School students were great help in preparing for a soup, sandwich and salad bar appreciation supper for our Wolcott Church, hosted at the Word Relief building one Sunday afternoon.

Welcoming a sweet daughter into their hearts and home are Bro. Derek and Sis. Theresa Blume. Little Emma Rose arrived on April 16 and will be loved by grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel Schwab, Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume, and great-grandparents, Sis. Elizabeth Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene Schwab, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume (Sarasota, FL).

We also rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber as they became grandparents recently, and

great-grandparents, Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances Bahler, when a precious son, Daniel Glen, was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) on April 19. What a blessing when little ones come into Christian homes where they will be lovingly nurtured!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Lana Metzger
Brenda Schulz**

Greetings of love from Burlington. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) being with us on a Wednesday night. May God ever bless and provide for him for being a willing servant.

Also we rejoice with the engagement of Bro. Gary Schulz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy, Oakville, IA) and Sis. Melody Knobloch (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA) from Minneapolis, MN.

**IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer**

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth.
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

With her family around her, Sis. Joy Frieden drifted off into eternity on April 12. Her loss is felt deeply by her children: Sis. Gloria Frieden (Elgin), Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin) and Marsha Amos (Oelwein). Also, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren survive.

Mothers have a special place in the family unit so on this Mother's Day may we each take a little time to offer a little prayer of thanks for the Mothers that God gave to each of us.

We have two seniors looking forward to graduation this year. They are Monica Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and Hans Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan). May God ever guide and direct them in the path that they should go and may they be submissive to His leading.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Aaron Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) as he is being mobilized to Fort Carson, CO, the first week in May in preparation for his deployment to Sinai, Egypt, in July for 6-9 months.

On April 18, Isaac Allen arrived to bless the home of Steve and Peggy Moyle. Alyssa is happy to be a big sister. Also thankful for this addition to their family circles are grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Cheryl Moore and Mary Moyle.

Note of Thanks:

Over the past month I was hospitalized having had three surgeries with multiple complications. Throughout this trying time of pain and distress I knew my Saviour cared as well as all my brothers, sisters, friends, family and co-workers. It is with heartfelt thanks that I want to extend my appreciation to all you wonderful people for the numerous prayers, inspiring cards, beautiful flowers, delicious food, encouraging phone calls and comforting visits. It was only because of God's grace that I survived and the prayers that each of you offered on my behalf. God bless you all for all you have done for my family and I. I am hoping that my rehabilitation will progress so that I can get back to the mission of health care in which I

have been practicing. God bless you all richly.

Bro. Lon Butikofer

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

"This do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS) and Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) served Communion, and reminded us of the sufferings of Christ for our sins. But, oh, the peace and joy we may have, knowing He did not remain in the dark tomb, but arose with the promise of life in Heaven for all who put their trust in Him.

We were blessed by the visit of several from the Chicago area and other congregations this month. Those of us in small churches truly enjoy your effort to visit us.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked our Lord at His trial. We are thankful to the brothers who shared the truth of His Holy Word with us this month, so that we, unlike Pilate, might know what is truth. In addition to our Elders, our visiting ministers were Bros. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Lenard Meyer and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL).

Our high school graduate will be Carma Clark. Our prayer is that all who are graduating and reaching toward new directions in life will seek God's guidance along the way.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan Webber and her family, in the passing of her mother, Eloise Glatt.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

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

Psalm 51:16-17

The death angel has come and taken a precious little soul from our midst. Jaden Meyer passed away suddenly, after a brief illness, on March 20. Jaden was 5 years old and the son of Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer and a brother to Jessica (4) and Erica (2). Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Sis. Emma Meyer is Jaden's great-grandmother in our congregation. We pray that God will provide each day for this family who will surely feel a vast emptiness in their heart and home. Ministering Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) shared the Word of Life with us on March 23, as he and his wife, Sis. Lucy, were here for the funeral service on the 24th. Bros. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Darin Fehr (West Bend, IA) were also with us the day of Jaden's funeral. The following Sunday, Bro. Darin was our visiting minister. Thank you to these servants and their families for being spent for our spiritual benefit.

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

Isaiah 25:8

Just 8 days later, our hearts were again deeply saddened to hear that Bro. Jerry Nohl of Morris, MN, was killed in a plane accident. We re-

member his wife, Sis. Kristi, and their children, Ted and Staci, as they accept this plan God has for their lives. Our prayers and sympathy goes to the family in our congregation, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley, Sis. Tara, Bro. Benji and Sis. Leah, Larinda and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger.

Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) was with us for our Sunday worship services on March 29.

Sis. Martha Feucht (E.A.) was hospitalized for a few days for surgery. We pray that she will have a good recovery.

Ryan John was born on March 29 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Liz Warner. Nathan is now a big brother. Ryan's grandparents are Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA).

On April 6, we heard the engagement of Sis. Melody Knobloch (Minneapolis, MN) to Bro. Gary Schultz (Burlington, IA). Sis. Melody is the daughter of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch and Bro. Gary's parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schultz (Oakville, IA). We wish this couple and their families God's continued guidance as they make plans for a June wedding.

Our Holy Communion service was held on April 12. Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dennis Warner. A time to go to Calvary and try to grasp the great price the Saviour paid for our sins.

Note of Thanks:

I would just like to say thank you for all the cards, gifts and prayers that were offered during my back surgery and recovery. May the Lord bless each of you for your many deeds of kindness.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida

Mogler

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Debbie Wagenbach
Melody Steiner

Bro. Brian Schmidgall (Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Heidi Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) were recently joined in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless this dear couple as they now walk as one with Him.

We recently heard of the betrothal of Bro. Gary Schulz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) to Sis. Melody Knobloch of Minneapolis (Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie, Lester, IA). Our thoughts and prayers are with these dear ones and with Bro. Gary's children. We know the Lord's hands can bless this dear union and this dear family. We welcome Sis. Melody to our area and pray she can feel our love and support.

Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) helped Elder Bro. Jon serve us Holy Communion. We truly were spiritually refreshed. We also want to thank Elder Bro. Andy Stoller for ministering to us. May the Lord continue to bless these dear brothers for their labors on our behalf.

Notes of Thanks:

Dear ones,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for all the kind outpouring of your hearts and tokens of love you have shown me during my recent birthday. This has been a truly humbling experience. May God richly bless all of you.

Your least brother in faith,
Robert Kiefer

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in Christ,

The family of Bro. Robby Lanz would like to thank those who sent cards, flowers and gifts, but especially for your prayers. Without your prayerful support Bro. Robby would not be here today. The loving kindness and prayerful support shown to our family since July 26 has been overwhelming. Words cannot adequately express how thankful we truly are.

Robby came home from On With Life in Ankeny on February 28. He continues therapies at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, continuing to show slow but steady improvement. Robby would like to be walking independently within the next month and we believe that is an attainable goal! His long-term memory is good and his short-term memory is improving. He is able to consume a full diet and is anxious to return to farming.

Once again, we thank you for your loving support and we praise God for His miracles.

In Christian Love,
The family of Robby Lanz

IOWA, PULASKI
Katrina Knobloch

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

I Cor. 11:24

On March 22, our congregation assembled together to partake of Holy Communion. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) who assisted our Elder Bro. Doug. We were thankful to Bro. Duane for sharing God's Word with us on Sunday.

Also sharing God's Word with us this month were Bros. Craig Martin

(Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) and Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). We thank them for serving our church this way.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Berniece Banwart

We appreciated hearing the Word brought forth by Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA). Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie were here to assist in moving her mother, Sis. Marie Gress, to the West Bend Care Center where her husband, Bro. Fayhe, has been living for several years. She is thankful and content to be there with him.

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

Isaiah 53:5

Prior to partaking of Holy Communion, Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) read the 53rd chapter of Isaiah and as he brought forth the message, we were reminded of Christ's suffering and sacrifice on our behalf.

On this same day we were thankful to hear the announcement that Michael Schneider (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue) has found peace and is anticipating baptism in June.

We extend our sympathy to several in our congregation who have lost loved ones. To Sis. Clara Anliker on the death of her sister-in-law, Sis. Dorothy Schambach of Elgin, IL; and to the families of Sis. Katie Ludwig (late Bro. Arnold), who passed away April 9 at Fellowship Village Care Center, Inwood, IA. She would have been 90 years old on April 12, the day of her burial. Survivors in-

clude her son, Randy, and wife, Deanna Ludwig, Canton, SD; four grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Sis. Ida Schmidt, Fred (Iva) Banwart, and Ervin (Nettie) Banwart, all of West Bend. Bro. Charles Marti (Sis. Alice, Lamar, MO) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) attended the funeral and supported our local ministers by offering prayers.

Sis. Edna I. Banwart was hospitalized for surgery while visiting her daughter in Illinois and is now recuperating at home. Bro. Clifford Grimm (Sis. Rosene) was also hospitalized after a close call with carbon monoxide poisoning.

A Mother's Love

A Mother's love is something
That no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
And of sacrifice and pain.
It is endless and unselfish
And enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
Or take that love away.
It is patient and forgiving
When all others are forsaking.
And it never fails or falters
Even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
When the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
Of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
It defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
Like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle
Man cannot understand,
And another wondrous evidence
Of God's tender guiding hand.

—Helen Steiner Rice

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Spring greetings from Tokyo! We

are enjoying the change in seasons with the beautiful cherry blossoms just ending and the tulips blooming for the first time around our new church lawn. How nice it is to be cheered by the fruit of our labors with the Lord's blessing.

Easter Sunday, although a rainy day here, was abundantly blessed by the Lord. We had our usual Easter morning service, lunch and fellowship and then afternoon Easter Program. There were over 20 Sunday School children who participated, a larger number than we have had in many years, and they all did a wonderful job presenting the Easter story of hope and joy in a question and answer format. Most of them are Sis. Marie's English students, so they said several lines in English too and were so sweet to hear. Several adults from the congregation had presentations of songs or stories also, which seems to draw us closer together as a church family. It was encouraging to see that many mothers of Sunday School students came and we hope and pray their hearts were touched by the deeply meaningful story of the Savior of the world. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue also gave a talk about the reason why women wear head coverings in our church as many people wonder why and some have been brave enough to ask. We are appreciative to him and to all of our Sunday School teachers for their continual labors in training the children in the ways of the Lord, as it is by no means, an easy task! We thank the Lord for His abounding grace.

As mentioned in last month's report, we were blessed by a visit from Bro. Matt Brake (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Jeff Stoller (Fairbury, IL.) They were able to worship and fellowship with us on the last Sunday in March. It was a joy to see Bro.

Matt again after a year absence, and we thank him for bringing Bro. Jeff along who selflessly gave of himself to have the afternoon Bible Study. He spoke on II Cor. 6, how we can "approve ourselves as the ministers of God." It's both a very humbling and inspiring chapter.

We were very saddened to hear of the death of Gary Kellenberger's (son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, Elgin, IL) mother-in-law, Fumiko Sugahara. We know this is going to be a springtime that brings back painful memories for many years, but we pray that Gary and his wife, Yoko, and son, Koa, and her whole family will find joy in remembering her love and all the precious memories they had with her.

We give thanks to God that a new college student named Megumi Hashiguchi has begun attending church services. It is our hope and prayer that more and more young people will come with a hunger for the Truth and will bring their added support. It has been an added blessing lately to have 94 year old Sis. Inoue Obaachan (Grandma Inoue) enthusiastically worshipping with us every Sunday as she is living for the time being with Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie. She is an encouragement to all!

KANSAS, BERN

Sally Strahm

Lori Baumgartner

We are thankful when new lambs are added to the fold. As a little child needs their mother and father daily, may these new sisters and brother look to their Heavenly Father for daily nurturing and guidance. The new lambs to welcome in are Bro. Nathan Plattner (Bro. Carroll and Roberta), Sis. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty), Sis. Jody

Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Leann Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie).

First-time grandparents, Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller, are thankful Samantha Marie arrived safely on March 24. Samantha's parents are Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla Beyer of the Sabetha, KS, congregation. What important duties we as parents and grandparents have in being examples to these little ones!

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers with us from Sunday to Sunday. Ministers with us on the weekend of March 29-30 were Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI). Bros. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) were used as servants in Sunday School. May we be prayerful each time our brothers stand up to speak the Word of Life.

Our sympathy goes to Mike Frey in the passing of his mother, Odessa Frey. Her funeral was April 7 and we pray he'll feel comforted in this time of loss.

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

Zion's Harp #26

The Bern congregation held their Holy Communion on April 12. What a special time when we can think back on Christ's death and suffering. Our earthly trials, trials and temptations don't compare to Jesus dying on the cross for us. We not only want to think of it during this time, but daily. Our Elder Bro. John Lehman and Ordained Deacon Bro. Galen Rokey carried out this work.

Those who have reached a milestone in their life and are graduating from high school are Myron Strahm (Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby), Doug and Sis. Diane Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), Caleb Meyer (Earl and Sis. Darlene), Kari Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye), Lindsey Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda), Jeremiah Meyer (Keith and Deb), Almanzo Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy), and Derek Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane). College graduates graduating from K-State are Bro. Brian Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane). May we be prayerful for these young men and women as they go into their next phase in life.

As Mother's Day approaches, may we be ever so thankful for our earthly God-fearing mothers. To those whose mothers have gone on before, may you treasure and remember the memories you had with your mother and look forward to reuniting with her in Heaven.

The Bern congregation hosted an invite-a-couple the weekend of April 5-6. Weekends like these are special when we can fellowship with those of like mind and faith. May we be ever so thankful for our precious church. We appreciated having ministering Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn) with us that Sunday from Bradford, IL.

Our Wednesday evening services will be ending and Sunday evening singings will begin with the Sabetha congregation on April 27.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Ruth Bahr

On March 19, Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) gave the grave exhortation for Communion. They came again April 9, for the humbling Communion service. Other ministers visiting here this month were Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), Kenneth Knapp (Sis. Phyllis, Taylor, MO) and Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO). We thank each one for sharing God's Holy Word with us.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School students presented an Easter program. With the help of some adults singing with them, it gave the feeling of sitting in heavenly places.

First-time parents are Trenton and Kristi Banwart. Their son, Benjamin Gene, arrived April 13. Grandparents are Bro. Ric and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart, all of Fort Scott.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Jenny Stewart Laura Wagenbach

Spring! How wonderful! All the new life to enjoy. It always makes me think of the new life we can have in Christ if we will but ask.

On April 5, we had a special evening to partake of Holy Communion. We had a wonderful potluck before Communion, giving us time to fellowship with our brothers and sisters. We are very thankful for our Elder Bro. John Lehman coming to

share with us. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and his family also joined us. We appreciate Bro. Mike for his efforts and wonderful words of love and encouragement.

What a great day we have to celebrate our mothers. May God bless them for their patience, love, and especially for their prayers. The memories they have given us are precious.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

Eileen Bahr

March 23, a "Boundary Waters" reunion brought back memories and blessed our congregation with Bro. Dan Stoller's (Remington, IN) messages. He shared a brother's situation when the brother was in Korea when payday celebration invitations to go out were given him. The soldiers finally stopped heckling him when he told them it was his conviction not to do these things (not a church rule, minister, etc.).

Awhile back I asked Rudy if he would tell our children about Korea so they would have an understanding. His reply: "I don't want to talk about it." Since the war reports, he did mention the memories of recalling the bombings even when he knew they were headed in the other direction. The good thing about that war time was the Christian fellowship the brothers shared at Ft. Sam Houston and the close experiences these brothers shared making their reunions a special blessing through the years.

We had a pleasant surprise at Wednesday evening services when Bro. Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) "came home" and shared the Word with us on March 19.

On April 7, our dear Sis. Ada Beyer (Bro. Ivan) is "Safely Home".

I am home in heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.
There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth
You shall rest in God's own land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) helped Elder Bro. Jay Luthi serve Holy Communion for us April 12 and shared the gospel with us for a most blessed weekend. We thank you for taking the time to travel the distance from Morris.

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

"For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:21

As we look forward to Mother's Day, we all have a special place in our heart for that Mother who loved us and taught us as a little child where that treasure is. Our children certainly are one of the most special treasures we have on this side of heaven. Two new mothers in our congregation look forward to celebrating their first Mother's Day. Samantha Marie, born on March 24, is the special treasure that has been welcomed into the hearts of her parents, Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla Beyer. Samantha's grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen

Beyer and Bro. Arden and Sis. Darlene Stoller (Bern, KS). Bro. Steven and Sis. Kelly Edelman welcomed their little treasure, Maddy Jo, on April 6. Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Eugene and Judy Edelman are Maddy's grandparents.

Our church family rejoices with our converts, Wayne and Carrie Grimm, as they have begun their repentance. May God provide this couple grace and strength as they seek their soul's salvation.

Sharing the Word with us over the past month were: Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Shawn Metzger (Philadelphia, PA) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We thank each one along with their families for visiting our church and laboring in God's service.

Our congregation had the opportunity to express our congratulations at the wedding reception of Bro. Trent and Sis. Rosie Strahm on March 23. We welcome Sis. Rosie to Sabetha and pray that God will bless this new couple as they begin their walk of life together as husband and wife.

Sis. Louise Aberle recently celebrated her 100th birthday. We all were invited to share this special day with her at a reception. May God continue to bless Sis. Louise as He has in the past 100 years!

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Elder Bro. Joe Stoller and Sis. Emily and four brothers from the Princeville and Peoria area spent the weekend of March 22-23 with the Wichita congregation. Bro. Joe was filling the duty on our visiting minister schedule and we were re-

warded by the presence of those who came with him. We thank all of you for the sacrifice of your time and energy for our spiritual benefit.

The weekend of April 5-6 brought more blessings. A group of brothers and sisters from K-State (Manhattan) arrived on Saturday to help with yard work and cleaning the church. Believe me, we here in Wichita appreciated their efforts. Then on Sunday, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane spent the day with us. Bro. Jay shared pulpit duties with Bro. Max Reimschisel and Bro. Glenn Funk. When Bro. Glenn opened the Bible to begin the New Testament reading in the afternoon, he was interrupted by the presence of a spider that had apparently swung down from the ceiling and took a position where Bro. Glenn could not ignore it. Bro. Glenn had to do a little emergency housecleaning! I was reminded of the passage in Proverbs 30:24-28 where the writer described four things that are little upon the earth and are exceedingly wise. They are ants, conies, locusts and spiders. Verse 28 reads, "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces." Later in the day, Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie arrived. They were enroute home after spending the weekend in the Kiowa area. We reassembled at 5:00 p.m. and were served Holy Communion by Bro. Jay and Bro. John. It behooves all of us to pray for our Elder brothers as they travel to meet our needs. Their weekends certainly are not for resting and restoring their energy for the coming week.

We are rejoicing as we welcome Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Sauder and their children, Anna, Julia, Lydia and Philip, who are living in Hesston, KS, and will be worship-

ping with us in Wichita. Surely, they will be missed in the Chicago fellowship. Our prayer is that they will adapt to the changes and feel at home here. Their address is 31 Park View Road, Hesston, KS 67062 and their telephone is 620-327-4017.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

What a blessing it was to witness another testimony and baptism this month. On the weekend of April 12, Gina Blough (Bro. Martin and Sis. Michelle) was baptized by Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen.

This past week we had a men's World Relief night to work on and finish wheelchair transfer boards. There was quite a turn out and a lot accomplished. Thanks to all who helped.

On April 6 we had no church due to a bad ice storm that left a lot of our congregation without power from 2-4 days.

Sis. Loretta Steffen (Bro. Aaron) is at home and recovering from the surgery she had at the end of last month.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

I cannot tell how precious
The Saviour is to me,
Since I have Him accepted,
And He has made me free;
I cannot tell His goodness,
Enough to satisfy,
And if you'll only take Him,
You'll see the reason why.

Hymns of Zion #51

We were very privileged to recently hear from two dear souls who discovered the preciousness of the

Saviour and shared with us their testimony of faith. We rejoice with the angels as we welcome them into the brotherhood. Our new brothers in faith are Bro. Alan (Vicki) Schlatter and Bro. Chet Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam). May the Lord be their guide and protector and remain by their side throughout the remainder of their lives, no matter what may come their way.

We were thankful to have several visitors in the midst of our congregation the weekend of Bro. Alan and Bro. Chet's baptisms. We are grateful that Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL) were able to be with us for the baptisms.

May the Lord's healing powers rest with Sis. Loretta Mosher (Bro. Windsor) and Sis. Janet Kober as they have both spent time in the hospital recently. Clyde Wackerle, Bro. Gerald Wieland (Sis. Lois) and Sis. Esther Waibel continue to be in our prayers as infirmities of the body prevent them from assembling with us at this time.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Krista Wieland
Jamie Bahr**

We were richly blessed to take Communion with visiting Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic and his wife, Sis. Marian (San Diego, CA). Coming together as a church in this way is such a wonderful expression of unity. During the service, we were reminded of our Saviour's words, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Though we may not fully grasp the depth of Communion, we are thankful for the simple faith displayed when we

"do it in remembrance of Christ" (Luke 22:19), just as He asked. We also thank Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) for sharing the Word with us.

The Sunday School presented the annual Easter program on Palm Sunday. The children and the choir reminded us through word and song to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This was Christ's final commandment to His disciples, and we were encouraged to continually pray and look for opportunities to be the light and salt of the earth.

As we thank God for so many blessings, we want to remember the gift of health. Several of our church family members have been hospitalized this month, including Jack Maibach (Bro. Doug and Carole), Sis. Ann Tacher, and Sis. Anna Sabodos. Grace Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) had tonsil surgery recently, as well.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kay Novak in the loss of her husband, Harvey. We also want to remember their children: Larry and Lynda Novak, Tom and Cathy Novak and family, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa and family.

Sis. Audrey Hitz (Bro. Leonard) will soon be celebrating her 80th birthday. We greatly miss her in church each week as she has not been able to attend for some time due to her health.

Also celebrating a "birthday" is baby Levi Jordan Krieger, born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kristine on April 15, and welcomed home by big brother Zach. Grandparents are Arnold Krieger, Diane Krieger and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sandee Price (Sarasota, FL).

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Diane Stewart

What a privilege our congregation had to partake of Holy Communion on April 5. The sacrament was served to us by our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner and our newly ordained deacon, Bro. Duane Rocke. God bless them!

Then the next day on Sunday, the Sunday School brought us the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. How much we appreciate our Sunday School and the teachers for all the effort they put forth. Christ lives!

A special joy was to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Melody Knobloch to Bro. Gary Schultz of Burlington, IA. May God richly bless them as they prepare for marriage. Sis. Melody has been a big part of our congregation as she first came to attend college and then after working elsewhere, returned to work here.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Cheryl Messner Katie Koehl

Three visiting ministers this past month included Bros. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner was here to help serve Holy Communion. We trust God will be their rich rewarder for their labors.

We are thankful that Bridget Backman (Eric) has turned her back to the world and is seeking the Lord in repentance.

Our congregation has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of our dear Bro. Jerry Nohl. We extend a sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Kristi; two children, Ted and Staci; his parents, Bro. Larry and Sis.

Bonnie; and siblings, Bro. Doug (Sis. Amber), Sis. Sheila and Todd. We depend on God and trust that He will comfort the family and provide for them.

There with the angels singing,
In Heaven we shall roam,
With gratitude proclaiming;
We've reached the soul's bright
home.

Zion's Harp #139, vs. 10

We welcome three new baby girls to our congregation. Crystal Marie was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl. Erin Marie was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Sally Nohl and welcomed home by big brother, Devin. Tara Jo was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Marci Domnick. Paul, Laura and Heather are excited to have a new baby sister join their family circle.

Bro. Noah Nohl has been hospitalized and we trust God will continue to heal where it is His will.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Marilyn Messner Ginny Stoll

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) spent a weekend to assist with Sis. Shayla Messner's (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) baptism. We thank them for their efforts to share with us. May God bless and give Sis. Shayla strength as she begins her walk on the narrow path.

Landon and Leighton welcome little Lauryn Ruth into their hearts and home. May God continue to bless and guide Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan Messner as they instruct their precious family.

Our medical patients were Bro.

Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Marilyn Messner (Billy). May God continue to strengthen them as they face these earthly trials. Our prayers are with them and their families.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti
Wendy Braker**

Seth William was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Huber on March 17. His sister, Laura, welcomes him home. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL) and Karen Huber (Morton, IL).

We appreciate our visiting minister, Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), who brought us the Word this past month. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

Our prayers are with Sis. Janice Frieden as she has spent time in the hospital this past month.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

God's Word was brought to our St. Louis congregation by the following ministers the first two Sundays in April: Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). As we were gone both of these Sundays, the brothers were on the pulpit alone. We are very thankful for their faithful service.

Even as we bade farewell to Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger, who have moved to Lamar where all of their children and grandchildren live, we have welcomed Bro. Austin Smith to St. Louis from the Bluffton congregation. His work has brought him here, and we hope he will feel

blessed to assemble and worship with us. In such a small congregation, every person is so appreciated.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

We have been blessed with two new additions to our congregation in the last month. On March 19, Abraham Shannon Haerr was born to Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan Haerr. Big sisters are Madison and Hattie. Abe's paternal grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr and great-grandmother is Sis. Evelyn Wysong (Sabetha, KS). Maternal grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch (Lester, IA).

On April 8, big brother Hayden Hoerr welcomed a beautiful little sister, Sophie Ann. Parents are Stacy and Jody Hoerr. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Donnie and Sis. Elaine Hoerr and great-grandmother is Sis. Loida Hodel, all of Taylor.

We are thankful for these new little blessings and pray that they will always feel the love of Jesus Christ in our church and in our homes.

Daywon Todd, foster son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel, underwent surgery in the last month. We are happy to see him doing well.

We were blessed to share Holy Communion on April 12. Thanks to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda (Leo, IN), for being here to share in that with us and also for ministering to us on Sunday. We know that it's a long way from home. God bless you.

That same weekend was our Easter program. A special thank you to the parents, teachers and especially the students for blessing us with the awesome message of Easter.

Another special thank you to El-

der Bro. John Lehman and his wife, Sis. Connie (Bern, KS), for being with us on Easter Sunday to share God's Word. God bless you.

Congratulations to Bro. Ben Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) on his engagement to Sis. Natalie Lehman of Bloomington, IL (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO). May God bless you during this special time. We look forward to your big day!

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We spent the day together on Friday, March 21, assembling quilts in the afternoon and then putting together health kits and rolling bandages in the evening. On Saturday and Sunday we were thankful to again have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) share the Word of Life with us. May the Lord richly bless him for willingly laboring in His vineyard.

Thou art with us, where two or
three
in holy union gather,
And pray in faith, from doubting
free,
unto the heavenly Father.
For Thou Thyself art present,
Lord,
where brethren meet in one ac-
cord,
and blessed hours are given,
A foretaste of that heritage,
beyond our earthly pilgrimage,
Awaiting us in heaven.

Zion's Harp #204, vs. 5

Our Good Friday evening services were held on April 18 and we are thankful that we had the opportunity to share another Easter season together and be reminded of the great love that our Lord and Saviour

has for each one of us. May the preaching of a repentance and forgiveness of sins, made possible by His shed blood, continue to be preached across the pulpits of our land. May He especially touch the hearts of the children that participated in our Sunday School Easter program on April 20.

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner condemned unclean.

For me it was in the garden
He prayed "Not my will, but
thine,"
He had no tears for His own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,
And came from the world of light
To comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrow,
He made them His very own,
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered, and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me.

How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Saviour's love for me!
Hymns of Zion #174

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Julia Karcher in her passing from this life on April 20. May the Lord provide her daughter, Peggy Nuspliger, the comfort and solace that can only be found in Him. What a blessing that her funeral service could be held on April 23, followed by a committal service for her and

her husband, Urban, who passed away in January. Sis. Julia will be sorely missed by our congregation, but we are comforted to know that she will be singing through the ages of the wonderful love of our Saviour!

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that another soul has found grace to repent and has received peace with God. Margi (Graf) Gallagher (John), daughter of the late Elder Bro. Rudy Graf, looks forward to giving her testimony and baptism and we can receive her as a Sister in Christ.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Eva Grawunder have a new granddaughter, Ava Marie, born to their daughter and her husband, Andy and Jodi Lovell. May God bless the new parents and their baby.

Sis. Susie Soto has become a new grandmother with Alaina Katherine born to her daughter and her husband, Gina and Bobby Flippo. Alaina is in the hospital at the time of this writing, and they appreciate everyone's prayers.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss Pamer's son and daughter, Daniel and Beth, have safely returned from their trip to Mexico with the work project.

Our Akron congregation welcomed a nice group of single brothers and sisters from several of our churches. We were happy to have the many visitors and we enjoyed their fellowship and hope the weekend was a blessing to all.

Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) blessed us with his ministry on April 3, for which we are thankful.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

Our congregation rejoices with our friends, Paul and Nicole (Steffen) Suvar, who have chosen to turn their backs on the ways of the world and begin their repentance. What a blessing for a newly-married couple to begin their life together serving the Lord!

We are thankful for the willing brothers who travel to Columbus to share God's Word. This month we were pleased to have Bros. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH) visiting us.

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Grandparents, Bro. John and Patricia Rose, welcome another little granddaughter into their family. Faith Irene joined the family of Johnathon and Connie and siblings, Chelsea and Johnathon Jr. We pray that God will grant guidance as they raise up their children.

Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) spent a recent weekend with us. We appreciate his labors in the ministry, and trust God to bless him.

We will keep Sis. Madeline Manz in our prayers and trust God will continue to heal her body as only He can.

When peace like a river, attendeth
my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught
me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
Hymns of Zion #55

Our convert, Kurt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) was announced as having peace with God and all man. May God continue to be

with you each step of the way.

OHIO, LATTY
Bonny Wenninger
Amanda Steffen

After seeking the Lord in repentance, Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne) and Cassie Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy) have received peace from our Father in Heaven. We rejoice with them and look forward to hearing their testimonies of faith.

On April 5-6 we hosted Invite-a-Couple Weekend. We are so thankful for the blessed fellowship that our Faith provides. We thank all of you that came to share the weekend with us.

Bro. Ross Stoller and Sis. Joy Bahler were united in marriage on April 13. Their parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler (Remington, IN). We wish them God's blessings in their walk together with Him.

We rejoice with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm in the birth of their son, Bryce Alan. Welcoming him home are siblings, Mallory, Rachael, John, Dana and Adrienne. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman and Sis. Irma Stoller. We wish them God's loving guidance as they raise their children.

We are so thankful and happy to report souls turning their hearts to the Lord. Paul and Nicole Suvar (George and Becky Suvar, Scott, OH, and Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen Steffen) have begun their repentance. They assemble with the Columbus, OH, congregation. Also, Reid and Amanda Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and John and Pennie LaBounty, Payne, OH) have begun their walk with the Lord. We

pray that they can yield their all into God's service.

Bro. Bill McClure's father, Carl McClure, recently passed away. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you, Bro. Bill. May God comfort you and be near you.

Among our visitors this month were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and ministering Bros. John Jackson, Bill Waibel and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). We thank them and may the Lord bless them in their efforts.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer

Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) visited us on March 16. We thank him for humbly sharing the Word of God with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Christine Dotterer (Bro. LaVern). She was recently in the hospital for heart surgery. May God bless her with a speedy recovery.

On March 28, Bro. Steve Domka passed from this life into eternity. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Ruth Domka; two daughters, Carolyn Batten and Eileen Van Patten; two sons, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Dan Domka (Sis. Mary Ann); a brother, Fred Jones (Elaine); two sisters, Sis. Rhea (Bro. Harold) and Sis. Carolyn Beard; a half-sister, Helen Reeves; and a half-brother, William Domka.

Todd and Stephanie Ramsier were married in Zanesville, OH, on March 29. The parents of this new couple are Mike and Cathy Firman and Bro. Wally Ramsier. We wish them God's richest blessings in their married life together.

May God bless Bro. Chad and Sis. Tamara Griffey as they provide fos-

ter care for four little brothers. They are Cory, Kobe, and twins, Cole and Kyle Palmer.

We share salvation through His grace.
 We drink one cup; we break one bread;
 One Saviour suffered in our stead.
Zion's Harp #25

We trust the Lord will richly bless Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) who assisted our Elder Bro. Mark Masters in serving Communion on Saturday, April 5. Bro. Jon also shared God's Holy Word with us on Sunday.

Our World Relief Days were held on April 7-8. Many came to sew comforters, sort clothes, make and fill kits, etc. for those in need. We thank our sisters Laura Ramsey (Bro. Ed), Robin Beer (Bro. Marvin) and Betty Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord) for all their efforts and organization. We also appreciated many who made food for the meals and sisters Lilly Baumann (Bro. Mike), Kay Rufener (Bro. Ron) and Wendy Gerber (Bro. Tim) for all their time in the kitchen preparing those delicious meals.

We are thankful for our children and our Sunday School teachers. May God bless each one for their part in the Easter Program on April 13.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Laurel Indermuhle
Anna Schar

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

Psalms 143:10

With great thankfulness we have several new converts to report this

month! We hope that Mollie Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne), Laurie Beery and Michelle Beery (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lynda), Becky Raifsnider and Amy Raifsnider (Douglas and Sis. Diana), Sharon Stoller (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joyce) and Lisa Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie) will be continually taught to do God's will and will be led to heaven above (as we hope is the case for each one of us)!

First-time parents, Bro. Peter and Sis. Laura Bodrogi, were blessed with the safe arrival of twins, Benjamin and Rebeka, on March 28. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier and Mrs. Peter Bodrogi (a sister from Hungary).

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb Gasser welcomed a third daughter, Brittany Rose, on March 31. Brittany joins big sisters, Kayla and Charity. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

The marriage of Josh Olszewski (Bud and Ann, Burbank, OH) and Kristin Gasser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) took place on March 29. We wish this new couple a blessed life and that they would serve God together.

March 29-30 was the weekend of testimonies and baptisms for Bro. Joshua Riggerbach and Sis. Crystal Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie), Sis. Joy Ingold (Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Carolyn Keiper. With joy we welcome them to the family of God! Thanks to Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Merle.

May God comfort the family of Tim and Sis. Kim Hanzie as Tim's

grandmother, Mary Hanzie, passed from this life on April 2.

On the evening of April 12, we gathered together to partake of Communion. May God help us to remember the suffering that our Lord endured for our sins! Our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler was assisted that evening by Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer.

Our other visiting minister this past month was Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). May God bless each minister of God's Word!

Hospitalized were Doug Raifsnider, Sis. Lucy Gasser (the late Bro. Albert), Sis. Martha Maag (Robert) and Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel). We are thankful that these four have returned to their homes.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."

Psalm 78:1-7

May we, as parents, teach our children the Word and the ways of God as He has commanded and it be passed on from generation to generation until the end of time. Let's honor our parents always and remember them on Mother's and Father's Day. May the Lord bless the mothers and fathers, young and old.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:"

Mark 13:28

The flowers are blooming, the trees are getting their leaves and the grass is green; all the signs of summer. Another sign of summer is the end of school. The children will be anxious to play outdoors and enjoy their free time from schoolwork. We also plan to have three high school graduates and one eighth grade graduate. They are Doug Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam), Sis. Charla Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry), Sis. Kristy Miller (Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris) and Nathan Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice). May the Lord bless them as they continue to higher education or into the working world. May they look to the Lord for guidance and direction in all they do.

"I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant."

Psalm 119:75-76

Loved ones who have been hospitalized and/or have had surgery are Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) and Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen). Little Malachi contin-

ues to be in the hospital and Sis. Janet is home recuperating. May the Lord continue to put His healing hand over them and give them and their loved ones comfort.

“And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.”

Romans 15:29

The willing servant of the Lord, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), gave voice of the Holy Spirit to the ears of the congregation on the Sabbath. Bless him and his dear wife for making the effort to visit their loved ones and being servants to Jesus Christ.

“Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

Joel 1:3

June 29 is the annual New Martinsville, WV, Memorial Service Day. We would like to extend an invitation to all to come for a visit to listen to the Word sitting amongst the hills outdoors or inside in the quaint wooden church. Morning song service begins at 10:30 a.m. and afternoon service at 1:00 p.m. An evening service at Sardis church will be on the Saturday before which begins at 7:30 p.m. If there are any questions, feel free to call Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593, Bro. Bill Brake at 740-483-2353 or Bro. Mark Ramsier at 740-483-1806. It's a weekend for worship and praise for the Lord Jesus Christ!

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Carrie Stoller
Ruth Gasser**

We were blessed on a Saturday evening as we partook of Holy Communion, a special time of remembering the sacrifice made by our Lord and Saviour to redeem our souls. We owe much thanks to our Heavenly Father, and also to the dear Elder brothers who shared this with us. Bro. Ken Indermuhle traveled from Sardis, OH, to assist Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Andy with this special occasion.

We rejoice that Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) and Kyle Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari) are seeking the Lord's will in repentance. May God grant His grace to each of our converts for a true conversion.

Two couples have become first-time parents and we hope we can add two little girls to our Sunday School in a few years. Michael and Terry Lusk are parents of Sophia Rose, born on March 18. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl are the happy grandparents. Bro. Scott and Sis. Rhonda Gerber have been blessed by the arrival of Macy Mikayla. Grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber and Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby Stoller (Latty, OH), share in their joy.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife.”

Mark 10:7

On April 5, Chad Gasser and Sandra McClain became husband and wife. Ed and Joan Gasser are Chad's parents.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Rhea Beery (Bro. Ted) in the death of her brother, Bro. Steve Domka

(Mansfield, OH).

Several of our loved ones have experienced health problems, and need our prayers and encouragement. Hospitalized were Sis. Lou Rigggenbach (Bro. Glenn), Sis. Emily Greenbank (Bro. Gordon) and Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine).

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard**

This month marks the beginning of a season of rebirth. As we look around us, let us remember to look to the cross.

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

Hymns of Zion #257

On April 6, we gathered for Communion. What a blessing it is to be together as a congregation to partake of the Lord's supper. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) was here to serve our congregation. Our other visiting minister for this month was Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). May they be blessed for their service to us here in Toledo.

Our Sis. Colette Harmon is still hospitalized. Let us remember her in our prayers.

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

Isaiah 25:8

We wish to remember Bro. Dave (Sis. Geri) Beard and Bro. Ed (Sis. Dee) Beard in the passing of their uncles (Mansfield) this month.

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

not depart from it.”

Proverbs 23:6

Ethan Ryan was born on March 29 to Ryan and Kristie. Happy grandparents are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint. Kennedy Marie arrived on April 12 to Rob and Christy. First-time grandmother is Sharon Harris.

OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

Our annual business meeting was held recently with the following results: Bro. John Kinsinger was re-elected as Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Ron Jones will be our third Trustee, Bro. Mark Gallup will serve as second Trustee and Bro. Ray Moser moved to the Head Trustee position. We thank them for their willingness to serve our congregation. May the Lord guide and bless them as they take up these duties.

Last week we enjoyed listening to our Sunday School students as they told us of the Easter story in verse and song. It is our hope and prayer as parents that they will not forget what they learned in Sunday School as children and that some day they will find the true hope that Easter brings.

Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginny) was hospitalized again briefly to be outfitted with a pacemaker which hopefully will improve his heart condition. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with him. We are thankful to have him assemble with us again.

Our thanks to our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) for bringing us the Word recently and also for giving our congregation a summary of the winter Conference. We do appreciate the time and effort our Elder

brethren put in on our behalf. May the Lord bless them for their service.

We wish to thank all visitors who made the effort to join us for services this past month, especially Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) for his sermons recently. Your support is appreciated.

OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Kuenzi

This month the Silverton congregation rejoiced to add three new babes in Christ to the fold. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Paul and Sis. Marie Jensen and Sis. Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami). Our thanks to Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) with the weekend.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Todd Haun (Dorothy Haun) and Sis. Richelle Kuenzi (Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee) as they announced their engagement. May God be their ever faithful guide as they make plans for their marriage on June 8.

On April 13, the Sunday School had their Easter program. How good it was to be reminded of the Lord's death and suffering, and how He shed His blood for each one of us upon the cross. We thank each child for their efforts and for the support of teachers and parents.

Would we truly long for heaven?
If we never gave a sigh,
If the old were always taken,
And the young would never die?
If we had no cherished loved ones
Waiting at the eastern gate,
Would we truly long for Heaven
And reunion that awaits?

Inspirational Songs for Men
No. 2 #133, vs. 2

Our prayers have been with Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and family in the loss of their five-year-old grandson, Jaden Meyer, from Lester, IA. Surviving him are his parents, Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer, and sisters, Jessica and Erica. May God be their Comforter during this time of deep grief and in the months that lie ahead.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we gathered for Good Friday services and took time to reflect on the meaning and the events of the day. A few years ago a poem was published that illustrates the significance of that one day.

When history has recorded it all,
Events both happy and sad,
Good Friday will reign as the
worst and the best,
That mankind ever has had.

A few days later, we were able to celebrate Easter, and again reflect on how the events of that day bring the promise of eternal resurrection to us today. May we often reflect on both of these days, and praise God for His wondrous plan of salvation.

On Palm Sunday this year we had an opportunity to visit a local nursing home and sing about Christ, His life and death, and His love for us. One resident complimented our singing and asked how often we practiced. It was a blessing to realize that we probably "practice" our singing as often as many "professional" choirs, but not in an attempt to please crowds of listeners, but rather to please and honor our Father in Heaven.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**Mike and Monica Fritz**

It was a wonderful blessing to have our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) to share with us the Memorandum on Saturday evening, March 29, and then to be able to share together in Holy Communion the next day. We have also been greatly encouraged this month in the practical application of Holy Scripture to our Christian walk by our other visiting ministering brothers: Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We have also been privileged to fellowship with many brethren and friends from Chicago, Eureka, Fairbury, Goodfield, Princeville and Tremont, IL; West Bend, IA; Alto and Detroit, MI; Kansas City, MO; and Junction, Latty and Mansfield, 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: Leo, IN (5/18), Chicago, IL (6/1), Burlington, IA (6/8), Athens, AL (6/22), Roanoke, IL (6/29). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Memorial Day weekend (5/25) or Father's Day (6/15). 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**

The San Marcos church is thankful to welcome to Texas Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson, who recently moved from Phoenix to the Dallas area! We also wish to thank Bros. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton), Curt Rassi (Sis. Cathy, Tremont), Jerry Isch (Philadelphia), Clint Schmidt (Sis. Maggie, Winthrop), and Ken Lawson, who willingly preached God's Word to us over the past month. It was a pleasure to welcome other visitors from Bluffton, Kansas City, Gridley, and Goodfield.

In June, our church plans to host ministers from the following churches: Wichita (6-1), Lester (6-8), Fairbury (6-15), Kansas City (6-22), and Junction (6-29). 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**Mary Plattner**

Most all of our winter visitors have returned to their homes in the north. We look forward to their return in the fall. Bro. Roy Ehnle (Sis. Donna) from Bradford returned to their home in Zapata for several weeks and we appreciate his service to our church while he was here.

On Easter weekend, services were held at Pharr, TX. Those from the Zapata congregation and the brethren who are working at the Deaf School in Rio Bravo, Mexico, were able to join in worship on Good Friday and again on Easter Sunday. We certainly welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick, and their children, Bro. Ryan, Tyler, John, Ben and Katie, from Washington, IL, and Sis. Kim Kaiser from Morton, who have moved to work at the School for the Deaf, in Rio Bravo, Mexico.

Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is encouraged to contact Bro. Leland Plattner or Bro. Lloyd Nohl (956) 581-8266 prior to coming to make certain of the service schedule. Because of the limited number of brethren in Zapata, services will at times be alternated with the Pharr, TX, location.



Sermon continued from page 2

Maybe we did not have that privilege. But we came and we heard the Word. We were pricked in our conscious and in our spirit inside and we realized there was something missing.

The Word gives us the assurance that all men, before they die, will understand. Maybe not fully like we, but they will understand enough to make a difference in their life. To turn their hearts over to Him, over to this great God. The only God that we heard about this morning. So then we do that by His grace. It is just amazing, isn't it?

The devil places obstacles in front of us, mountains and hills. Things that we can't even imagine. He makes them seem bigger than they are. They are nothing. He is a liar and a cheat and a thief, the devil is. We don't mind saying that do we? Because that is just what He is. He convinces men and women of many different things that are untrue. One of them, not the least, which is procrastination. I've got till tomorrow. I've got some things I want to do. I don't feel fulfilled yet in this life. What we are really saying is, there is more sin I want to take part of.

Now if we really looked in the mirror and thought about that, we would never say that, any of us, would we? But yet, in a way, we are when we procrastinate, when we listen to the devil and what he has to say. He is just saying, you have time. You may not have time. We don't know. We don't have those answers.

But the Lord does. He'll give us the grace. Isn't it amazing, how when we do, those of you who have turned your life over in repentance and you thought there was this big mountain, what happened to that mountain? When you finally came in repentance, broken, willing to do whatever it took to serve the Lord, sorrowful for your sins, what happened to that mountain? It is erased, isn't it? Erased. All of a sudden we look back and we think, what was my problem? There was no hill there. It was a mirage. It was something the devil concocted in my mind.

Brothers and sisters, I think you and I even sometimes, as we read in Job where the devil was to and fro, walking up and down, he is still doing that today, isn't he? Walking to and fro and up and down. He gives us all kinds of temptation and he tries to put things in our mind that

are not really true.

So then isn't it wonderful that we can come back and we can read a scripture such as this and it just becomes crystal clear, because it is God's Word. God's Word is perfect. It becomes crystal clear what we should be doing. How we should live for Him. And we are thankful then, aren't we? He has quickened us. What does that word mean? That means He has given us the ability. He has given us something.

I don't know that much about cooking, but there are certain things you have to do to make it work. There are certain ingredients you need to have to make that all come together. The Lord has given us the ingredients by His grace and His Spirit to be able to serve Him the rest of our life. To be able to then go to heaven.

We do that with joy and with peace and with thankfulness in our hearts. Even though the trials and the wind and the waves of this life can hit us and we are buffeted. But spiritually, if we are living in Him, we are not driven of that wind and tossed, as it says in the scripture. Maybe they hit us and maybe they even knock us down sometimes. But we get back up by God's grace. We look into His Word and we pray to Him. We realize His grace is sufficient for us. We, figuratively speaking, get back up and look to the cross and serve Him in a successful way. Successfully in the Spirit.

He hasn't promised us anything fancy or wonderful here on this earth. Other than His grace and peace. Which is the most wonderful thing that anyone can ever possess. Sometimes we get our eyes looking at the wrong things, don't we, brothers and sisters and friends alike. We look at the wrong things when we should be looking at Jesus Christ. I am the first one to admit it. When we look at Him, we realize what a blessed people we are. What a wonderful thing it is to serve Him.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" Ephesians 2:4,5. By grace, not of our own works it talks about in the scripture.

But it goes on, it talks of an interesting thing. "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" Ephe-

sians 2:6. Don't we feel that way, or should, when we come to church and we sit together in heavenly places? Our eyes and our minds are focused on the Lord. We have that opportunity, don't we? Oh, I know, moms and dads, there are times with little kids, sometimes it is tough. Tough to focus and concentrate.

I remember one of my aunts. I appreciate her so much. She had struggles in her life. She told me she looked so forward to Wednesday night church, when it was just her and the Lord. Of course, brothers and sisters and friends were there. But maybe the kids weren't with her. That does not mean you shouldn't bring your kids to Wednesday night church. Don't take that wrong. Because that would be a good place for them. The best place there is. But for her it was that one time when she could focus solely on the Lord. She appreciated it so much.

So find that time. The Lord will give you that time in your life, whenever it might be, when we can go to our closet and we can soak it in, the Word. We can't always do that. It doesn't always work. We all realize that.

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:6,7. The exceeding riches. In another place in the scripture, it talks about - in fact I think it is in Ephesians - where it talks about the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8). Exceeding riches, the unsearchable riches of Christ.

We can go through this whole life. Some of us might live one year, twenty years, sixty years, one hundred years. We can go through this life and if we are one hundred years old, we have not found all the riches in Jesus Christ yet. There are more to come. There is something to look forward to, even in this life, if God has given you the time. Maybe sometimes we don't look on it as positively once we get to a certain age. We wish we could die. But God has given us this life. It is a precious thing. There are unsearchable riches yet around the corner for you. Blessings that we haven't experienced yet that we can look forward to.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" Ephesians 2:8. None of us of

ourselves come anywhere close to being able to be a brother or sister in Jesus Christ. But with His grace and with His Spirit and Jesus dying on the cross and His atoning blood, we can be there. But we know full well it is nothing we have done, is it?

I was talking to a young man the other night. When we repent, we try to go back to those we have done wrong. It is a necessary thing, isn't it? It is a necessary thing. It talks about it in the Word. To seek restitution. To go back to those we have done wrong. But by doing that, does that alone give us peace? Absolutely not. Christ gives us peace, doesn't He? God gives us peace. It can't be explained. It can only be experienced.

Isn't it a wonderful thing? Think about it, the concept. We can't work our soul salvation out just by works, yet we've got to have them. Think about it. It is a natural thing, isn't it? As the Lord, it is just a perfect and a beautiful thing, as we think about it.

"Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:9. Isn't that the way we are? We think, well I did this and I did that. We all sort of have that nature to a degree. We want to have a little credit for this or that or the other thing, don't we? I'll be the first one to admit that. We have got to keep crucifying self, don't we? Putting it down and realize, not in a depressant state, that is not what God wants, but in a humble state.

There is a big difference, isn't there? Because when we are depressed, we are really proud, in a way. I have been there, to a degree. Really, I've got to be careful, because there are medical things too. So please don't take it wrong if I don't say this quite right, but really when we struggle with those things, we have got to be careful, because there is some pride involved. So when we can get through those things and identify them, then God lifts us up and helps us and gives us the grace that we'll need.

Even though we might have a little chemical imbalance, we can figure that out now. He'll give us the grace we need that we can serve Him effectively. Maybe we will have a struggle through life if we are that kind of a person, but we will be able to overcome, because God's grace is sufficient for us, isn't it? So through help of one another and counseling and many things, we can over-

come. It is a wonderful thing, isn't it, as we think about it?

"Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:9,10. There it is. We should walk in them. And yet they don't save us in and of themselves. Men struggle with that, don't we, over the years?

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:11-13. Isn't that a wonderful thing!

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;" Ephesians 2:14. Isn't it wonderful how God has done that. It says we were strangers of the covenants and the promise, having no hope. Now, once we have turned our life over to the Lord and we are serving Him and His grace comes into our life and His Spirit is directing us, now what are we? We are strangers and pilgrims in this world. What a wonderful transition. We are not strangers of the covenants of promise, having no hope. We are strangers of this world. We don't need it! We don't want it! There is nothing here. Now we are strangers and pilgrims, wending our way to the cross. And nothing can stop us. Except unbelief. Unwillingness to obey. Unwillingness to serve our Lord in the fullness that we can.

"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:" Ephesians 2:15,16. The devil - there on the cross where Jesus shed His blood and His blood washed our sins away - he (the devil) has then no more power over us if you think about it. It really is a wonderful thing. Oh, he can still tempt us and

he can see our reactions to things and all that. But ultimately, if we have God on our side, he has no power over us.

Think about this, just a little concept here. Even in an unconverted state, the devil does not. He can have power over us if we let him, but even in an unconverted state, think about it, if the devil could do anything he wanted, why wouldn't he just make everyone go out and sin rampantly all the time? Yet they don't. We did not always, even in an unconverted state. So he did not have power over us to make us do something.

When people say, the devil made me do it, that is a lie. He did not make us do anything! We choose. He tempts. He has much power that God does allow him to have then, just like with Job. He can afflict us and all kinds of things at times if God allows it. But ultimately, and we should be encouraged by this as believers in the Word, that he ultimately does not have the power over us. Especially when we are living in Christ. Then he absolutely does not have the power over us. We can overcome and we can make it to heaven some day. That is our goal, isn't it? That wonderful place.

There are a lot of reasons why we serve the Lord here on this earth. First and foremost, He is a great God. He is all powerful. He is omnipotent. He has always been. He always will be. So we serve Him out of a love and a fear, don't we? And a longing to go home and be in that place. Think of it. No tears, no hurt feelings. We should be looking for His coming, shouldn't we? While we are here, we have those emotions. But when we are in heaven, it is going to be wonderful.

There will be singing. Just think of it. Maybe you don't have a good voice right now. Maybe singing is not your thing. It will be. If you serve the Lord, you will have a voice. It will be beautiful. There will be harmony. I think in heaven there will never be a bad note. Never. Think of it. It is going to be a wonderful place.





Scholarships Available

Gateway Woods offers four \$1,500 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field (this unfortunately does not include Nursing). The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis.

A description of the scholarship and application are available by writing or calling Bro. Joe Gerber at 888-443-4283. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 1, 2003. We encourage all eligible members or friends to apply.

Gateway Woods Auction August 16, 2003

Mexico Work Teams 2003

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
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
Imuris	Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

Athens Preschool Teacher

NOTICE: "The Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, Alabama has an immediate need for a teacher. The preschool is seeking a qualified, experienced teacher to serve as the teacher / coordinator. This is a worthwhile opportunity for a single or married person who would be willing to relocate and support the Athens church. If interested, please contact your elder and Brother Tom Schrenk at his home number (256) 232-0037."

Detroit Homecoming Reunion June 7-8, 2003

For everyone who was ever a part of the Detroit Apostolic Christian Church.

We're gratefully acknowledging 25 years at our Livonia location and 55 years in metropolitan Detroit.

Sat. Meal 5:00 p.m.

Sat. Hymn Sing 7:00 p.m.

Sun. Meal 2:30 p.m.

RSVP by May 1, 2003

for Meals and/or overnight accommodations

By contacting

Sue or Randy Gasser

(734) 464-6245 or rsgasser@juno.com

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
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	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	--
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	--
CCCD	November 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	--

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		lemangn@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
Worn Bibles,
Bible Story Books,
Hymns of Zion,
Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn
Books

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S
HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO
NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-
TRIBUTE THEM.**

Please get your books to us or
the Goodfield World Relief Cen-
ter.

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

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, anxiety,
relationship problems, etc...*

- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

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

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

The Latty church is in the process of building an Assisted Living Facility, opening mid- summer. We are currently looking for a **Director of Nursing**. Should The Lord touch your heart to consider the responsibilities of this position, please call 866-887-2833 or fax a resume to 941-747-5562



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

At the recent elder conference, the elder body approved a request for a national 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 located 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: biblesdist@parlorcity.com

2003 Tennessee Fellowship Weekend

The 12th Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing has been scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend 2003 on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. Everyone is invited to join us at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and Athens, AL for our annual weekend of fellowship, praise, and worship of the Lord.

This year, we again plan to have two guest speakers during the weekend, who will talk on "How the Middle East and Israel will be involved in the last days" (Bro. Mike Baumann, Mansfield, OH) and "The New Age Movement vs. Scripture and our Churches" (Bro. Ron Kipfer, Bluffton, IN). We also plan to hold an auction on Saturday afternoon. Everyone is encouraged to bring at least one item to donate. Proceeds from the auction will be used to maintain the Tennessee Fellowship Area.

Below is a schedule of events for the weekend.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2003 Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 24 (All Activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area)

- 12:00 p.m. Registration and Donation of Auction Items (Lunch on your Own)
- 1:30 p.m. Auction Commences with Song and Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. Supper (Served by the Athens, AL Congregation)
- 6:30 p.m. Singing (Congregational & Special Numbers)
- 7:00 p.m. "How will the Middle East and Israel be involved in the last days?"
(Speaker — Bro. Mike Baumann, Mansfield, OH)
- 7:30 p.m. Singing resumes

SUNDAY, MAY 25

- 10:00 a.m. Church Services at Apostolic Christian Churches in Athens, AL
Speakers (A.M. Bro. Glen Dill, Tremont, IL) (P.M. Bro. Clark Stoller, Gridley, IL)
Lunch On Your Own
- 2:30 p.m. Fellowship
- 3:00 p.m. Singing at Tennessee Fellowship Area (Congregational & Special Numbers)
- 5:00 p.m. "The New Age Movement vs. Scripture and our Churches"
(Speaker — Bro. Ron Kipfer, Bluffton, IN)
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Singing Resumes

We look forward to having you (and your family) join us for this weekend. If you are able to attend, please contact one of the contacts below by Monday, May 5 to assist us with planning. The contacts below will also be able to give you additional information on the Auction, Overnight Accommodations, and Directions.

Contacts:

Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615)662-2946 or leutholdg@aol.com;
Bro. Don Sauder, (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com;
or Bro. Tom Schrenk (256)232-0037 or tomjoanschrenk@juno.com



In view of the recent Iraqi war, Remembering will focus on our brothers and friends serving as noncombatants in military campaigns during World War II, and subsequently. This will be a two-part series. Excerpts are taken from Marching to Zion.

Noncombatant Service

The Apostolic Christian Church did not escape the turmoil that engulfed the entire world during World War II. Most of the church's young men who entered the armed forces did so as non-combatants and all who were members served in this capacity.

By the time of World War II the government was organized to the point where men could enter the service with a clear indication they would not have to bear arms. This was a change from World War I when many military officials were unfamiliar with the status of those who refused to bear arms. This sometimes resulted in physical abuse of many young men who, because of conscience, would not take a weapon.

During World War II the Apostolic Christian Church's position against war differed somewhat from those denominations with an Anabaptist and "peace church" heritage. In most instances, young men from the latter groups refused entirely to enter the military, instead serving in the Civilian Public Service system of World War II.

Apostolic Christians, on the other hand, felt a deep sense of commitment to a government that guaranteed religious freedom, and young men of the church were willing to serve the nation in nearly any capacity short of bearing arms and killing. Rather, they felt by serving in the Medical Corps as conscientious objectors (in a non-combatant role) they could serve the Lord by car-

ing for the sick, wounded and dying.

World War II was a time of great national mobilization. The security of the nation was at stake. For parents of the young men leaving for service in the armed forces, it was a time of great sadness and near despair. Due to the intensity of the conflict across the seas, parents had no assurance they would ever see their sons again.

It was under these circumstances that young men of the church entered military service as conscientious objectors during World War II. Although they left home with a naïve innocence and felt somewhat fainthearted, they departed with mountains of ongoing prayers behind them.

Courageous Service

Although largely unnoticed by the public – or by historians for that matter, these courageous young men served with a distinction rarely matched in the halls of valor. Armed only with a small Testament and a cloak of impenetrable faith and riding the wave of heartfelt prayers of their brethren and loved ones back home, they accompanied their units – unarmed into battle to face the enemy. Their lot was not an easy one as they endured firefights, ambushes, artillery, bombs, enemy mines, and a host of other nuances of war. Their mission was to administer aid to the bleeding and dying. In the true spirit of Christ, they patched up the wounds of those ravaged by the unChrist-like tactics of war.

Their faith and raw courage, though mostly unheralded, was a ringing testimony of faith and reflected their deeply-held commitment to the ways of the Lord; one of the foremost principles taught by the Son of God was that men should seek reconciliation and love rather than division and

hatred. Killing, according to Scriptures, is forbidden.

To enter a combat zone takes courage above and beyond that which man can muster alone. Even those who are armed tremble before and during engagement with the enemy. Yet to enter combat unarmed requires a world of faith and an infinite amount of grace. These ingredients allowed young Apostolic Christians to do this in many of the nation's conflicts.

The number of boys associated with the church who served in the military during World War II totaled more than 1,200. Nearly all of these were conscientious objectors. Elder David Mangold, Roanoke, Illinois, published the Service Men's Newsletter which contained a sermon along with the names and addresses of boys associated with the church who were serving in the armed forces. Issue No. 18 listed the names and addresses of more than 1,200 men.

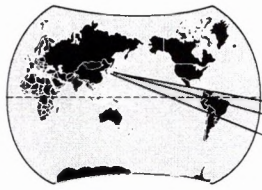
Several young men serving as conscientious objectors were injured in battle. It is believed that only one man who was a member of the church was killed during battle. He was Dale Aeschliman, son of Elder Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton, Indiana, who lost his life in late January, 1945, on the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands.

In view of the international scope of the war, with many fronts and theaters, it is remarkable that the loss of life (among Apostolic Christians) was limited to such an extent. It confirms that God protected our young men, and heard the sincere prayers of the brethren.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:

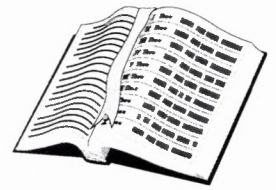
Military Service in
Korea and Vietnam



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



“The Church as a Mother”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When a child is born, the mother is expected to care for that child. Otherwise, the child will die. When someone is born into the family of God, the new member of God's family needs care and guidance and encouragement. That care, which is similar to a mother's care, should come from the church.

It is written in the story of the good Samaritan that the wounded man was taken to an inn (the church, perhaps). There, the good Samaritan said to the inn keeper, “Take care of him.”

Do you want to be free from the care of the church? It is dangerous because as individuals we are much weaker than we are as a group. As a young person, did you want to be free from the supervision of your mother and father? Some do, but it is much safer to listen to your parents. As young people, they, too, may have been rebellious, but age and experiences makes a difference. There is a similarity between the

family and the church. Please obey the Bible based instructions of the church.

It is written in I Corinthians 12:25, “That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.” Most mothers have an inborn instinct to care for their children. The church should have an inborn instinct to care for its members. This accountability to one another is a powerful safety net. Take it away and all of us become much weaker against temptations to do things which may be harmful to our spiritual lives. To say that after baptism, each one is on his own, is not what the Bible teaches. Yet we must not lord over one another, but kindly care for one another.


Some members of the family of God may not be as careful as they should be in regard to their spiritual walk. Should others in the church criticize them behind their backs, or shun them with a “holier than thou” attitude? It is

better to keep up the contact in love and devotion, much like a mother does, without participating in the dubious activities. In II Corinthians, the Apostle Paul states that he wrote unto them “That our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.” The simple, holy life, is the best. Staying close to nature is helpful. This is true if our mothers are still taking care of us or if we are now under the care of the church, composed of other believers or Christians.

The Apostle Paul wrote of Timothy, “For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.” (Phil. 2:20). Notice the word, “naturally”. May we all just naturally care for each other. A mother naturally cares for her children.

I Peter 5:3 reads, “Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.” We who make up the church want to be like a mother to you, not a boss.

希望の光



*He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground;
A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.*

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