



# *The Silver Lining*

*Look down upon Thy children and judge us according to Thy mercy, O God*

March 2004



Sermon by Bro. Mark Steiner, Smithville, OH

### Genesis 37 and St. Luke 24

This begins the account here in Genesis of Joseph. We can read through this account and see how we can say very plainly that God's hand was in this, in his life. Guiding him into a special position. We can read how that eventually, his brethren did come and bow down to him when he was made second ruler in the land of Egypt there. They came and made obeisance to him. (Genesis 42:6)

As these things were transpiring here, it says, "And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying." (Genesis 37:11). His father observed this dream that he had. He wondered about it.

Just reminds us of Mary, the mother of Jesus, how that when she observed things in the young child's life she first off observed the angel coming to her and telling her of this child that she was to have. How He was supposed to be a special child. (Luke 1:30-33). Then she observed things in His life as a young boy. The Bible says she kept these things and pondered them in her heart. Wondered about this child Jesus. (Luke 2:19,51).

We are the benefactors of God's hand in these lives that we read about. We can read these accounts and see, now do we fall in this place or that place? Do we carry envy with us? These, the brethren of Joseph, carried this lie, they carried this deceit for many years. Until they finally went before Joseph there in Egypt and he made himself known to them and was reconciled to them. Then they had to go back and admit to their father. (Genesis 45:1-15,25,26)

In this day of grace, we have the opportunity to go ahead and confess those things that are in our

life that are similar to that, if any of us bear something like that, before it comes back to us. And it always will come back to us, whether in this life or after this life when we are faced with it. Only those transgressions that are confessed and covered by the blood of Jesus Christ will be forgiven and will be taken from us. Thankful that we have this opportunity in this day. We can say that this is the day of grace and the generation of Jesus Christ when we can make things right. We can make a preparing to meet our Lord.

We will have nothing to say at that time. He will know us and He will be able to separate us as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. A shepherd has no trouble. There is no question in his mind when he is separating the sheep from the goats. This is the way it will be when we stand before the Lord.

He told the disciples there that they were witnesses to these things (Luke 24:48). They were there at that time. They observed His life. They were recipients of His teachings as they walked with Him. They saw Him do the miracles. They saw Him heal the blind man (Mark 8:22-26). They saw Him heal the man that could not walk (Luke 5:18-25). They saw Him heal the lepers (Luke 17:11-19). They had this advantage that they saw that.

There was one disciple that is not spoken of in this account. This one Thomas, that saw those things. And the disciples then at this time told him that they had seen the Lord, that He had risen. You remember the account. He said, unless I see the nail scarred hands, be able to put my finger in His side, I will not believe. We also

know the Lord's response to that when He was in the presence of Thomas. He told him, come see the holes. He said, you have the advantage. Blessed are you that can see these things and believe them. But more blessed are those that do not have this advantage of sight or

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

March 2004

## Joy in the Midst of Turmoil

"What joy I feel, what peace is mine, As  
I my all to Thee resign! ..."

*"Trust and Confidence"  
Hymns of Zion - #259*

It would be easy in a time of war, turmoil and uncertainty for a child of God to become distressed and allow Satan to impact our thinking. When beset by distress, we could become so overwhelmed that it could eventually cause us to lose courage.

How can a child of God escape the mindset of distress, discouragement and fear? How can we be joyful when there seem to be so many problems around us?

Spiritual joy is a glorious and triumphant state of mind. It is a pattern of thinking and a way of looking at life. It is keeping our eyes upon the goal as we deal with day to day concerns. Obviously, this is not always easy to do, but neither is it impossible.

The scripture contains many examples in which extreme hardship was faced, but with an eye upon the goal, joy was achieved. At the most trying time of His life, "...Jesus ...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2). What an example that is for us! In spite of all of the physical and mental anguish that Jesus was enduring, He looked at the joy that was set before Him! The joy was victory over Satan and knowing He had paid the supreme price so you and I have an opportunity for salvation. We might say, and with a bit of justification, that we hardly can be that strong and have that much foresight as Jesus.

There are additional examples in the scripture of men who, by the grace of God, endured much hardship. Joseph, from the human perspective, had every right to be bitter because of his circumstances. Sold into slavery by his brothers, sent to prison as a result of unjust accusations by his master's wife, forgotten in prison after interpreting the dreams of

Pharaoh's butler and baker - all of this, and yet he remained faithful.

Stephen, facing death, was so confident in God's grace that "...all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him saw his face as it had been the face of an angel" (Acts 6:15). He preached his final sermon to his murderers "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep" (Acts 7:60).

In Revelation the 144,000 which "...were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb" (Rev. 14:3-4), had successfully overcome evil could now sing "...a new song before the throne..." (Rev. 14:3) in the heavenly choir. Hebrews 11 contains a list of faithful servants of God "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong..." (Heb. 11:33-34). They were given the grace and strength to look beyond the present cross and see the joy that awaited them.

What can God's people do today to find the grace to be filled with joy in the midst of trial? It is probably a little too easy for us to focus our attention on the things we would like to have rather than on the things we have. If we were to lose everything we have by fire, flood, or some other disaster and then by the goodness of God, have it all restored we would consider ourselves most fortunate. We are reminded to "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done". "Count Your Blessings" - Hymns of Zion - #116

As we count our blessings, what do we include? If we could list all of our blessings, putting them in order of priority, what would be in our top ten? We actually "list" our top priorities every day - based on how we spend our time and how we al-

locate our resources.

Without a doubt those of us who have been fortunate enough to taste the goodness of the plan of salvation would put that at the top of our list. Perhaps following that would be our family (biological and church family), our friends, etc. Does our life validate this list?

How can we keep our priorities in the proper order? The Apostle Paul gave us good advice in this matter: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, ...honest, ...just, ...pure, ...lovely, ... good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

If we fill our minds with hymns of faith, if we spend ample time reading God's Word and in prayer, if we focus on the many privileges we have as children of God and if we ask God to "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Ps. 19:14), then we invite joy into our lives.

If we consider it a privilege to go to the house of God on Sundays, midweek and at other appropriate times, it will help us receive a blessing. We can help ourselves to look forward to worship by spending time, before we get to church, thinking about God's Word.

Most of us have a significant amount of time during the week that our minds are free to roam. By filling our "free" mind time with godly thoughts, it will have a positive impact on our attitude. If we have a good attitude the future is bright.

God has given us a mind to use as we wish. He has placed us in circumstances that require us to make many choices every day. He has provided a way that we can choose to be joyful. He allows us to choose otherwise. Certainly there are times when the events of our life bring grief that is beyond our control. However for most of us, joy is a choice we can make. "...choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).





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

### Mission Committee Meetings Report

This article provides a summary of Mission Committee meetings held in November, 2003 and February, 2004. One elder brother from the World Relief Committee was present at each meeting as many projects are jointly supported by World Relief and Mission funds. The Committee expresses gratitude for the generous contributions which have come forth from the Brotherhood in support of our various mission projects. It is good to be reminded that *"he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully"* and *"God loveth a cheerful giver"* (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

### Communication

A new Spanish language version of the "Welcome" booklet has been completed and is being used by our brethren in Mexico. The process of interviewing candidates for mission work has been streamlined by developing suggested "Interview Questions" as well as a "Pre-placement Questionnaire." These documents are available for individuals responsible for conducting interviews of candidates for mission assignments.

It was recommended that a fourth component to the mission of our church be added which reads: "To offer loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ" (Gal. 5:13, 6:10). The Elder Body approved this change at the recent Winter Conference.

It was agreed that an official listing for our national church should be placed on the internet. This listing will provide a description of our basic doctrine and history and will

enable inquirers to obtain the locations of our churches as well as other relevant information. The purpose is to communicate the Gospel message to mankind and to extend a welcome to all seeking souls to worship in our assemblies. This proposal received the support of the Elder Body and will be implemented by our Technology Committee.

Several members of the Mission Committee met with a group of representatives from Illinois and Indiana college campus groups in December, 2003. There was a very useful exchange which helped all who were present to learn more about opportunities as well as aspirations in the area of mission work. There was a good discussion of the process by which individuals can be assigned to various projects and the need for a sense of "being called" by the Holy Spirit as well as ultimately "being sent" by the church in accord with the biblical pattern. The Committee recommended that there be ongoing efforts such as this to improve communication with our young people and others.

### Financial Report

Detailed financial reports of contributions and expenditures were reviewed. Allocations were approved for a variety of projects including: Ixtlan, Imuris, RGMMI, Bible Distribution, Berean Prison Ministry, Braille Bible Foundation and two other distributors of Braille Bibles, Christian Aid Ministries and the Athens Preschool. In addition, the European Board has recommended support of a new church building project in Baja, Hungary, upgrading of several church buildings in the Ukraine and remodeling of a house in Romania to be used by brethren

visiting this country. These projects received the support of the Mission Committee. There was discussion of the ongoing self-help projects being supported for our needy brethren in Eastern Europe. The needs are very great and there is much thanksgiving offered to God by the recipients for these deeds of kindness.

### Reports from Mexico

Sis. Penny Stahl has completed a two-year tour of duty in Ixtlan. Her service to the church and community was greatly appreciated. May the Lord richly bless these efforts.

Sis. Sandy Leman has shifted her services from a clinic near Ixtlan to one located in Zapata, Texas. Although a serious effort had been made for nearly a year, the arrangement in the rural Michoacan clinic did not allow her to meet the objectives which had been set forth. The medical clinic in Zapata serves needy individuals and affords Sis. Sandy the opportunity to apply her physician assistant training as well as to offer spiritual support, as appropriate, to patients in the clinic. Her work continues to be under the oversight of the Mission Committee.

A proposal to develop our own orphanage in Magdalena, Senora, Mexico is moving forward with approval of the Elder Body. If the Lord so directs, this project, which would be under the auspices of our church, will provide a wide variety of opportunities for service by brethren willing to make major commitments to the Lord's service.

The Mission Committee continues to solicit the prayers and support of the Brotherhood as it humbly seeks to handle the many different aspects of spreading the Gospel message of salvation in accord with the commandments of the Lord Jesus.





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

## The International Grants Board

To respond to humanitarian needs in parts of the world that are not covered by the existing regional boards, the World Relief Committee has, for several years, worked with a number of international Christian organizations. These organizations have been carefully investigated for their Christian background, their effectiveness in providing humanitarian aid, and their commitment to low administrative overhead.

The International Grants Board was established in early 2003 for the following purposes:

- To review proposals from our brotherhood for assistance to humanitarian organizations in areas not under the supervision of the other four boards.
- To administer requests for assistance from the organizations with which we have a working relationship. These requests are reviewed to assure they meet the goals of the World Relief committee.
- To communicate with these organizations when there is a need in the world, particularly in disaster situations. Often one or more of the organizations has already identified the need and has initiated the process to provide emergency aid.
- To make recommendations to the national World Relief Committee for funding.
- To follow up on the grants to assure the donations are being used as designated.

World Relief is working with four organizations that are similar in nature. They collect, store, and redistribute donated goods. They also have teams providing aid

throughout the world. These teams often consist of volunteer medical personnel and support staff. The organizations use donations to support these teams as well as the expense of storing and shipping the donated materials. These organizations are International Aid, MAP International, Northwest Medical Teams and Global Operations and Development.

Several other organizations are smaller in size and their focus is on a narrower geographic area. These organizations vary from time to time based on disasters around the world. Funds from the International Grants Board are specifically targeted to humanitarian needs such as safe drinking water, medical supplies and meager food supplements to starving people.

We also work with Concern International, an organization with many small projects around the world. World Relief has provided supplemental funding to other organizations in the past that have great needs and meet our criteria and will continue to explore needs and opportunities as they arise in the future.

### Africa

The most extensive work has been in famine relief in the countries of Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Other projects included funding for transportation for a medical team to perform cataract surgeries in Eritrea, the funding of school lunches and the construction of a medical center in Yetebon, Ethiopia and flood relief in Mozambique.

### Southeast Asia, Asia and the Middle East

Recent focus has been on war relief in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other projects have included, food, family

survival packs to a leper colony in Kazakhstan, and assistance to an orphanage in Tajikistan.

In North Korea we provided famine relief, farm animals for self help programs, and training for nurses. In Cambodia assistance was given to an orphanage, and in India funds were allocated to provide training for medical equipment technicians. In 1998 a tidal wave swept ashore in New Guinea. Working with one of our partners, we were able to send much needed medical supplies.

### Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe we were able to provide war relief in Macedonia, water wells in Romania, and humanitarian aid in Albania.

### Central and South America

Assistance was provided for hurricane relief in Honduras and Belize. The earthquakes in El Salvador, Colombia, and Peru provided additional opportunities for relief help. We sent medications, vitamins and personal care kits to Cuba and a portable medical laboratory to a doctor who serves the Indians in the remote Copper Canyon area of Mexico. Over ten cargo containers of grain were sent for flood relief in Venezuela and Honduras.

Contaminated water creates many health hazards. In Brazil, we have funded the construction and installation of over 100 water filters to families in the Amazon river basin.

For further information about the work discussed in this article, contact the national World Relief office in Remington, Indiana at (219) 261-3200 or Bro. Virgil Graf, Chairman of the International Grants Board, in Altadena, California at (626) 287-1611.



## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

At this time of year we may just have to rely on a "Plan B". It is currently a snowy (but beautiful) winter day. Residents' schedules, as well as some staff schedules, have been altered. We have had to go with a "Plan B" today.

Sometimes a "Plan B" can be a welcome alteration. Other times, we can experience an upheaval in life because of an unexpected turn of events.

Whatever the case, God is always in control. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11). Adjusting to some of these times in life may require great faith and confidence in our Lord's provision. He loves us! His wisdom is so far above our weak understanding. He sees the big picture from beginning to end.

"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin." (Matthew 6:28)

Thanks and praise be to God for His love and care for us through the "Plan B's" and throughout our pilgrim journey this side of Heaven.

APRIL birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Gail Kennedy (4/4), Jason Gingrich (4/7), Brett Johnson (4/8), Angela Poehlman (4/18), Kennan Knapp (4/19), Miriam Schulz (4/24), Steven Steffen (4/26), Lindsay Ball (4/26), Zita Palko (4/27) and Jon Terhorst (4/30).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Sonja Metzger (4/14) and Mark Gundy (4/17).

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden St., Morton, IL 61550: Jane Kohler (4/1), Craig Brooks (4/7) and Nancy Jones (4/27).

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

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

*II Tim. 4:2*

What a challenge! Preach the Word regardless. Sometimes the situation seems just right. Something happens, the right words just seem to be there, the hearer is receptive, and God's name is glorified as the Word is preached. But what about all those other times? What about when we can't think of what to say? What about when it looks obvious the hearer will not be receptive? What about when we fear the consequences of taking a stand for the Lord? Those are times when preaching might seem to be "out of season." Preach the Word, regardless. How short I fall of that expectation! It seems I pass up so many opportunities that are both in season and out of season.

What can we do to be ready to preach, both in season and out of season? The apostle Peter tells us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3:15). It seems that sanctifying the Lord God in our hearts is a precursor to being ready to answer every man a reason of the hope that is

in us.

How can we sanctify our hearts? God's Word answers, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Ps. 119:9-11). Knowing God's Word, seeking God's Word, taking heed to God's Word, and hiding God's Word in our hearts, will all help to cleanse our way and to sanctify our hearts.

Each of us is faced with the daily opportunity to preach the Word. Our preaching comes not just through our words, but often our actions. In fact, the old saying goes that actions speak louder than words. One of our dear departed ministering brothers would often exhort us to "Preach a sermon wherever we go; and if necessary, use words." May each of us be seeking God through prayer and through His Word that we might be able to preach the Word, that we might be instant in season and out of season.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Heather C. and Megan B. to our campus in Indiana. Please pray that they would be willing to change. As one resident recently put it, "If you want your life turned around, Gateway Woods is the place to be!"

We would also like to wish a special welcome to two new adoptive children whose adoptions were just recently finalized. The Dumbachers adopted a four-year-old girl named Ana from Russia. They made 2 trips, the last of which lasted one month (it was scheduled to last



a week)! Bro. Jim and Sis. Pam Agler of Bluffton also finalized the adoption of Jadon, an infant from the United States. You can see pictures of these two children on our website at [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org).

A special thanks to everyone who attended the 2004 Gateway Woods Representatives Meeting in IL on February 21, 2004. We were pleased with the attendance and the results of the meeting. Our Representatives Meeting in Indiana is scheduled for March 13 on our campus in Leo, IN. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact your local church Representative if interested.

Please continue to pray for this service to troubled children and families. Prayer is vitally important to this ministry. Without it, we would simply be unable to do what we do. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISITAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, Alabama  
Bethany Gerber**

Greetings of love from the preschool! We have had a good month with not as many sick children and some warmer weather. This month we are learning about the color red, emotions and the five senses. Our Bible stories are about the miracles that Jesus performed while here on earth. The children are learning more and more each day and we thank God for the opportunity to help and watch them grow.

The staff and children would like to thank Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter from Junction, OH, for the time and efforts that they give us. They were here for two weeks at the beginning of the month and they helped with the computers, worked

one-on-one with the children and they worked for the teachers to give us a day off. The children love having them here and we all would like to sincerely thank them. May God richly bless their efforts.

There is still a need for a preschool teacher/coordinator with a degree in either preschool or elementary education to teach and serve as the coordinator, so some teaching experience is desirable. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by mail at 8653 Beechwood Rd., Athens, AL 36511. You can also e-mail him at [ALM38@aol.com](mailto:ALM38@aol.com) or contact Bro. Mike by phone at (256) 729-0620. Please pray that someone will answer the call to come and help. They will surely be blessed for it.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

God so LoVed the World  
ThAt He gave His  
OnLy Begotten Son  
That whosoEver  
Believeth iN Him  
Should noT  
PerIsh but have  
EverlastiNg  
LiFE

Greetings of love from Athens! We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. They were Bros. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We appreciate any and all visitors and we want to thank you for your time and efforts. Bro. Gary Stoller (Sis. Nancy, Bluffton North, IN) brought us the Sunday School lesson on January

25. Thank you for sharing the Word with us.

The Athens church would like to thank Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter for all of the time and energy that they gave to our church this winter. You have been a big help and a blessing to all of us. May God bless you for your efforts.

Our congregation had visitors this month from Morton, Bradford, Eureka and Cissna Park, IL; Milford, Bluffton, Bluffton North and LaCrosse, IN; and Latty and Junction, OH. Thank you for coming to worship with us.

We have had several people in our congregation in the hospital this month. Sis. Doris Moore and her daughter-in-law, Lisa Moore, both spent a little time in the hospital. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Our prayers go out to the Perry family. Ruby Perry, wife of the late Dewy Perry who was a convert in our church and a sister-in-law to Sis. Corrine Thomas and Sis. Hazel Vibbert, passed away. A few weeks later, their son, Don Perry, had a heart attack and died. Please keep their family in your prayers as Don left a widow and two small children behind.

Lucille King, a great-grandmother to Joey and Anna Hall (Tim Hall's children), grandchildren of Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall, passed away as well this month. Lucille is a sister-in-law to Sis. Naomi Hall.

We would like to send our prayers to the family of Sis. Katherine Norr from Leo, IN. Sis. Katherine spent a lot of time here helping with various activities. We had some good times with her that we will cherish and will always remember her.

Sis. Beci Fisher (Bro. James and



Sis. JoAnn, Morton, IL) married Bro. David Hall (James and Cora) on February 7. Sis. Beci has lived here for many years.

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**ARIZONA, PHOENIX**  
**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

*Galatians 5:25*

We are enjoying many winter visitors. We were blessed and encouraged by a number of visiting ministers, including Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern), Bro. John Rowell (Burlington), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign), Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson), and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis).

Three of our dear ones repenting have peace and are awaiting baptism on February 29. We rejoice with Leah Wiegand (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn), Whitney Gutwein (Bro. Nick and Sis. Susanne), and Sam Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene).

Thanks to Sis. Marie Kieser, Sis. Jan Elsassser and committee for the delicious meal served to us at the senior brunch February 7.

Our sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton on her father's death. Bro. Virgil Von Tobel died January 18. Our sympathy also to Bro. Alan and Sis. Edith Freed on her sister's death. Sis. Sarah Diggle died February 6.

Sis. Cathy Emch and Bro. Alan Knochel were hospital patients.

Sis. Vivian Ramseyer, Bro. Ed Fraustchi and Dakota Thorpe were ill. Sis. Verene Sutton suffered a broken hand. Our prayers are with each of you.

The Phoenix Junior and Senior Bible classes hosted the Tucson and Altadena youth February 14 and 15 for a weekend of fellowship. What a lovely group to be our future Church. We are grateful to everyone involved in working with our youth.

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Jane Hodges**

Our prayers were answered. Sis. Rowena Furrer (Bro. Jim) and George Kornja (son of Sis. Elena) are both doing well and have been able to attend church again. We are very thankful for their recovery.

Bro. Rolf (Sis. Verena) Kaeppler's mother, Erna Kaeppler, died on January 4, at the age of 93. She lived in Muehlhausen, Thuer., Germany.

We wish to thank the two visiting ministers that served us in the last month, namely Bros. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA). May God richly bless them and their families for their love and support.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone for the cards and kind expressions of sympathy in the death of Rolf's mother. All the prayers for our safe travel to Germany for the funeral on January 24 were answered.

Thankfully,

*Rolf and Verena Kaeppler*

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON**  
**Lisa Knapp**

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS). We thank them both for their service on our

behalf. May God add His rich blessing.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held in February. After some rainy weather we enjoyed a beautiful day which is always helpful since the brothers cook the pancakes outside!

Our Sunday School Bible Class traveled to Phoenix on President's Day weekend to join in the ACYF activities between the Arizona and California churches. These weekends are truly special and we are so thankful to still be a part of them. Many thanks to the Phoenix church for their love and hospitality.

We have had unusually cool, wet weather the past month. We hit a high of 85 degrees one particularly warm February day and now we're back to cool and cloudy. Today was rainy and cold with a high in the 50's. We'll soon look back on this day fondly!

Our winter visitors have begun leaving with just a few remaining to catch some of our wonderful March weather. We wish them all God's blessings until we meet again, Lord willing.

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Robin Moser**

“Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.”

*Psalms 17:8*

We are thankful for the recovery of hospital patients, Richard (Marion) Hecker, Veronica (Paul) Folia and Bro. Laszlo (Sis. Maria) Cser this month. Whether or not God stretches forth His hand to heal those who are hurting, He always hides His children under His wings. We certainly rejoice when He decides to grant recovery of health to



those we love.

Our congregation is grateful for visiting ministers who are willing to come and share the Word with us, and provide our pulpit with a bit of needed rest. This month brought Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ken Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) to help in the ministry in Altadena. May God bless them richly.

Bro. Jim Klotzle recently moved to the San Diego area and is assembling with our Escondido church there. While we miss his songleading, we pray that the Lord will lead him in this new occupation and phase of life, and that he can be used in His service for the congregation there.

Justin and I are thankful to announce the safe arrival of a son, Cody Blaise Moser, on February 2. What a miracle to witness God's creative power in the birth of a child. We also want to thank everyone who prayed for us during this time.

*Note of Thanks:*

Glenn and I want to thank all the wonderful folks who sent cards, food and most of all the prayers during my time of knee surgery.

In Christian love,  
*Glenn and Kay Hackenjos*

**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Peggy Jevremov**

We truly have been blessed of the Lord this past month with visiting ministering brethren. Elder Bro. Janos Sarok and his wife of Budapest, Hungary, are here visiting and helping their son, Ervin Sarok, since his auto accident. He has min-

istered unto us with one of our brothers interpreting. Also sharing God's precious Holy Word with us have been Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI). May the Lord bless them for their labors of love in our behalf.

We rejoice with Andras Molnar as he through repentance has found peace with the Lord. We look forward to hearing his testimony and wish him the continued grace of God.

We extend a warm welcome Carlos Soto. He has recently moved here from Indiana. We pray he will feel the Lord's abundant grace as he continues his repentance in our midst.

**CANADA**  
**KITCHENER, ONTARIO**  
**Ingrid Fortenbacher**

We are so thankful that once again the watchman's call is being sounded. On January 17, we were privileged to hear the Conference letter read. Here to help our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) was Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN). As our Elders meet for the winter Conference, it is up to each one of us to hold their arms up in prayer that the Lord's work might be accomplished.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto,

MI).

We are always so thankful for those who make the trip to Kitchener to visit our small congregation. Recently, I was able to visit with the brethren in Regina SK and was especially reminded of how important it is to visit those in small churches. We are so thankful that the Lord did promise that where two or three are gathered in His name, He would be there.

**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Ann Gonglach**

"...we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake."

*II Thess. 5:12-13*

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

*Hebrews 13:7*

We are thankful for brothers who are over us and who have spoken God's Word to us. The reading of the Memorandum is always a special time. On Saturday, January 24, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) assisted with it and the next day brought us the Word, reminding us of many truths, one of which was "Gratitude is the parent of all other virtue."

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and David Marquart (Taylor, MO) on February 1.

Welcome to Sis. Susie Katanic who has moved here from Akron,



OH. We're glad to have her with us.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Reutter**

Greetings dear Brethren! As a hymn writer wrote, "What glorious state to be a lamb of Jesus!" (Zion's Harp #16). For those of us who have been converted, and have stood the tests, trials, and tribulations of life, this verse becomes all the more clear and evident as we journey here below. Without the love, guidance, and support from our Lord and Saviour, we would have no hope of leading a fulfilled, abundant life.

We as a congregation had the privilege of witnessing the provings and baptisms of two dear souls, Sis. Roseanna Schneider (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina) and Sis. Heidi Ballasy, (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane). We rejoice with these sisters as they, too, acquire this "glorious state" as children of God. We were so thankful for the presence of Elder Bro. Dave Graf, his wife, Sis. Barbara (Akron, OH), and all the visitors who came to spend this blessed weekend with us. May the Lord richly reward each and every effort.

Our congregation also witnessed the marriage of Bro. Paul Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) from Tremont, IL, and Sis. Beth Virkler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy) on January 25. May the Lord be with these two dear souls as they make their home in the Tremont area and make necessary adjustments for their new lives together. Our congregation will deeply miss Sis. Beth, yet are greatly thankful the Lord has provided for her so abundantly.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Children are such a blessing, and even more when we can envision them as an heritage of the Lord. However, one must not overlook the seriousness, and tremendous effort it takes, to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We hold each family up in prayer as they attempt such a task in the world we live in. There have been several births in our congregation throughout this past month. Elias Gardy was born to Bro. Gardy and Sis. Suzanne Moreau, and also welcomed by his sister Lily. Grandparents are Lucia St. Eloi and Gregoiri Moreau, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman. Eve Rebecca was born to Timothy and Jessica Mattson, and a grateful sister Clara. Grandparents are Clifford and Karen Mattson and Bro. Eric and Sis. Sharon Kloter. Also born this month was Marybeth Kate to Bro. Keven and Sis. Sara Grasso. Her sisters, Leandra, Lindsey, and Nicole are delighted to have another sister! We rejoice with each family.

Sis. Joyce Hunt (Bro. Harry), Di Kupferschmid, and Bro. Ervin (Sis. Viola) Luginbuhl have all been under the care of a physician this past month for various reasons. May the Lord continue to provide for them much grace and a steady and complete recovery if it would be His will. The Lord has blessed us richly here, yet there never seems to be a lack of opportunities to pray and reach out a loving, helping hand. May the Lord be with us all.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ken and Roberta Belsley as he had surgery on his shoulder. We hope he will soon be able to assemble with us again.

"This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

*Luke 22:19*

Members of our congregation traveled to Philadelphia to partake Holy Communion on February 7. We thank Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for coming to assist Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand. We also thank the Philadelphia congregation for their hospitality, not just that weekend, but also the many times we visit on our "off" Sunday.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA).

The Sunday Bro. Clark was here many gathered early for a Bible Study on the prophet Elijah. We are planning to have a Bible Study before services once a month. Another reason to call those listed below if you are coming this way so you can find out which Sunday it will be.

Services are usually held the first, third, fourth and fifth 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. Adam Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 516-4345 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 as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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### FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

#### Renee Mangold

We are so blessed that there are so many of God's servants willing to come and share His Word with us. This month visiting were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL).

Elder Bros. Earl Ringger and Dan Kilgus shared the Memorandum with us.

Sisters Elena Zurz and Delores Van Norman were both hospitalized this month. We pray that God will continue to heal them and restore them to health.

Our small congregation continues to grow and grow as many winter residents have returned and many brethren and friends vacation in Ft. Lauderdale. We are thankful that the Lord provides in many diverse ways.

We would appreciate any ministers planning a trip to Ft. Lauderdale to contact Bro. Roger Sauder at 954-584-0947. We are on a visiting minister rotation and this would be helpful in our scheduling.

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### FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

#### Mary Masters

We want to thank each of our visiting ministers that were so gracious to share their time and talents with us this month. Among them were Bros. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA).

As Mark chapter 14 was read and expounded on, we were reminded of the costly gift that was given to Jesus before His death on the cross. Mary gave a year's wages for the perfume she bought to anoint Jesus, which showed her deep love and devotion. It was pointed out that in Jesus' dying hours on the cross that the fragrance of that perfume no doubt lingered in His hair and was a comforting reminder of the love of one of His own. Mary was criticized by others for her extravagant expenditure, but God saw to it that it became a memorial of her tenderness and love for all time. There are going to be times when we too will be harshly criticized if our devotion to God is extravagant, but we must remember that the price is worth it.

We are thankful that Alice Myer is once again assembling with us in church. Sis. Jeanette Yergler has had some health concerns this month. Let's keep both of these loved ones in our prayers.

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### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

#### Carol Koehl

May the Lord richly bless all the brothers who ministered to us this past month. They include: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

Bro. Orval Rocke laid down his cross and went Home on February 10. Our sympathy and love are with his dear wife, Sis. Doris; son, Kenneth (Carol); daughters, Vicki (Steven) Sauder, Sherri (Jim) Pike, all of Sarasota, and daughter, Diane (Bill) Alexander, of Greenville, Virginia. He also leaves four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We pray that the Lord will comfort you in the coming days.

Sis. Marie Bartoni and Bro. Andy Maibach (Smithville, OH) were both in the hospital recently.

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA

#### Carol Kaufman

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

*St. Mark 11:22*

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) challenged us to truly have faith in God. Thank you, Bro. Mike, for giving so freely of yourself that the Word of God could go forth in truth and purity and work within our hearts.

We held our annual business meeting this past month. There is so much that each one does throughout the year behind the scenes to keep the building and grounds in good condition. Thank you to all who have contributed



through prayer, labors, or donations. May God richly bless you! We would like to thank Bro. John Brewer for writing the Silver Lining news this past year.

At the beginning of 2004 our visiting minister rotation has been changed to once a month, but Bro. Tom and Bro. Ted would appreciate the support of fellow ministers if they are visiting Georgia or if you would make plans to visit for the weekend. We would love to have more visitors to fill our sanctuary and encourage us on the straight and narrow way. Please let us know of your plans to help us prepare for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Ted Hirstein 770-632-1287, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**  
**Sheila McCoy**  
**Doreen Moser**

"Behold the Lamb of God."  
*John 1:36*

Our minister spoke of his experience with the birthing of one of his ewes who had triplets. One of the little lambs was struggling for its life but would only suck from a bottle. The minister found this quite

frustrating since he knew the ewe's milk was the most nourishing. He wouldn't be able to give this lamb the consistent care that the mother was able to provide if the lamb would only nurse.

Let us likewise realize our need of the Lamb of God from whence cometh our help. Our Heavenly Father is always present, just a prayer away.

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was in Belvidere to lend support for a Wednesday evening service. Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) led our monthly mid-week Wisconsin service. Bro. Dean Steffen did a Bible study on "Sanctification". Our congregation joined Elgin's in a Saturday evening service for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate those who labor in God's vineyard.

May God comfort Mary and Sis. Karen Spencer in the loss of Laverne Meyers. Sis. Alice Thompson (Bob) also has our sympathy in the death of her mother, Ruth Weeks.

We are rejoicing with Matt and Sis. Brenda Resh in the birth of their son, Kevin John, born on February 3. His siblings are Cassie, Calen and Keller.

We enjoyed a precious evening of delicious dining and fellowship at our Valentine dinner on February 13. Love of all gifts is the greatest.

For World Relief this month, we had a full day making twelve blankets that were donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission.

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**ILLINOIS**  
**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**  
**Rebekah Kaufmann**  
**Kara Martin**

This past month we were grate-

ful to have several visiting ministers. We are grateful to Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Randy Gudeman (Francisville, IN), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL) for coming and sharing the Word with us.

January 3 was a special day for Bro. Darin Leman and Sis. Jessica Basham as they were united in marriage. Bro. Darin Leman is the son of Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman (Morton, IL) and Sis. Jessica is the daughter of Mary Basham and Fred Basham (Wolcott, IN). May the Lord bless them in their new life together.

On January 20, Bro. Zack and Sis. Caesy Sauder became the proud parents of Luke Ashton. Luke is the first grandchild for both Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL). We rejoice with them and pray that God will give Bro. Zack and Sis. Caesy wisdom and patience as they begin this new journey in life.

Ben Gudeman and Rachel Schieler announced their engagement this month. Ben is the son of Dan Gudeman (Chicago, IL) and Sis. Rebecca Gudeman (Indianapolis, IN). Rachel is the daughter of Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler. We rejoice with them and pray that the Lord will bless them as they get to know each other better and prepare for marriage.

Matt Hany, the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany has also announced his engagement to Kristen Schertz. Kristen's parents are Richard and Carol Schertz of Metamora, IL. They are planning a November wedding and we pray God's bless-



ings on their engagement and marriage.

We are excited that Bro. Ron and Sis. Kayleen Heiniger, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann, and others in our congregation were all able to travel to Israel this month. What an amazing trip to visit the land where Jesus actually walked and many other events in the Bible took place! We look forward to hearing about their experiences.

As we approach the Easter season, may we meditate on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. May we be moved with gratitude for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

### Steve Endress

We are thankful to report that our Sis. Elizabeth Kimble has recovered from her hospital stay and is residing at the Apostolic Christian Skylines home in Peoria. We know that she will be a ray of sunshine to the residents and staff there.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch, Sis. Barb Klumpp (Bro. David), and Sis. Hilda Dietz are all back from the hospital and recovering nicely. We are always thankful when our loved ones can again assemble with us after an absence.

Our sympathy is with Sis. Verla Ehnle (Bro. Ed) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Mary Baurer, of Tremont. Although death brings a separation from those we love, it is sweet for the believer who has been faithful. May we always be unshackled from this world so that we can also look forward to the day when we can leave this corrupted

world behind.

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## ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

### Karla Kieser

It was a privilege to be the recipient of a visit from the Cissna Park Bible Class at the end of January. We enjoyed listening to them sing and also enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner afterwards.

We did have one college graduate after this past fall semester. Bro. Daniel Messner (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner, Washington, IL) graduated with a bachelor's degree in actuarial science and has accepted an offer of employment with Zurich North America in Schaumburg, IL. I apologize for not including his graduating in last month's issue.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Fischer are to be thanked for hosting a World Relief night where we watched slides and listened to our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart give a short talk on the efforts of World Relief after the slide show.

We would like to thank our one visiting minister, Bro. Rick Plattner from Fairbury.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank the wonderful Champaign congregation and all the others who prayed for, offered encouragement, and visited my family at the hospital after my father's near tragic heavy equipment accident. His recovery has been a miracle and is yet more evidence of God's work and mercy.

*Karla Kieser*

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Rachel Meyer

Greetings to all from Chicago. We welcomed a new brother into our fold on February 8. Darin Metzger (Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary) joyfully made his vows and was baptized. It was a touching weekend for all of us, and we enjoyed all of the visitors who came to support and rejoice with Bro. Darin and his family. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL).

We are thankful for all who are willing to share responsibilities in the church. Our new trustee is Bro. Chuck Stoller, Bro. Dan Plattner is our new treasurer, and Bro. Kent Rager is our new Sunday School teacher. To those who have served in any office, a heartfelt thank you for your willingness. And for all who are currently serving, we encourage you and want you to know that you have our support and appreciation. We are one body, all working together.

We wish to extend our sympathy to two of our loved ones who have lost family in the last month. Bro. William Art lost his sister, Wilma Tref, of Leesburg, VA. We pray God will be his consolation. Also, Sis. Rose Yahi lost her uncle, Bro. Zoltan Bako, of Akron, OH. May God be with these dear ones and their families.

We were very thankful to hear the reading of the Memorandum and an update on items covered at the very recent Elder Conference in Congerville. We appreciated greatly the labors of Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) who helped with this important



work and then blessed us with his ministry.

We have had a lot of very cold weather in the last month. A while ago, I was at a hotel registration desk talking with a man there. He brought up the cold weather and seemed to be almost surprised that it was cold in February. I thought it over. First, it is winter and the month of February. Judging from previous experience, this is very normal for this time of year. We expect snow, in fact, snow plows are constantly on the alert this time of year and bags of salt are for sale in many stores. We buy it because we are pretty sure we will need it. Therefore, why should we be surprised when the cold, snow and ice arrive? Naturally, it is very unpleasant, but we know to expect it.

Isn't that like our spiritual lives? The Bible tells us Satan will be constantly trying to trip us up. He will put temptations in our way and do all he can to draw us away from God. But we have a whole arsenal of weapons against him. We have the Bible that gives us instructions about how to arm ourselves against Satan. We are also told we should constantly be on the alert, never sleeping spiritually, not knowing what Satan may put in our way. We read our Bibles, we pray and go to church, we share with brothers and sisters who can pray for us and we ask God to continually help us and protect us. So let's not be surprised when hard times come our way. Yes, they are unpleasant, sometimes seem never-ending, and often heartbreaking. But because we are God's children in Satan's world, we know these times will come. If this is your experience right now, rest assured that God has not forgotten you and hears your every prayer.

Remember, God tells us in the Bible that the best is yet to come. Hold on.

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

This past month we were thankful and encouraged to have the Word brought to us by four visiting ministers. May God bless Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) for their labors on our behalf. It is truly a blessing in our precious faith to have those willing to visit and lend themselves for the true ministry of God's Word.

We rejoice with Ryan and Sis. Adrea Wells over the birth of their son, Spencer Laine, who was born January 27. Also welcoming him home is his brother, Skyler, and sister, Autumn. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Ray and Carole Wells.

Those from our congregation who have been hospitalized or had surgery in this past month are Jodi Sinn (Justin), Bro. Gib Stock (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Denise Walder (Bro. Nathan) and Sis. Clara Hofer. We pray that God will grant healing to each of them.

Our congregation has been saddened by several deaths recently. Our Sis. Nettie Obergfel passed away this month and we want to remember her husband, John, and their family in our prayers. We extend sympathy to Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler on the death of her mother, Sis. Mary Baurer, of Tremont, IL. Our sympathy and prayers are also with Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandy Kaufmann and their

family on the passing of her mother, Lillian Kietzman. May our Comforter be with each one who is grieving and help to sustain them in their time of sorrow. May the thought that we are all going down the valley one by one inspire each converted soul to a closer walk with God, and convict the sinner to seek salvation through repentance and conversion.

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
**Arlene Banwart**

In a recent sermon we were encouraged to look up the meanings of the fruits of the Spirit and examine our lives and determine if we truly have them. In looking through one of my Bible study notebooks I found the following which was in an old Silver Lining.

*But the Fruit of the Spirit is ...*

**LOVE:** The adoration or devout affection of man toward God; the kindness and charitableness man should show toward others. (Mark 12:30-31)

**JOY:** A strong feeling of happiness arising from the expectation of the hope of salvation. (Philippians 2:16-18, Lamentations 3:26)

**PEACE:** In a state or condition of order and harmony; a state of reconciliation after strife or enmity; being in full harmony and fellowship with God and our Brother and Sister in Christ (as far as we are able). (St. John 14:27, Romans 12:18)

**LONGSUFFERING:** Patiently enduring over a long period of time – sickness, injury, misfortune, abuse; bearing those things in others we consider wrong but know we cannot change. (II Timothy 3:10)



**GENTLENESS:** Mild and amiable in nature or disposition; kindly patient, easily entreated and easily instructed (II Timothy 2:24-25)

**GOODNESS:** Moral excellence, virtuous, righteous, well behaved, charitable, generous (I Timothy 4:12)

**FAITH:** A total belief in and complete dependence on God; believing what we know to be true but cannot see with physical eyes. (Hebrews 11)

**MEEKNESS:** Being submissive and compliant unto God and the directives He has given in His Word. (Matthew 5:5)

**TEMPERANCE:** Under subjection, self-controlled, not given to excess; habitual moderation. (Titus 2:2)

“...against such there is no law; and they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

*Galatians 5:22-23*

Our church was blessed with being able to host the mid-winter Elder Conference February 10-13. Fifty-five active Elders and sixteen retired Elders met and considered God’s Word and ways to help our churches.

Thanks to our visiting ministers who shared the Word from the pulpit: Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), David Graf (Akron, OH), Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY). We appreciated Bro. Duane staying over the weekend and helping read the 2003 Memorandum.

Our Bro. Phillip Stoller has relo-

cated to Phoenix, AZ. We truly miss him and wish him God’s blessings in his new church home.

We pray God will comfort Barb Tracy in the death of her husband, Tim. Barb and her daughter, Sue, have recently been attending our church and we welcome them in love. It was so precious when I gave Sue some warm mittens on a very cold day. She put them on and said, “It feels like Jesus is holding my hand.” We also welcome Minnie Lodge who has been worshipping with us.

David Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) and Ben Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) have found peace with God and man and are awaiting baptism.

In our annual business meeting, Bro. Doug Knepp was chosen to finish the Sunday School teaching term of Bro. James Knapp who is now a minister. Others chosen to teach who will begin their terms this summer are Bros. James Kieser (Sis. Jennifer) and Dave Steiner (Sis. Sandy) and Sisters Tammy Roth (Bro. Mark) and Jenny Walder (Bro. Brian). Bro. Bob McClure is the new Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home board member. Bro. Ed Leman was elected usher. Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay Stoller are new on the food committee. Our thanks to those who have served and may God bless those newly elected. “Serve the Lord with gladness.” (Psalm 100:2)

Sis. Millie Schieber was hospitalized. Our prayers are with her. We, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart, welcome granddaughter, Michelle Lynnette, born February 8 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Denise Rokey of Bern, KS.

*Note of Thanks:*

I will take this time to thank all the brothers and sisters and friends for their prayers and kind deeds and actions. My recovery is coming along nicely. Hope it continues. May God bless all.

*Bro. Charles Rinkenberger*

## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser**

**Miriam Gasser**

On January 31, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) assisted Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for those who continue to watch for our souls, exhorting us in ways of righteousness. Also visiting this past month was Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) whose ministry was a blessing.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Delbert and Sis. Jeanette Schmidt in the sudden passing of Delbert’s brother, Art, on February 5. Bro. Art and Sis. Alma had been a loving part of the Elgin fellowship for many years, before moving to West Bend, IA.

Sis. Marge (Bro. Bill) Wewetzer was hospitalized recently and is now undergoing outpatient treatments. We hope that she will feel our love and prayers for a good recovery.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Stoller (Latty, OH) and Sis. Sarah Moore was announced on February 8. Their parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth Moore. May Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah seek God’s direction and experience His blessing as they



plan for their wedding and life together.

In closing, we want to welcome Kouri and Nora Wysong and sons, Jax and Zander, who moved to our vicinity from Lester, IA. As they assemble with us, we hope they will find the same love of the brethren that binds our churches together.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller**

**Lisa Metzger**

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) share the Word with us on January 25. May the Lord bless him for this work of love.

Bro. Orval Rocke (Sarasota, FL) was called to his eternal reward. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Doris; brothers, Bro. Ray Rocke (Sis. Louise) and Bro. Harry Rocke, along with sister-in-law, Sis. Pauline Rocke, all of Eureka. May the Lord bless them with comfort as only He can provide.

Sis. Sue Zimmerman and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov spent some time in the hospital recently. We hope for their continued recovery. Also, Bro. Alan and Sis. Angie Huber's little Erica was hospitalized for a short time. She is back home now. We pray that all will go well for her from here.

We are very grateful for the time and effort our dear Elder brothers gave on our behalf at the winter Elder Conference. May the Lord reward them richly for their sacrifice of love.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Joann Zehr**

**Tammy Hinrichsen**

Greetings from Fairbury! We have had two ministers visit our

congregation in this past month. They are Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). Thank you for your willingness to open God's Word and teach us.

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Children of the couple are Bro. Richard (Sis. Dawn), Keith (Shelley), Sis. Christa (Bro. Verle) Sauder, and Sis. Ann (Bro. Kevin) Hofstetter. We wish them joy in the years ahead.

Even as one couple celebrates a milestone like 50 years together, the Lord leads others to begin their journey as one. Bro. Grant Hartman and Sis. Amy Schlatter (Forrest, IL) were announced to be married this past month. Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman and Sis. Sherri and the late Bro. Mark Schlatter. May God bless you both as you start the journey!

On January 28, Lincoln Walter was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine Steidinger. What a joy to once again cuddle and marvel at the miracle of a newborn! Little Lincoln is welcomed home by big sisters, Amber and Maria, and by big brothers, Kaleb and Jake. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Bahler (Remington, IN) and Maurice and the late Sis. Alma Steidinger.

Several in our congregation have been in the hospital and are thankfully home again. Our prayers have gone out to Sis. Vi Moser, Bro. David Kaeb, Karen Stoller, Duane Kafer, Joan Gaston and Bro. Carl Kieser. We have been witnesses to the power of prayer in a miraculous way this past month and it encourages us that our Heavenly Father is still listening and answering our

prayers.

On Saturday evening, February 14, Casandra Leaman visited our Elder, surrendering her heart to the Lord. Casandra of Rockton has previously lived here and attended Sunday School. She is the granddaughter of Sis. Mary Ifft.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Betty Sohn wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits and love shown to her the two years she resided in Fairview Haven and also upon her death.

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lori Dotterer**

**Jill Wenger**

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

*Rev. 3:5-6*

Grateful that our Elder brethren uphold the tradition of the early church of reading the Memorandum, we gathered together with the Fairbury brethren on January 17. Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and our own shepherd, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker, carried out this important responsibility. We felt very blessed by the Lord as Elder Bro. Peter brought the inspired Word of God to us on the following Sunday. May the Lord bless his efforts and also the labors of Bro. Dale Stoller and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Clark



Stoller (Gridley, IL) as they ministered His living Word to our congregation this month.

Believing that God has brought them together, several in our congregation announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. We rejoice with Sis. Amber Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) as she is engaged to Bro. Joel Plattner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary) of Fairbury, IL. We also rejoice with Sis. Amy Schlatter (Sis. Sherri) and Bro. Grant Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) of Fairbury, IL. May the Lord be with these young couples as they prepare to take this step in faith.

Babies are blessings from God above! Receiving the blessing of a baby boy named Lyle Thomas was Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tabby Honegger. Two sisters, Kara and Renee, welcomed his arrival along with grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger and Ron and Laurie Franz (Pontiac, IL). Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna Bachman and big brother, Micah, were blessed with a sweet baby girl named Audrey Lyn. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein. A third little son, Derek Micah, was added to the home of Bro. Jason and Sis. Lynn Dotterer, Luke, Nathan and Elise. Derek's grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer and Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz in the passing of her stepmother, Bertha Staedeli (Salem, OR). May the Lord comfort hearts that sorrow.

Those spending time in the hospital for surgery were Bro. Harry Johnson (Sis. Til) and Sis. Marge

Friedman (Henry). We are thankful for God's healing hand upon them.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Nathalia Wenger would like to thank everyone for the deeds of love and kindness extended to them during the passing of their dear mother, grandmother and great - grandmother.

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

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

Our congregation witnessed the joining of hands and hearts in Holy Matrimony on February 22 of Sis. Joy Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary) and Bro. Derek Roth (Roy and Sis. Corrine). We wish them God's blessings as they start their life together as one.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

*Romans 12:15*

This has been a month of sadness for many in our congregation. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Harold (Sis. Vi) Reeser as he lost his brother, Ralph Reeser. In addition, we want to remember Bro. Wes Knapp (Sis. Millie) as his brother, Dan Knapp, has also passed away. Sis. Myrna Schwenk's husband, Bro. Doug, passed away on February 19. We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Myrna and her dear children, Tim (Michelle), Sis. Susan (Bro. Dan), and Sis.

Amanda, and their families. We pray that God will comfort these families at this sorrowful time.

We were blessed to hear the proving and testimonies of three dear souls. We welcome Bro. Ray Wagner (Sis. Vi), Bro. Royce Schieler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa), and Bro. Dan Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) to the household of faith.

We are also grateful to the following ministering brethren and their families for coming to worship with us: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Walt Herrmann (Sis. Betty, Princeville, IL), and Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). As always, we enjoyed their sermons and fellowship. God's blessings to all.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Mari Wiegand have adopted Mikya Bhanu from India. Brothers, Drew and Rylin, are happy to have a little sister in the family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp and Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand.

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in various church offices and duties and thank those whose terms will expire and welcome those coming on:

Sis. Mary Tanner's term has expired from the kitchen committee and Sis. Eddis Blunier has taken her place. Our Sunday School teachers whose terms will expire in June are Sis. Deb Steffen, Sis. Shelley Rokey, Bros. Rick Bauman, Ross Herrmann, Chad Leman, Dwight Wiegand, Steve Fehr, and Superintendent Bro. Greg Wagner. Those replacing these teachers are Sis.



Peg Schieler, Sis. Holly Bauman and Bros. Daryl Blunier, Rod Hinrichsen, Brian Rieke, Scott Rinkenberger, and Luke Rocke. Bro. Randy Schmidgall has replaced Bro. Harold Hohulin as trustee. Our head usher is now Bro. Tony Monfre replacing Bro. Ben Rokey. We thank each one for their labors in the many duties there are within the church. May we continue to look to God for direction.

Our surgery patients this month were Donna Rocke (Shane) and Marli Hohulin (Bro. Matt and Sis. Laurie). May we continue to lift them up in prayer.

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### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein**

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”

*Hebrews 3:12-14*

The solemn warning found in the above Scripture is timely, especially as we exist in a sinful time in our nation. The enemy of our soul is not sleeping or slumbering, but is “roaring.” Surely his wrath is witnessed by the seemingly rapid decline in basic morality in the United States, and in other countries of the Western world. Fifty years ago — or even 10 years ago — who would ever thought that people of the same gender would want to marry. Yet, before our very eyes such is taking place, and authorities seem power-

less (or unresolved) to stop it.

And while this trend is a very negative one for the nation, it is an opportunity for the believer in Christ to stand for what is right, and to live in a Godly way. Keeping the commandments shows the world our calling is a high one. We should thank God the Holy Spirit is able to guide us into all truth and righteousness — and that He can empower us to overcome all the evil around us. Any semblance of holiness we can achieve is His work in us. We are called as lights and witnesses in this dark world. It has been said, “The darker the night, the brighter the Light.” In humility, may we make our calling and election sure.

We continue to pray for Willis Aupperle who remains in ill health. Bro. Louis Kieser was hospitalized with a stroke, and is doing better. We pray for his recovery according to God’s will.

On February 15, Sis. Holly Lemman was married to Bro. Joseph Kline of Bluffton, Indiana. Her parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Lemman, Eureka. He is the son of Ron and Janice Swygart, Bern, Indiana. We wish this couple the blessings of God in their newly-established three-fold cord.

Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN) was a guest minister on January 25. Here for the wedding on February 15 were Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr. (Bluffton North, IN). We are thankful to God for the labors of these brothers.

We were glad to hear the annual Memorandum read to us on Wednesday evening, February 25. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) was here for the occasion. The insights of this

Spirit-inspired document help the cause of unity, and lend guidance to the believer. God gives grace to the humble, and obedience can follow.

We are thankful as well that our Elder brethren met at Congerville in February to consider the important matters of the beloved church. The congregations must strive for holiness and Godliness. Lapses, even in little things, can have a profound effect on individual believers, and ultimately the brotherhood as a whole. Much prayer and supplication are necessary for the maintenance of the church. Stability is not guaranteed, and each brother and sister must be wise in doing their part to uphold the applications from the Word.

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### **ILLINOIS, MORTON Julie Bahr Christie Zeller**

Our Young Group pork chop supper and singing was held on February 7. It was a blessed evening of food and fellowship.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Teresa Blunier and their family are moving to the Chicago area with his work. We will miss them in our fellowship and want to wish them God’s blessings.

Our Family Worship was held on February 4, by our Bro. Ralph (Sis. Lynn) Garber. His message was on “Are You Happy?” It was very thought provoking.

Many loved ones have gone home to be with the Lord. Bro. Harold Miller passed away. He lived at our Home for the Handicapped for many years and later at Restmor. His funeral was in Oregon. Edward Wiedman passed away. He was a brother to our Bro. Al (Sis. Wilma) Wiedman and to our Sis. Edna Dufelmeier. Jerry Hamann passed



away. Our ministers had his funeral at our Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home. Mary Gasper passed away. She was the mother to our Sis. Jackie (Bro. Ken) Babin. Sis. Mary Bauer (Tremont, IL) passed away. She was the mother to our Sis. Joann (Bro. Jim) Fischer. Sis. Sharon Causey (Peoria, IL) passed away. She was the sister to our Sis. Barb (Bro. Ed) Kaiser and our Sis. Esther (Bro. Mark) Stephens. Oleta Strunk passed away February 4 at the age of 91 years. She attended our Morton church for many years. Bro. Fred Hermann passed away February 11. He was the husband to our Sis. Ella Hermann and the father to our Sis. Sandy (Darryl) Nelson. He also was the stepfather to Sis. Jill (Bro. Mike) Kaufman and the brother to our Bro. Don (Sis. Mavis) Hermann. May our Heavenly Father comfort and strengthen these dear families.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone who offered prayers, cards, gifts, and transportation while Al was in the hospital and recuperating at Restmor. Also the special angels at Christmas time. God bless you all.

Our love,

*Bro. Al and Sis. Wilma Wiedman*

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Lou and Marjean Lonteen**

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich: and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear: and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

Revelation 4:18

Our congregation was blessed by a visit from Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton) on Wednesday, February 18. He spoke at Family Night and his topic was: "Depression". Thank you, Bro. Ted, for your willingness to come and serve us.

On Wednesday, February 4, Bro. Ken Hoerr spoke at Family Night. His topic was: "The Apostolic Christian Church/Its Past and Present". We were blessed to hear more of our heritage of faith. Thank you, Bro. Ken.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

*Revelation 4:19*

On Saturday evening, February 14, we heard the testimony of faith of our new Brother in Christ, Heath Coburn. Heath was baptized on Sunday and welcomed into the fold with open hearts and arms. Bro. Heath's thankful family circle includes his parents: Robert and Sis. Michelle Coburn, and his sister, Sis. Tina. Bro. Harry and Sis. Loretta Eisenmann are thankful grandparents.

Special thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie (Bern, KS) for your visit for Heath's testimony and baptism. God bless you, Bro. John, for sharing with our Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer.

On February 14, we heard the conclusions of the Memorandum of the Elder Brother Conference.

On January 24, the Sunday School Bible Class held its annual Pancake and Sausage Supper at the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to the Bible Class and parents for a lovely dinner and evening. The Bible Class would like to thank all those who shared their support.

On Saturday evening, February 7, we were blessed by a visit from the West Lafayette, IN, choir. Their song service was focused on following scripture and expressing it with music. We were truly blessed by the efforts they made to drive to Peoria on a wintry day and evening. God bless each one of you for this special evening you shared with us. The same evening, we were blessed to hear our third, fourth, and fifth grade Sunday school students sing songs of praise, too. Thank you students and teachers for this special evening.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

*Revelation 4:20*

Those from our congregation on our prayer list are: Bro. Jon Hangartner (illness), Bro. Leon Kaisner (surgery), Bro. Norb Schneider (injury), and Sis. Dorothy Stoller (illness). Many prayers are offered to the Great Physician who holds each of us in the hollow of His hands.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

*Revelation 4:21*

We remember those who have lost loved ones recently.

They include: the family of Elsie Fehr who passed away on January 31. She was a resident of the Peoria Skylines Home. Special sympathy to: Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Schmidgall, and Sis. Shari Fehr and



the entire family circle.

We extend sincere sympathy to Sis. Marilyn Baurer in the death of her mother, Sis. Mary Baurer (Tremont). The funeral was held at the Tremont church. God be with each of the family members of Sis. Mary.

We extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Brian and Sis. Mary Beth Elsasser and family in the death of Bro. John Elsasser (Princeville). We pray you will be comforted in the loss of your father and grandfather.

Our congregation said good-by to Sis. Sharon Causey on February 8. Funeral services were held in Peoria church on February 12. We express sincere sympathy to her sons: Michael and Mark, Sis. Sharon's father, Bro. Clarence Herman and Sis. Viola. Sis. Sharon's family included brothers: Louis and Sharon Herman (Rockford), Ernie and Shirley Herman of Denton, TX. Sis. Sharon's sisters include: Sis. Janice and Bro. Joe Beer (Goodfield), Becky and David Bloom (Coal Valley), Marie and Chuck Donaldson (Geneseo), Sis. Barb and Bro. Ed Kaiser (Morton).

Our congregation expresses sympathy to the family of Sis. Lena Schwab. Sis. Lena's funeral was held on January 26 at the funeral home. May God comfort all those who call upon Him.

We express sincere sympathy to the family of Sis. Lydia Hermann. Sis. Lydia went to be with her Lord on January 5. Sis. Lydia's son is Rich (Marilynn) Hermann. Sis. Lydia's brother is Bro. Herman (Sis. Eva Jean) Schaefer and her sister is Sis. Martha Schaefer. May each of you know God's comfort in your loss.

Sis. Velma Hancher went home to be with her Lord. Sis. Velma was

originally from the Peoria church and worshipped with the Bradford church many years. Sis. Velma was a resident of the Peoria Skylines home. We extend sincere sympathy to all those near and dear to her.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr are thankful to have their new little grandson, Dillon Lundy. Jamie and Rex Lundy adopted little Dillon at 2 weeks of age. Dillon is welcomed home by his older brothers and sisters.

God bless your family circle.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Our sincere thanks to our dear children for a very special reception on our February 15, 50th Wedding Anniversary. Sincere thanks to each and every one of our friends and family who remembered us with gifts and cards. May God richly bless you.

*Don and Viola Messner*

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

*Revelation 4:22*

"...Fear not: I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead: and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen: and have the keys of hell and of death."

*Revelation 1:17,18*

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

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou

walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

*Deut. 6:6-7*

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna Gehrig and Sis. Lucille Knobloch (great - grandmother) are rejoicing in the birth of another grandchild, Elisabeth Helen Bourwieg (Karsten and Janna) born January 26. Also, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (grandparents) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold (great - grandparents) are thankful for the safe arrival of Olivia Ann Menold (Bro. Derek and Sis. Wendy) born January 27.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) spent the weekend with us January 24-25 for the provings and baptisms of Sis. Tonya Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri) and Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia). We enjoyed a number of visitors that weekend and thank Bro. Kent for his labors in bringing us the Word and taking part in this important work. Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) also visited us this past month.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara Wagenbach and their family mourn the loss of Sis. Sara's grandmother, Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). We are thankful when dear souls no longer have to suffer; yet their presence in our families and in our church is greatly missed.

We are thankful that Bro. Dave Ehnle (Sis. Beulah) is doing well after his recent hip surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter as she is suffering illness at this time. Our Sis. Alvina Streitmatter has recently made her home at Peoria Apostolic Christian Skylines. We pray she will feel God's nearness there as



she has made this transition.

*Notes of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone far and near who remembered me at Christmas and all through the year. What a loving church family we have and how grateful we should be to have not only a faith to live by, but one to die by, when the Lord calls us home. May the Lord really bless all of you for your love and kindness.

*Humbly, your least Sister in Christ,*

*Arlene Knapp*

I would like to thank one and all for the phone calls, visits, food, cards and prayers during and after my hip surgery. May the Lord richly bless all of you.

*Bro. Dave Ehnle*

Attention: Ladies dark green wool long coat missing from Princeville church – owner has a lighter green coat which is not hers. Please contact: 309-385-1960

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Joan Leman  
Jenell Hodel**

“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.”

*Ecclesiastes 3:1,2*

Two dear sisters have gone on to meet their Savior this past month. Sis. Sarah Diggle passed away on February 6. Our prayers are with her husband, John, and their children: Jane, Sis. Debbie and Bro. Dave Meiss, Tammi and Gary

Leman, Kathy and Andy Pflederer and John and Kathy Diggle.

Sis. Marjorie Luginbuhl passed away on February 8. Our prayers are also extended to her children: Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Luginbuhl, Bro. Les and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl, Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl and Sis. Luella and Bro. Elsworth Pelsy.

May each of these families find great comfort knowing their loved one was a faithful child of God who is now at home with the Lord. We as a congregation will miss these Sisters and praise God for the example they have been.

Our Roanoke congregation truly felt God's leading as Bro. John (Sis. Jill) Bradle was called to the ministry. May God bless his ministry and may he continue to humbly put his faith and trust in the Lord as he serves our church in this position.

There were many visiting Brothers who blessed us with their ministry this month. They were Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton), Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington), Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena), Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver) and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor) and Bros. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington), and Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton). May God bless each one for their willing service to us.

Many have spent time in the hospital this month and our thoughts and prayers are with them. They were Sis. Joan Leman (Russ), Sis. Marge Hodel (Bro. Brent), Sis. Ann Pfister, Sis. Lois Pfister, Sis. Ann Leman, and Matthew Whitten (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori). May they feel our love and the healing touch of our Father in Heaven.

We rejoice with Annie Hodel

(Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce) as she has answered God's call to repentance. May she anchor firmly to the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.

Making plans for a summer wedding are Jodi Aeschleman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill) and Matt Gordon (Rich and Sharon). We pray that God will guide them and bless them as they prepare to be joined as one.

On February 13, Bro. Will Schieler (Sis. Sue, South Bend) spoke at our monthly Bible Study on Creation vs. Evolution. We appreciated his efforts to bring this topic to us.

February 14-15 was a special weekend for Bros. Steven and Jonathon Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Heather Mellin (Lee Jr. & Marlene and Cindy & Bob Rippon) as they were able to give their testimonies and be baptized. We rejoice with them and pray they will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Heather Rassi  
LaVonne Wagenbach**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Also with us this month were ministering Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). We really appreciate their efforts.

Some of us were able to travel to Rockville, CT, for the wedding of Bro. Paul Wagenbach and Sis. Beth Virkler. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Bro. Ron and Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach



and the late Tammy (Blunier) Wagenbach. We are very blessed to have Sis. Beth in Tremont and wish them God's richest blessings in their newly established home.

We were privileged to host the ACYF this month. We thank all the students, teachers and all the helpers that worked together to make the event a blessing to all involved.

We remember our hospital patients in our prayers. Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Francie Koch (Bro. David), Sis. Darlene Kaeb (Bro. Elmer) and Bro. Bob Sauder (Sis. Elizabeth). May they continue to feel our prayers as they recuperate.

Two families experienced the loss of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We are so thankful for faithful mothers who so faithfully taught their families of God's love. Sis. Mary Baurer spent many years at Apostolic Christian Restmor. Her family includes daughters, Sis. Marilyn Baurer (Peoria, IL), Sis. Verla Ehle (Bro. Ed, Bradford, IL), Sis. Joanne Fisher (Bro. Jim, Morton, IL) and Sis. Donna Yergler (Bro. Max, Cissna Park, IL). Also going to her reward was Elsie Fehr. Her family from Tremont includes Sis. Doris Baer (Bro. Bob), Sis. Phyllis Holmes (Bro. Marshall) and Sis. Barb Reinbeck (Bro. Larry). May God be their source of comfort each day.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Janet Knapp, on the birth of their son, Samuel Michael. Grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp and the late Rosella Knapp (Gridley, IL). Also blessed with a new son were Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sandi Koch. Welcoming Alexander Nathan are Gabriel, Josiah, Charity

and Promise. Grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch and Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller (Leo, IN).

We are pleased to report the engagement of Tammy Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) to David Callan (Morton, IL). His parents are Thomas and the late Linda Callan. Also announcing their engagement are Jodi Wagenbach (Bro. Si and Sis. LaVonne) and Todd Dawson, also of Morton. His parents are Don and Connie Dawson and Kathy Hinnen. We wish them God's blessings as they make their wedding plans.

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### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Marcia Koch**

**Dianne Wyss**

A new brother was added to our congregation this past month. We rejoice with Bro. Kirk Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene) as he answered the Lord's tender calling. We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene) for spending the weekend with us. Also ministering to us this past month were Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie) from Tokyo, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel) from Morris, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene) from Peoria and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen) from Sarasota. We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie) from Oakville, for assisting Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Sis. Carole) as he has been undergoing tests and hospitalization. May our Lord, the Great Physician, see to their every need.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen**

**Tiffany Aschliman**

**Elizabeth Frauhiger**

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

*III John 1:4*

January 24-25 was a joyous weekend as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two dear souls. Bro. Tony Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Brady Ripple have been added to the fold.

Bros. Justin Dubach (Bro. Ken and Jodi), Lyndon Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann) and Brad Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val) were welcomed into the Body of Christ as our new brothers in faith on February 15. Our prayers are with these cherished souls as they begin their new lives in Christ.

On this weekend, we were honored to have three visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo), Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) willingly shared the Word with us. Also visiting this month were Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North). We are thankful for their presence.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Dorothy Kaehr Gerber, Kenny Ellenberger and Nick Fiechter (Bro. Dave and Sis. June). We pray that these dear ones will feel the many prayers being offered up on their behalf.

We rejoice with Amy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura) and Kole Meyer (Bro. Greg



and Sis. Bev) as they have been announced as having peace and await baptism.

Our congregation was blessed with many new babies this month. January 8 was the special day for Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Gilliom as they welcomed their third son into their family. Breckin Lee joins Connor and Koby at home. The grateful grandparents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Marie Gilliom and Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch.

Little Alyssa Lynn Merritt was born on January 23 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather. Her grandparents are Sis. Sheri Cress and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt.

Bro. Von and Sis. Diane Heyerly welcomed their first granddaughter in the form of May Lillian. She was born on January 20 to Jon and Liz Heyerly.

Bro. Greg, Sis. Amy, Ellison, Gavin and Morgan Kaehr (Bluffton North) received a little bundle of joy on February 3. Jake Alexander is the newest grandson of Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr and Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger (Bluffton North).

February 4 was the birth date of Chase Michael Gibson, born to Heath and Teri. Happy grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Bertsch. We rejoice with these families and ask God's blessings on them.

Celebrating 50 years of marriage this month are Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Gerber. We are thankful for this godly example set before us.

Finally, we congratulate Bro. Joey Kline and Sis. Holly Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) as they were united in marriage in Gridley, IL, on February 15. We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Holly as they make their home here in

Bluffton.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen  
Darren Drayer**

Greetings from your spiritual siblings at Bluffton North.

We were thankful this month to have Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ) share God's Word with us.

Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) was here on February 7-8 to help Elder Bro. Phil Stettner with the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Mitch Fiechter (Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg), Bro. Preston Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami) and Sis. Sarah Towle (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodi).

On February 15, Bro. Joey Kline (Janice) and Sis. Holly Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) were united in marriage in Gridley, IL. We are excited to have Sis. Holly join our church family.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Amy Kaehr are excited to have another son, Jake Alexander, born February 8. He is welcomed home by three brothers: Ellison, Gavin and Morgan. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Karen Kaehr (Bluffton, IN). Sis. Dulla Pulver welcomed a new granddaughter on February 13: Aubrey Lynn, born to Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver (Bluffton, IN).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe Kipfer on the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Marie. She is also survived by two brothers, Bro. Harry W. Gerber (Sis. Ada) and Bro. Wilmer Gerber (Sis. Clara), and a sister, Sis. Devona Longenberger (Bro. Harry).

On February 1 we heard the Memorandum. We were reminded of the blessing of greeting with a holy kiss. We encourage everyone to travel to Bluffton North and greet your brothers and sisters in faith.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Jessica Murray**

Greetings, loved ones, in the name of our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

May this find each of you living in "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." (I Tim. 1:2) I apologize for leaving out the new address of our Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall as they have relocated to: 2430 Suffolk Lane, Joliet, IL 60433. We miss them and their family and keep them in our prayers.

Also making a new home for herself is our Sis. Minerva Wuethrich. She is now living at: 101 Constitution Dr., Room 125, Parkview Haven, Francesville IN 47946. Our prayers are with you as you adjust to this change in your life.

We also have it on our hearts to pray for our dear loved ones who are in and out of the hospital this time of year and may not be in the best of health. May the Lord be by your side and comfort you daily, is our prayer.

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

*Philippians 2:2*

What a joy it was to witness the marriage of our Sis. Molly Gutwein (Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Jarod Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki, Remington, IN). May the union of their hearts be glorified in heaven as they are starting their fu-



ture together.

We want our heartfelt thanks to be with the visiting ministers this past month. Joining us for the wedding ceremony was Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO). May you and your families be greatly blessed.

Our prayers were also with the Elders as they attended the Conference this past month. May the Lord be with them as they use and share what they acquire through Brotherly love and our Lord.

We share our sympathies with Sis. Luella Pelsy (Bro. Ellsworth) as her stepmother has been taken from this life to dwell with the Lord. Also, Sis Chrisann Gutwein (Bro. Edison) has lost a beloved aunt as the Lord has gained a child. May peace and comfort be with you and your families as you go through these times.

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Sandy Lichtle  
Gail Bradford**

During winter's cold gray days, we appreciate the bright warmth of Christian fellowship and the constancy of Jesus' love. His love brightens even the darkest days, whether nature's clouds, or the uncertainty and confusion of daily events cause the darkness.

We also appreciate the willingness of our visiting ministers to serve, even while traveling. Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend), Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso), Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Dallas), and Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend) preached God's Word to us this month.

The spring outreach ministry to the Indianapolis community will take place on Saturday, April 3. As plans go forward, we eagerly anticipate the participation of young people in various projects that combine acts of kindness with spreading the gospel.

Bro. Marty Langhofer (South Bend) visited recently and gave a presentation on his trip with other veterinarians to Romania.

At the annual business meeting, we voted for members to serve in various capacities, such as teaching Sunday School, serving as trustees, etc.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Sara Huber and young son Avery will leave for Togo, West Africa, where he will work at a hospital there for two months. They will then settle in Cincinnati, Ohio, for Nate's continuing medical studies. We wish them God's blessings. We have enjoyed their fellowship during their brief stay in Indianapolis.

Life brings many adjustments. We can handle them all if we lean on God's love. He is the one constant in an ever-changing world.

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

*Psalms 119:105*

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

Be not dismayed what-e'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,  
God will take care of you.

God will take care of you,  
Thru every day, O'er all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.

*Hymns of Zion #138  
verses 1 & 4*

Sis. Norma Nuest (Bro. Gene) and Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold (Bro. Eric) underwent surgery in the past month. We continue to pray for their recovery.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman OH) with us to read the Conference Report. May our hearts be stirred up to a closer walk with God through the exhortations given by our Elder brothers.

Other visiting ministers in the past month were Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). May God bless them for their efforts in bringing us the Word.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank welcomed a new grandson on February 19. Logan Andrew was born to Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank (Detroit, MI).

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**INDIANA, LEO  
Ethelyn Schlatter  
Carol Schrock**

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Pete Maxfield and his family whose loving and devoted wife and mother, Sis. Helen Klopfenstein Maxfield, died on Friday, January 16. Her husband, Bro. Pete; three daughters, Jyl (Norr), Julie (Gearhart), Jayne (Heller); one son, James; 8 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother, Richard (Marg) Klopfenstein, survive. She was preceded in death by a sister, Sis. Lucille Frank; brothers, Glenn and Bro. William



Klopfenstein; and parents, Bro. William and Sis. Jennie Klopfenstein.

As we read in Eccles. 3:1-2, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens: A time to be born and a time to die." As God has said, so it is!

On January 23, Alyssa Lynn was born to first-time parents, Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather Merritt. We rejoice with them in the birth of Alyssa and thank God for her! Her thankful grandparents are Sis. Sheri Cress and Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt.

What an encouraging weekend we had on February 7-8 when Cecily Stieglitz (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane) and Carrie Blunier (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri) shared their testimonies and were baptized.

Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz. Also witnessing their testimonies and serving in the ministry were Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), both uncles of Sis. Cecily. We thank them for their desire to serve and to share in this weekend of rejoicing.

Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep." We do rejoice with the Stieglitz, Blunier and Merritt families, and we weep with the Klopfenstein and Norr families.

Sis. Katherine Norr, 87, died at the Cedars Retirement Home, February 11. She was a faithful servant of her Lord, in selfless service to the church, family and neighbors. She is survived by a sister, Sis. Marie (Bro. David) Bertsch, and was a loving aunt to many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her par-

ents, Bro. Otto and Sis. Bertha Norr; brothers, Bro. Herman, Bro. Robert, Albert; sisters, Sis. Lauretta Wuethrich and Sis. Velma (Bro. Jack) Bollier. Services were held Sunday, February 15. Bro. John Stoller and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz had the services from Psalm 23 and John 10. Our sympathy to the family.

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### INDIANA, MILFORD

#### Paula Haab Cap Beer

We had several visiting ministers this month. Each left us with a positive message. Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) encouraged us to make visitors feel welcome and to take time to write encouraging words one to another. Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN) told us of the importance of the church. Not only to encourage one another, but to also set a parameter for our lives. Bro. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN) told of the benefits of speaking of spiritual things during our fellowship hour. Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter also gave us much spiritual guidance.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer were blessed with a baby girl. Her name is Amber Grace. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka, IL) are the grandparents.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Paula Haab in the passing of her only brother, Dan Sinn. We also pray for his widow, Goldie, that she can be sustained.

Bro. Glen Price Sr. and Sis. Kathryn are having some health problems. Kathryn spent several days in the hospital and Glen is having some hip problems. Our prayers are for them and we are thankful for

their steadfast faith.

Shanon Haab (Jeff) had back surgery but is recovering nicely.

A group spent a week in Mexico building houses for some needy families. Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie Beer, Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer and Ryan Steiner represented our congregation.

Arlo and Lisa Kipfer and family spent some time over the holidays at the home of Lisa's parents, Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel. They are now back in China.

Danny and Jane Lawson announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily, to Clint Steffen, son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen. We wish them joy at this stage of their lives.

One of the highlights this month was the visit of the Cissna Park choir. They walked us through the life, death and triumphant resurrection of Christ. Also the life of a person from childhood to a wonderful life of peace and joy in the Lord. How blessed it is to have some people we never met before have enough love for us to come and share their God-given talents with us.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

#### Beth Virkler Rochelle Ward

"Love is the greatest gift of all." May the home of our newlyweds, Bro. Jared Steffen (Bro. Roger and Sis. Vicki) and Sis. Molly Gutwein (Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda), be blessed with an unconditional love that only God can give. Sis. Molly and Bro. Jared's new address is: 615 Fleming, Rensselaer, IN 47978. Their phone number is 219-866-8646.

We appreciated the sincere testi-



mony and baptism of our new sister in Christ, Amanda Price. May God continue to be ever present in her life.

A special thank you to Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein for being with us and sharing in Amanda's wonderful day.

We also appreciated a visit from Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). Regardless of the miles, the message is still the same and we are thankful for those who are willing to preach the Word.

Alexandria Virkler (Bro. Paul and Sis. Miranda) was recently hospitalized due to RSV. She is now home and feeling much better.

Emily Ann Schneider was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristin on January 23. Emily will be well taken care of with big sister, Brianna, around and ready to help. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider and the late Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Fischer (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Gene and Sis. Diane Waibel would like to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Amy, to Tim Woods. They are planning a wedding in September 2004.

The feeling of spring is in the air. I am always in awe as the earth awakes from its long winter nap and colors appear everywhere. God's creation is awesome and proof that He is always perfect!

*Note of Thanks:*

Your many deeds of love have shown forth the love of God to me during my time of recuperation due to a hip replacement. I thank all of you and may God abundantly bless you.

*Sincerely,*

*Bro. Edwin A. Bahler*

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**

**Melisa Gerst  
Stacey Feller**

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

This month we were exhorted to examine our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other as the time of Communion approaches. Bro. Bob Beebe asked us to think about where we see Jesus Christ in our lives and to ask ourselves if He is the one we love more than anyone else. A fitting scripture for this time of readying ourselves for Communion is Psalm 26:2. "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

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**INDIANA  
VALPARAISO  
Edward Lester**

"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

*Philippians 1:11*

We would like to thank everyone who was praying for Joyce Ames (Bro. Tim Ames); she is doing well and out of the hospital.

This past month we had our annual meeting. Several duties are passed on to new brothers and sisters and everyone would like to thank those persons who gave of their time and hearts to do God's will. Thanks to everyone.

We were pleased that Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) was able to join us and lend his support and love to our church.

**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Diana Houston  
Nettie Haab**

"To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

*Hebrews 3:15*

Three special friends have heard His voice and heeded His call. Bill and Brenda Minick, and John Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris) have turned their backs on the world and started their repentance. Let's remember to uphold all of our converts in prayer.

We have been blessed to have visiting ministers with us. Thanks to Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN).

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT  
Heidi Bahler  
Lisa Furrer**

Greetings from Northern Indiana!

We appreciated having two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) presented a Bible study jointly with us and the Remington congregation. Also, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) came to visit family and lent himself to labor on the Lord's Day.

Kaleb, Daniel, Joshua, and Timothy are enjoying a new baby sister. Anne Marie was welcomed on January 28 to thankful parents, Bro. Mi-



chael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach. Local grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer.

Another baby's arrival brought happy news. Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler are enjoying their new grandson, Bryce Allen, born on February 14. Bryce's happy first-time parents are Don and Jill Bahler.

Our dear friend, Fran Klopfenstein (Bud), had surgery recently and is feeling God's healing mercies.

Please keep our Wolcott Bible class and parents in your prayers. A work trip to Mexico during spring break is being planned. About 30 of our congregation plan on going to labor for those who are less fortunate.

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Brenda Schulz  
Laurie Schulz**

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall came for our annual business meeting this month. Bro. Alan Schwartz was chosen for trustee, Sis. Ingrid Buster for the kitchen committee, and Sis. Laurie Schulz for Silver Lining correspondent. May God bless and guide them in their new responsibilities.

We rejoice with our convert, Krystal Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna), as she has found peace with God. Lord willing, she looks forward to her baptism in April.

We are thankful Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) were willing to share the Word with us this month.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner rejoice in the birth of their new granddaughter, Kori Paige. Dwayne, Kelly and older brother, Kody Massner of Strasburg, CO,

welcome her home.

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## IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

### *Easter*

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb

He is the great "I was, I am"  
Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,

He conquered over death and tomb.

He rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky.  
If you have found the Christ, His way,

Then you can keep this Easter Day.

*Hymns of Zion #89*

With little news to write from our small flock here at Elgin, I have decided to share a little of my study on the word "Easter" since we are, again, looking forward to this Holy season of the year.

To my knowledge the word "Easter" only appears in the Bible once (Acts 12:4). My encyclopedia gives this information: "Most Christians observe Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus the festival can occur on any Sunday during the period from March 22 - April 25. Christians in many European countries call Easter "Pascha". This word comes from the Hebrew word *pesah*, which means Passover. Jesus was celebrating the Jewish festival of Passover shortly before He was arrested and sentenced to be crucified. Passover recalls how God rescued the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. Christians believe that Easter, like

Passover, is a time of rescue. They say that by His death and resurrection, Jesus rescued them from eternal death and punishment for their sins."

May we ever be thankful for God, for His boundless love and mercy to fallen mankind and for the precious hope made possible to us through the death and resurrection of His Son.

Our thanks to ministering Bros. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda), both from Winthrop, MN, for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

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## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

We are so thankful for the visits of Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski) and Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville, IL). Bro. Joe's visit was after the winter Elder meeting, and as he shared some thoughts from the meeting, I was reminded just how much time, prayer and concern our dear Elder brothers invest on behalf of our church.

We are happy to again hear the sounds of tiny infants in church. Katie and Jason Newton welcome their first-born, Jason Howard, born January 24. He is the grandson of Sis. Willa Clark. Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk's new grandson, Nathaniel Lee, born to Devon and Joanie Funk on February 9, has also been with us a few times. Rachel and Gene Smith also welcome a new grandson, Roan Canyon Smith, born to Courtland and Jamie Smith February 12 in Wisconsin. Our prayers are with these families, that the precious little boys will grow to be men of strong faith.

As winter winds begin to have a



more "spring-like" feel, and the snowdrifts disappear, we welcome new life. We eagerly watch for the first buds on the trees and the green tips of crocus leaves that herald flowers soon to follow. Let us watch just as eagerly for the signs of new spiritual life, for a re-awakening and refreshing of God's spirit within each of us, whether long-time Christians or new babes in Christ.

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

We want to thank Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) for sharing God's Word with us. We appreciate them bringing their families to visit us and their willingness to serve us.

We are thankful that Sis. Janette Schulz was able to return home safely with her newly adopted daughter Adriana. Our prayers are with them as Janette strives to bring her up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord". Let us remember to intercede for single and foster parents in our prayers as we ponder James' exhortation to not neglect the orphans and widows.

Thinking about Easter, I compared the four gospels' accounts of Jesus' words to His disciples following His resurrection. In Matthew and Mark, He told the disciples to go and preach the gospel to all nations, to every creature. In Luke, He mentions scripture and explains that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations..." then tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they are provided power from on high. So after we've witnessed the redeeming power of Jesus' death

and resurrection in our own lives, shouldn't we follow His command and, with His power, preach this gospel to all nations and every creature as He provides opportunity?

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

"And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

*Hebrews 6:11-12*

The cross over Jordon marks the first of ten episodes of Israel's unbelief. Because of these ten events, an entire generation was not allowed entrance into Canaan. In the book of Hebrews (chap. 3-4), this unbelief is recalled and a warning given to Christians, lest they also fail to enter God's rest through unbelief. Once in the land of Canaan, some of Israel's fiercest battles were fought. Thus, in a Christian's life, to "cross over Jordan" is to step out by faith and live an overcoming life.

Our Memorandum was given by our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) on January 24. What a great blessing it is to be reminded and exhorted to live a life in harmony with God's Word.

Mallorie Lynn Mogler was born to Perry and Jessica on February 14. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie Mogler. May they enjoy this new blessing in their home as they embark on the role of being parents.

February 15 was the wedding day for Sis. Joy and Bro. Eric

Kupferschmid, and many friends and family came to witness this holy union. Ministering Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA) was with us for this occasion. We wish this happy couple many years of serving the Lord as one. Parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Rich and Sis. MaryBeth Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL).

Troy and Gwen Metzger feel they have found that precious pearl of peace. We are all looking forward to their proving service and baptism in April.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

*Hymns of Zion #97*

How we rejoice that Mark and Lee Leuthold are seeking their salvation with a repentant heart and mind. The Lord will surely grant them grace if they put their trust in Him alone.

We remember our hospital patients this past month: Bro. Ron Kellenberger and Bro. Lawrence Wulf. Our greatest comfort in time of sickness will come from the promises in God's Word.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank each and every one of you who remembered us with food, cards, visits and prayers in the passing of our mother and grandmother. May God richly bless each of you for your love and kindness shown.

Love,

*The family of Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd*

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Sharla Wiegand**  
**Rosalie Wiegand**

We thank the many ministering Brothers who visited us this past month: Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

On January 24, Bro. Gene Lehman gave a slide presentation on our Eastern European churches. At the beginning we sang "Christian Greetings" and it was followed by a tape recording of the European brethren singing the same hymn. Our shared faith surpasses the language barrier and touches our heart. May we pray for our dear brethren in their distress.

Brethren be ye not affrighted;  
 God is yet among you here;  
 You are still with Him united,  
 and His grace is ever near.  
 His corrections prove His love,  
 showered on us from above.  
 Let this be your consolation!  
 Why despair in tribulation?  
*Zion's Harp #38*

On January 30-31, Bro. Jeff Thames shared scriptural concepts on raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. What a blessing it can be to apply the teachings that were given.

"Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first

stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

*John 5:2-4*

We are so thankful that the spiritual waters have been stirred and that many young souls are answering the Lord's call to repentance.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni Massner are happy to welcome little Lindsay Joan into their heart and home on February 12. She joins her big brothers and sisters, Trevor, Erika, Tucker, Trenton, and Holly. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Barb Massner.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man: so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them..."

*Psalms 127:5*

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
**Katrina Knobloch**

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:"

*John 14:27*

Eric Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora) has professed peace with God and man. We are looking forward to him sharing his testimony the last weekend in March.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Lloyd Wettstein (Sis. Carol) and family as he has recently had surgery. We are thankful that he is home and look forward to him being able to assemble with us again.

Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) lost her brother, John Stevig of Morton IL, on February 3, and her niece also passed from this life. We offer them

our prayers during this time of loss.

At the time you read this article, we will be assembling in our new church. Lord willing, we will hold an Open House the weekend of March 20-21 and Dedication on June 6. We would extend an invitation to all to come join us for those weekends.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**

**Betty Wirtz**  
**Lori Skoglund**

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) here to assist in the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for our dear Elder brothers who are willing to be used of God. May we take these teachings to heart so that the efforts of these brothers and the words they have spoken were not in vain.

Our Bro. Arthur Schmidt was called from this life on February 5. It was a reminder for us to be ready at all times for he was gone so quickly. Survivors include a daughter, Sandra (Wally) Schubert, of Elgin, IL; a son, Bro. John (Sis. Paula); five grandchildren, six great - grandchildren; one sister, Sis. Ethel Bednarski (Minneapolis, MN); and five brothers, Bro. Delbert (Sis. Jeanette), Elgin, IL; Lester (Shirley), Fort Dodge, IA; and Bro. Elmer (Sis. Hazel), Bro. Darrell (Darlene) and Eugene, all of Winthrop, MN. Bro. Art was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Sis. Alma, on May 6, 2000, and by one sister and seven brothers. We share our deepest sympathy with all of his family. Bro. Art and Sis. Alma moved to West Bend from Elgin, IL, in April of 2000. We enjoyed the time we had together immensely and know he will be sorely missed by everyone.



It was a joy to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Archie Banwart on January 24-25. Bro. Archie is so thankful for all of the prayers in his behalf and for the many cards he received for his 80th birthday. Retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Sis. Leona, Lester, IA) was with us for the baptism and it is always nice when they visit. Many of us fondly remember the years when he was the shepherd here.

The evening of February 14 was also very special as Eli (Pearl) Gerber gave his testimony and was baptized. We are so thankful that Bro. Eli was granted health and strength enough for this work to be accomplished. Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) traveled here to witness this baptism of their uncle and also brought forth God's Word on Sunday.

Bro. James and Sis. Sarah Montag welcomed Colin James into their home on January 19. His sisters, Katelyn and Megan, are happy to have a little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Ed and Luann Montag. First-time parents, Bro. Jaylin and Sis. Anne Dahlhauser welcomed Gracelin Rachel on January 27. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser and Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt. We pray God's blessings upon these young families.

Three baby girls were hospitalized due to illness in the past few weeks: Julia Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer), Megan Montag (Bro. James and Sis. Sarah) and Gracelin Dahlhauser (Bro. Jaylin and Sis. Anne). All have returned home.

Patsy (Fred Jr.) Wirtz was hospitalized for surgery and is now recuperating at home. This dear family

is often in our prayers as Patsy has had ongoing health concerns for some time.

As Easter draws near, let us ponder the sacrifice required for our sins and for the great victory that was gained by the same.

#### *Christ Arose*

Low in the grave He lay – Jesus,  
my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day – Jesus,  
my Lord!  
Vainly they watched His bed – Je-  
sus, my Saviour!  
Vainly they seal the dead – Jesus,  
my Lord!  
Death cannot keep his prey – Je-  
sus, my Saviour!  
He tore the bars away – Jesus, my  
Lord!

Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His  
foes;

He arose a Victor from the dark  
domain,  
And He lives forever with His  
saints to reign;  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!  
Christ arose!

*Gospel Hymns #323*

#### **JAPAN, SHIODA** **Willis Ehnle**

On February 8, instead of usual afternoon Bible class, Memorandum was read. Since it was written in English, Bro. Willis Ehnle kindly summarized each topic in Japanese.

On the following Sunday, Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall from Morris, Minnesota, visited Shioda for the weekend. They had to leave for the airport after the afternoon Bible class. Even though their visit was short, it was a joy to have them. May God bless and protect them throughout the trip.

February – the last month of

winter! On the way to church this morning, I noticed pink plum blossoms were blooming. God's nature is awakening into life again! Life – how precious it is!

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

*Mark 8:36*

Jesus came to give His life to give us life for eternity. What love!

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

Tokyo is having unseasonably warm mid-February weather which makes for early signs of spring and plenty of “spring fever”. Of course, it could always surprise us and snow yet, although, it usually soon melts.

In spite of a snow storm or two in the Midwest, we are thankful that Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue arrived back safely from the mid-winter Conference and Mission Committee meeting. They report a very blessed trip and we thank all who showed love and hospitality toward them.

In late January, we had a scare as Mr. Hashimoto fainted in the bath and was hospitalized. We feel grateful to the Lord that his wife found him in time to get help and he is recovering okay at home now. He is nearly 90 years old, but has been faithfully coming to church for many years. We hope and pray he can again worship with us in the near future.

I would like to again write a similar note to what I wrote in last month's article concerning a sister(s) coming to Japan. We are hoping for the Lord to work in someone's heart to give of their tal-



ents and be a live-in helper for our personal family of seven children, and in addition, an encouragement to our church family. Because of the distance, different culture, adjustments etc, it is our hope that the person(s) would be willing to come for at least several weeks (5 or 6) or even a few months or longer.

Depending on the time frame, different visa's can be attained. Sis. Terri Gramm (Leo, IN), who was the last teacher at our church kindergarten over 10 years ago, has kindly agreed to be of help to familiarize to Japan anyone who might feel led to come. We would be very grateful if you would please join us in prayer about this, and if you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the Klausens by email at: or by regular mail at: 425-31 Nagafusa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan 193-0824. Phone: +81-426-68-4064. We are 15 hours ahead of CST. Thank you very much. We trust the Lord will guide in His time and ways.

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Sheri Edelman**  
**Sally Strahm**

Our hearts rejoice when a soul has found peace and is awaiting baptism. Our friend, Heath Coburn, who has been assembling with the Bern congregation, formerly of Peoria, IL, has found that peace and awaits baptism. Lord willing, he plans to be taken up in Peoria the weekend of February 14-15.

Babies bring joy to our hearts and homes. We rejoice with these couples and pray God will help them raise their precious ones.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Denise Rokey welcome a baby girl, Michelle

Lynnette. Big sister, Rachel (2), is also excited for a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL).

Scott and Bethany Zollinger (Silverton, OR) were blessed with their first child, Ethan Scott. We rejoice with grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman of Bern and Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Silverton, OR).

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

*Ephesians 5:20*

We rejoice with Sis. Belinda Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria) and Bro. Gale Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian, Sabetha) as they looking forward to becoming united in marriage.

On the same Sunday, the engagement of Sis. Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) to Bro. Grant Hangartner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen, Washington, IL) was made known. We wish them both God's blessings and may they continue to seek God's guidance as they plan for the future.

The Memorandum was read to the Bern and Sabetha congregations on the evening of January 24. We especially thank Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) for being with us. May God continue to guide and direct us as we strive to be humble and submissive to His Word.

Sis. Jananne Menold (Bro. Victor) fell and broke her ankle. She then had to have surgery. We pray God will be with her during this time of healing.

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**  
**Ruth Bahr**

Again we were blessed with visiting ministers. They were Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) who brought two couples that had relatives here. We thank this month's visitors for coming.

Our annual business meeting was held January 21. The purpose of each office is to help make the church body run smoothly and should never be lightly taken. I was replaced by Sis. Ethel Smith, but due to existing commitments, she asked not to begin her term for a couple of months.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Jennifer Stewart**  
**Laura Wagenbach**

Sis. Alice Tanner celebrated her 100th birthday this month. She was surrounded by family and friends to give their love and best wishes.

We rejoice with Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice). She has found peace and her testimony and baptism will be on March 13 and 14.

Many thanks to our Elder Bro. John Lehman for sharing God's precious message of love with us this month. We always appreciate visiting ministers and their words of encouragement.

Sis. Marie Tucker was our hospital patient this month. She had a major back surgery. She is home and taking it easy. She is doing very well and we pray for her continued healing.

We have started a monthly potluck at our congregation. We enjoy



the fellowship and good food. The fellowship of our brothers and sisters is such a wonderful blessing.

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

**Eileen Bahr**

Sis. Lorean Anliker (Bro. Glenn) wishes to thank those who extended their sympathy in the death of her father, Fred Brown.

With grateful hearts, we thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) for reminding us that "we are living like the days of Noah. How many days do we have? In these days of turmoil, when is God going to say 'This is enough', but He holds His hand out for just one more."

Our friend, Kurt Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy), was announced as having peace with God and man.

Ten of our congregation journeyed to Newton, KS, to the Mennonite World Relief Center where brethren from Bern, Wichita, and Kiowa met for the men to check, pack, and band 2,000 boxes of canned beef and turkey for shipping overseas. The sisters quilted, packed baby layettes, made bags for kits. A new project has been added making backpacks for aids victims overseas.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Jeanelle Plattner**

**Mary Kay Wenger**

Our annual business meeting was held on January 20. Many thanks to those who have served our congregation in various areas over the past several years. We give our support to those who were given new responsibilities. This meeting always reminds us how much we

need each other and that we each have an important duty in the service of Christ no matter how small or great the job may seem.

We had the privilege of gathering with our neighboring Bern congregation to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. May the words of encouragement as well as spiritual warnings be a help in our walk with Christ. We know Satan is all around us constantly trying to draw us from a close relationship with God. How thankful we are that our Elder Brothers give of their time to remind us of Satan's crafty ways and tactics that he uses in his effort to destroy our faith.

LaVon and Sis. Erma Wenger have been in our thoughts and prayers as their home was recently destroyed by a fire. This reminds us that we never know what tomorrow may bring, but through each test we can be thankful that we can lean on God as He carries us through. Even though events like this are hard to accept, we know that God knows our struggles, feels our hurts, and sees our tears.

Our congratulations are extended to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter as they celebrate 60 years of marriage together. What an encouragement to see an example of love that has been nourished for so many years.

We bid farewell to our Sis. Jeanette Huber as she has moved to Morris, MN. We'll certainly miss her and her ever present smile. God's blessings as you start a new phase of life, Jeanette!

*Reminder to the Sabetha Congregation: April is the month for our Silver Lining Collection*

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**

**Emma Miller**

We rejoice with Bro. Howard and Sis. Ann Warner in that their granddaughter, Deanna Richardson, her husband, Doug, and three children, Jake, Heather, and Steven, have relocated in Andover, a suburb of Wichita. As they adjust to the changes that come with relocation and they seek a place to worship, we pray they will consider our congregation. I personally remember Deanna from my Sunday School days and it was such a joy to meet her again.

Sunday, February 8, we were blessed with visitors from Tremont, Morton and West Bend. Some were visiting family, others were visiting friends, and some were passing through the area. Our visitors add to our worship as they participate in the song service and lend themselves in prayers. We encourage any of you who might be passing through the area to seek us out and worship with us. Also, we appreciate your prayers for our congregation to flourish. Keep on praying!

Bro. Cory Metzger conducted New Year's Eve services. Our group was small but our effort was sincere and we were blessed as we considered the year that has passed and the challenges of the year to come.

Sis. Ann Farney passed into eternity on Wednesday, January 7. She is survived by her sons, Jerry, Larry, and Terry, and their wives; her daughters, Karlene Young, Bertie Reimschisel, and Sis. Judy Reimschisel, and their husbands; her sisters, Edith Mayer, Emily Went, Martha Oesch, and her brother, Ben Oesch. Also among her survivors are 27 grandchildren and 56 great - grandchildren, and 3 great - great - grandchildren.



Bro. Milton Bowers' medical problems continue to plague him. One of the brothers who visited him at the hospital reported that Bro. Milton gave him a big smile as the brother entered Milton's room.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane spent Sunday, January 11 with our congregation. We were blessed to receive Dick and Joycelyn Peyton into our brotherhood. It is a joy to be able to greet them as a Brother and Sister in Christ.

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### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Barb Huber

"...great is thy faithfulness."

*Lam. 3:23*

O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not:

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided -

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

*Melodies of Praise #216*

How true! We continue to witness the Lord's faithfulness in so many ways. He has been faithful to provide ministering brethren.

On the weekend of January 25, weathering elements of a winter ice storm, Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) ministered and blessed our assembly with the fellowship of seven families and children. Thankfulness filled our hearts when we received a phone

call of their safe arrival back home Sunday night.

We appreciated Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL) ministering, and, also, sharing in a World Relief potluck meeting of stuffing school bags on the weekend of February 8.

Our assembly was blessed again on February 15 when Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL) exhorted us to be humble and obedient to God's Word.

We pray for God's special blessings on these ministers and their families who so willingly lend themselves, traveling many miles, to serve in the Lord's vineyard.

The Lord's faithfulness is also witnessed when other visitors come to worship with us when they are in our area. Their Christian fellowship is always an inspiration to our small church.

Last Wednesday evening at our local Nursing Home ministry, we were pleasantly surprised with an added blessing of God's faithfulness when a group of brethren from the South Bend, IN congregation joined us. What a blessed time of fellowship praising our Redeemer which was edifying and uplifting to all the patients, too!

A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Janice Lehman (Kansas City, MO) who will be assembling with us since she has taken temporary employment as a traveling Radiologist Technician at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville.

Finally, Bro. Lester Huber has witnessed the Lord's faithfulness and is thankful for the blessings of God's healing hand in the recovery of his broken leg.

Again, we invite anyone to come visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Dan Baltic (502) 696-9979,

Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710, Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541, or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Rosario, Claudia Gloria Gonzalez

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"

*Isaiah 26:3*

This month our prayers and thoughts are with ministering Bro. Lalo Ugalde and his wife, Sis. Silvia, and their newborn baby girl, Jana Keila, who had a serious operation. We also are praying for our convert, Jesus Lira (the brother of Sis. Carmen and Sis. Adela Lira), who is not able to attend church because of kidney disease and is currently in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand in their lives according to His will.

We rejoice with Bro. Javier and Sis. Bertha Gonzalez as they are first - time grandparents. Little Alejandra was born on February 8 to Carlos and Rosy Gonzalez.

We extend congratulations to Sis. Gloria Gonzalez (Bro. Javier and Sis. Bertha Gonzalez) who just earned her nursing degree this month. We pray that her work be for the Lord as she spends the next year in social service.

*Meet Sis. Lupita Cabrera Montejano:*

I started coming to church when I was 8 years old. At that time, I saw that my sister Rosa went every Sunday and would invite the rest of the family to come. So we went, and I attended church until I was 12. At



that point, I began to work in the fields, and my friends there started to make fun of me because I went to church. They invited me to dances and my mom, who had become a Christian, would not let me go. However, I snuck out at night. After that, my friends started trying to get me to drink and smoke. I knew that I wasn't walking right because my mom, some brothers and sisters were Christians by now. My mom and Rosa would cry and warn me that the life I was living was not right. The Lord taught me a lesson when my friends once again rejected me because I started attending church again. I understood that my life wasn't good in the eyes of God, so I talked to Jan and told her that I wanted to repent. I wanted to surprise my family. They were very happy because I had been so rebellious. I started repenting in April of 2002 and was baptized on October 28, 2002. Now I am very much at peace with Jesus and my family. The friends I had have started talking to me again, but I don't spend time with them. I learned that my best friend is Jesus, because He never rejects or gossips about me. I am 15 years old and am going to school. I don't deny Christ when the other students ask me if I'm a Christian. At first, they made fun of me for not going to dances and other events, but I'm not going back to doing those things, even if they do ridicule me.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Rose Watson**  
**Terri Huber**

Many thanks to the Detroit choir for traveling across the state on February 15. After worshipping with us, we were able to listen to

their music ministry and also enjoy a time of fellowship and a meal with them. We appreciate their time and preparation and pray that visitors and home-folk alike were blessed by that day.

Ministering to us last month by God's grace were Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN). Thank you for your service.

We are thankful that Sis. Sandy Schutte (Steven) is home from the hospital. Our prayers are still flowing for her continued improvement and return to good health.

Allen Huber (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri) has expressed his desire to repent. May God work in his life and heart to build on this beginning and "grant the increase".

At this writing, we are facing a Monday morning after a very blessed and big weekend. Is it not hard to "come down" from a spiritual high place and face the daily routine? At the same time we need these times of refreshing to carry us through! We had the privilege of hearing testimonies and witnessing baptisms of three souls: Bro. Matt Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) and our new Sisters Jeanette Overholt (Sis. Darleen Goodwin) and Carrie Steffen (Bro. Terry and Sis. Laurie). There were many visitors, greetings given from a dozen churches, uplifting singing that swelled to the rafters and sweet fellowship. We very much appreciate Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) coming from Detroit to help our Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in this good work. What a blessing to hear testimonies reflecting the salvation God has brought to their souls and to remember our own beginnings of faith.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Sarah Knochel**  
**Janelle Ramseyer**

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) and his son, Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy), both from Alto, for ministering unto us on February 8. We also want to thank Bro. Aaron for being with us for our business meeting on January 21.

Our business meeting brought the election of new brothers and a sister for duties within our congregation. We want to thank those who have labored on our behalf in the past year. Bro. Mike Ruegsegger is our new trustee, replacing Bro. Fred Munsel. Sis. Pam Schlatter's term on the Kitchen Committee has been fulfilled and she was replaced by Sis. Winifred Gorney. We also want to thank Bro. Dan Kaiser for his past service as Sunday School Superintendent and our prayers are with Bro. Don Jackson who is now Superintendent.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Emma Waibel who spent some time in the hospital for surgery this month. Sis. Emma is home recovering and we pray that the Lord will continue to stand by her and touch her with His healing powers.

Our congregation has been saddened by the passing of Ray Virkler at the Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. Ray was the older brother of our retired Elder Bro. Andrew (Sis. Maxine) Virkler. He lived in Bay City with his now departed sister, Sis. Mary (Bro. Earl) Ramseyer, for several years before moving to Morton. We pray that the Lord will comfort and console the family in their time of grief.

Our congregation continues to



lift Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak up in prayer as they are in Haiti. We trust that the Lord will be with them as they are working, trying to do good amidst all the strife and chaos.

As we look forward to the season where we are reminded about our Lord's cruel death on the cross, we pray that each would take the time to reflect on Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to sincerely thank everyone far and near for all of the deeds of kindness and for keeping us in your prayers during Bro. Jerry's illness and passing. Your cards, phone calls and other expressions of love continue to lift us up and carry us through the lonely times. May God bless you.

*Sis. Lois Wieland and family*

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Jamie Bahr**

**Krista Wieland**

We experienced the wonderful blessing of taking Holy Communion this month as a congregation. It is a special time when we can come together as a united body to partake of the bread that represents Christ's body and drink of the wine that represents Christ's blood that covers our sins. We could all feel the wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit with us that evening and it was an opportunity for us to examine and strengthen our Christian walk as individuals and as a church. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr with Holy Communion.

The church enjoyed coming together on a Saturday morning to

make fleece blankets and also to purchase food for a delivery to a mission in Detroit. A large number of people participated in this activity and enjoyed being together and taking part in activities that will make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to continued opportunities to put our faith into action.

Our prayers are with several members of our congregations who have had health concerns, including Sis. Ruth Knochel, Sis. Linda Shaw, Sis. Perseda Wieland, and Bro. Guy and Sis. Rosie Wieland. They are an important part of our congregation and we love each one of them.

This month saw one member of our congregation coming back into the country and another one leaving the country for a time. We are thankful Sis. Carissa Klopfenstein has returned back safely to the United States after an extended stay in China as part of her educational program. Our prayers go with Bro. Tom Hitz as he travels to England for several months on business. We pray he will return home safely.

The choir had an opportunity to travel over to our nearby congregation in Alto, MI, on Sunday, February 15, to worship and sing with the Alto congregation. These times of praise and fellowship are a glory to God and strengthen the ties between our congregations. We thank the Alto congregation for their love and generous hospitality.

We are thankful and excited for first-time parents, Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank, with the birth of a baby boy, Logan Andrew, on February 19. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Bill and

Sis. Jo Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS**

**Diane Stewart**

**LaRae Dill**

Congratulations and God's blessings to Aric and Deena Bergstrom who were married on January 5. Parents of the couple are Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Bergstrom and Dave and Gail Johnson.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther Lienemann and family. Esther's sister, Sis. Sophie Miller, of Winthrop, MN, passed away.

Sis. Vera Schmidt had surgery and is recuperating at home. Maxine Larson has been hospitalized recently. Both appreciate our prayers.

Our annual business meeting was held on February 7. Thanks and appreciation to the many brothers and sisters who serve our church in a variety of ways.

"Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith..."

*I Timothy 4:12*

We were thankful for a recent infusion of youthful energy! The Champaign, IL, college students visited our congregation January 31/February 1. The Bible classes from Fairbury, IL, and Winthrop, MN, along with a number of teachers and parents spent the weekend here February 14 and 15. Both groups enjoyed fellowship and our winter wonderland.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. Joann) and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis.



Wanda), both from Winthrop, MN.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Katie Koehl  
Heidi Nohl**

We were blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of our Sis. Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) was here to help our Elder Bro. Art with the work. Ministering Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) was also here to share the Word with us.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Messner were pleased with the arrival of their little boy, Toby Reid. Siblings, Clint and Valerie, are happy to have another playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Joyce Moser (Bro. Bill) and Aaron Jones (Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth). We pray that God will continue to heal them.

On January 31, we laid our dear Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger to rest at the age of 87 years old. We extend our sympathy to her children, Bro. Wallis (Sis. Diane), Doris (Gerald) Gausman, Bro. Gerald (Sis. Karen), Susan (Virgil) Wehking, Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Karl) Koehl, and Bro. Robert (Sis. Gwen), and to her 37 grandchildren and 57 great-grandchildren. We trust God will provide His comfort to each one.

On February 8, Bro. Mitchell Koehl and Sis. Janelle Joos announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos. We pray that they feel God's guidance and direction as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

As we see the Easter season approach, let us be mindful of that price that was paid so long ago for each of us at Calvary.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Marilyn Messner  
Ginny Stoll**

“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

*James 1:20*

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him to hammer a nail in the back fence every time he lost control.

The first day the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. His father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father led his son to the fence.

“You have done well, but look at the holes in the fence,” he said. “When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like the nail holes. You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say ‘I'm sorry,’ the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.”

“If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”

*James 1:26*

Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora,

West Bend, IA) visited us and shared God's Word. We are thankful they are willing to make the effort.

Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Geraldine) wishes to thank everyone for their kind concern and prayers during and after his surgery. May God continue to give him strength.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Garry and Marty Rokey**

Despite icy weather conditions, we were blessed with two visiting ministers: Bros. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS). Many thanks, dear brothers, for your labors.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) joined our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday, February 7. We are thankful for the prayers, time and effort put forth by the Elder brethren. The Memorandum reminds us of the epistles written by the apostles Paul, James, Peter, Jude and John and the wisdom contained therein. As in the epistles, the Memorandum contains many warnings of the dangers that are in this world. May we ever be watchful.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist stedfast in the faith knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect,



establish, strengthen, settle you.

To him be the glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

*I Peter 5:8-11*

We are most appreciative that Bro. Curt assembled with us the Sunday following the Memorandum reading and labored in the Lord's vineyard, proclaiming His Word.

As he recovers from surgery, our prayers continue for Mark Mattix and his dear mother, Sis. Anna Lou Aberle.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti  
Wendy Braker**

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN). We thank these brothers for their willingness to be used as the Lord's servants.

Our prayers are with Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Leonard) as she had surgery this past month. May God's blessings be with Sis. Evelyn as she recovers.

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

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Krista Banwart**

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Randy Mogler

(Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), John Lehman (Sis. RuthAnn, Wolcott, IN), Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), and Kenneth Weertz (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL). We appreciate their willingness to travel to worship and fellowship with us. With springtime approaching and the Easter season around the corner, may we bloom each day where we are planted.

Lord cause me to wonder if Easter is real to the people today that I meet

And cause me to pray for the chance I might share with a soul whose life's incomplete

Cause me to die to my self and my will, that I may live Thy will divine

In strength of Thy grace, in the joy and the peace that I know because Calvary is mine.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Susan Haerr**

We are thrilled to have had three new converts in the last few months. Our prayers are with Jan Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) and Alex and Aubrey Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna) as they have committed their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ.

Retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona) spent some time in the hospital for some testing in the last month. We are thankful to have him and his dear wife back home with us. Shelby Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne) broke her foot, but has healed and is doing great.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

**Hope Graves**

On Friday, February 13 and 20,

we met together to work on World Relief projects. Our time was spent assembling and tying quilts as well as packing up school and health kits. On the 20th, we also worked in the afternoon and shared a potluck dinner together before continuing the work throughout the evening. What a blessing we receive in spending our time and talents helping those with such great physical needs.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Clifton (Sis. Bessie) Farney and Jim (Joyce) Rowsam in their recent illness and hospitalization. May the Lord be ever by their sides and grant healing and recovery.

I would like to make a few corrections from last month's Silver Lining. Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Sinn (Latty, OH) welcomed a new addition into their family, Claudia Renee. We rejoiced with Brian Graves and Danielle Tripp as they were united together in marriage. Our prayers are extended to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard in the death of Dan's brother, Bro. Dale Reinhard (Bluffton, IN).

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### OHIO, AKRON

**Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice that Andrew and Vera Demrovsky on January 17 gave their testimony of their faith and peace with Jesus, and we welcome them into our church.

We rejoice that Elizabeth Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) has repented and received peace with God. May the Lord continue to guide her as she grows in the Lord.

Our Akron congregation had "Family Night" which also included "daytime". Everyone at church was welcome to attend. Various projects were worked on during the day, and



then a supper was served. There were many projects to do and the young and older who wished could have a part in helping with doing something for World Relief.

Bro. Jozsef and Sis. Susan Kocsis were blessed with a baby girl on January 27 and named her Izabella. She has two brothers to welcome her home, Jozsef and Peter. Grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako. May God bless their family.

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in various church offices and duties, and thank those retiring, and welcome those coming on:

Sunday School teachers retiring are Bro. Ned Spangler, Sis. Carol Indermuhle, and Sis. Rachel Steidl. Sunday School teachers coming in are Bro. Randy Miller, Bro. Joe Miller, Bro. Wayne Klotzle, Sis. Mara Henico, and Sis. Jane Klotzle.

Sis. Sarah Henico retired from the World Relief Activities Committee and Sis. Eleanor Pamer comes on.

Sis. Joyce Schamback comes on the Kitchen Committee.

Bro. Don Gasser retires from the Nursing Home Board and Bro. Leon Graf comes on.

Bro. Ben Henico retires from Usher, and Bro. Daniel Pamer comes on.

Bro. Ned Spangler retires from the Coordinator position of World Relief activities for the Eastern region.

Some duties are defined by positions described, but there are many kind deeds that are done for which we are thankful. As mentioned in I Cor. 12:28, there are "helps" which are very much appreciated.

## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us this month in Columbus. Sharing the Word of Life with us were Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Paulding, OH).

We welcome our dear Sis. Kristy Hill (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores, Mansfield, OH) as our new sister-in-faith following her baptism. May she feel God's precious love during this special time in her life.

Our annual business meeting was held and we are thankful for those who are willing to serve in various positions in our church. Bro. Matt Miller will serve as trustee, Bro. Larry Banks will serve as Sunday School Superintendent, and Sis. Julie Grimm will serve on the Kitchen Committee. Sis. Nancy Banks will serve the next year as Silver Lining Correspondent and Bro. Matt and Sis. Nancy will be substitute teachers in Sunday School.

There was a nice crowd in attendance for World Relief as soup mix was packaged and school kits were worked on. These nights are always a blessing for all who attend.

Invite-a Friend weekend was also held this month and a Saturday night supper and singing was enjoyed by all.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

"Count your blessings, name them one by one."

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for the outpouring of love shown to our family following Sis. Nancy's accident and hospital-

ization. The many cards and phone calls expressing concern and offering prayers and encouragement touched our hearts deeply. We praise the Lord for His healing mercies and His provision of the many loving brothers and sisters-in-faith who reached out to us in so many ways. May the Lord richly bless you all.

*Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks*

## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

What a blessing it was to have several visiting ministers with us this past month. Our thanks goes out to Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH). May God richly bless you for your labors on our behalf. We welcome you back as the Lord will open the way.

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Miller are thankful grandparents as little Carter was welcomed into their family. Carter's parents are Brandon and Allison Miller. Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz became parents for the first time on February 9 as little Jaelah Celeste came to bless their lives. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz of Nashville, TN. We trust God will give guidance and grace to these dear couples as they raise their precious babies.



**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Bonny Wenninger**  
**Amanda Steffen**

Nathan Carl was born on January 16 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Joy Sinn. Welcoming him home are siblings, Sara and Andrew. Nathan's grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Sis. Marie Feucht.

We are thankful that Chad (Jennifer) Keysor has turned his life over to the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon. May he feel the prayers and the love of the brethren as he follows the Lord.

Our congregation was blessed to have visiting ministers this month: Bros. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). We appreciate our ministers' willingness to serve and labor for the Lord on our behalf. May God bless each one of them.

Our prayers are with the family of Dan Sinn, as he passed away this month. Surviving him is his wife, Goldie; two children, and a sister, Paula Haab. His late parents were Bro. Dan and Sis. Nellie Sinn. May each one look to Christ, for only there is true comfort found.

With thankful hearts, we are able to again tell of two more souls who have found peace with God and man. Reid and Amanda Stoller are waiting to be baptized into the death of our Saviour. Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and John and Pennie LaBounty (Payne, OH).

We wish God's healing hand on Chase Stoller (Brent and Angie) who had surgery on a broken femur. His grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Elaine Stoller.

The engagement of Bro. Jeff Stoller (Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn) to Sis. Sarah Moore (Bro. Larry and Sis. Elizabeth, Elgin, IL) was made known on February 8. We rejoice with them as they make plans for their wedding and marriage.

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Esther Baumann**

On the weekend of January 17-18 we had the blessed privilege of witnessing the baptism of two souls. They are Sis. Connie (Bro. Doug) Boliantz and Sis. Kristi (Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores) Hill. We thank Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) for his assistance in this holy work.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Tami Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) as they announced their engagement. We wish them God's continued guidance as they start this new path together.

Bro. Troy Baltic (Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen) has felt God's leading to accept employment in the Peoria, IL, area. We will miss him in our fellowship.

Several of our members lost relatives this past month. Our sympathy goes to Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) whose grandmother, Geraldine Main, passed away and also to Bro. Harry Bocka (Sis. Mary) and Sis. Sarah Rice whose brother-in-law, Merlin Snyder, passed away.

Prayers are with this month's hospitalized patients, including Bro. Art (Sis. Lore) Stuenzi, Bro. John (Sis. Lillian) Miller and Sis. Henrietta (Bro. Adam) Baumann.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Laurel Indermuhle**  
**Anne Widmer**

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

*I Cor. 13:13*

This last month we were blessed to have the World Relief Mexico reunion for the group that made a trip last September. It was a blessing to have the group with us. In spite of the bad weather, they made it safely and the weekend was a blessing for all who participated. As the group shared their experience and pictures with us, it was a reminder how good God has been to us and how much we have been given. God tells us that "to whom much is given, much will be required." Therefore, we have a duty to share what we have been given by our great God, whether it is in money, or even our prayers, with those who are much less fortunate than us. We were privileged to have Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit) share the Word with us that weekend.

We would also like to thank the other visiting ministering brethren that have gathered with us to share the precious Word of God. They were Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville), Todd Stoller (Latty), and Steve Pamer (Akron). God has given us so many avenues of communication and we are so very thankful for those who are willing to be tools that He can use to feed His children.

On Saturday, January 31, Rittman and Smithville gathered together at Rittman for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) were present to



help with the reading. The night was full of wonderful advice, encouragement, and chastisement for the soul. It was good to gather to hear the work that we need to do and to be encouraged in that which we are doing correctly. We thank the Elder brethren for their concern for our soul and we are thankful for the great lengths that they go to help us on our Heavenly journey.

Here in Rittman we have a large church and our harvest is very white and ready to be picked. Sometimes we get discouraged because there is a dry spell in those answering the call of the Lord, but we rejoice greatly that this last week Chad Beery (Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda) answered God's call and has humbled his heart and begun his repentance. We pray that God will give him the grace he needs to dig deeply and build a firm foundation on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Along with beginning a new life in Christ, we are always excited about little ones that are born. It is such a joy to have little ones in the home. Tom and Ronda Troyer (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey) welcome home Alizabeth Mae. This is their first little bundle of joy. We also rejoice with Sis. Lib and Bro. Vernon Landis as they add another little great-grandchild to their family. Nate and Bonnie Bauman have been blessed with another little girl, Shaina Lillian. No doubt big sister, Samantha, is thrilled to have a playmate.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman as they suffer the loss of Martha's brother, Tom Dysinger. We also pray for the family of Harold Marty. Each family has our sympathy as they bear the burden of the death of their loved ones.

This last month, we have had quite a few people who have spent time in the hospital. We pray that God will heal them speedily and where it is not His will to do so, that they could patiently wait their recovery. We are thankful that Sis. Elaine Hill (Bro. Tom), Bro. Lawrence Stoller (Sis. Mary), Bro. Ernie Howell (Sis. Rowena), Sis. Violet Baltic, Sis. Lorena Riegenbach and Kristin Winkler (Barry Winkler) are all home from the hospital.

We thank our Father in Heaven for the Elder brethren who gather together twice a year to discuss our Church, the Bride of Christ. Thankfully, the Elder brethren have made it home safely from the winter Conference. We hope that they have felt our prayers. As they continue to be the Watchmen on the wall, may we continue to hold their arms up with prayer.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Jami Zollinger**  
**Terry Zollinger**

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

*Romans 8:28*

The annual business meeting was held on January 18. May the Lord bless the dear ones leaving the held offices for their labors of love, and may He be near those who will be filling these positions. Filling the position of Treasurer is Bro. Rob Figel (Sis. Angie), Trustee is Bro. Allen Indermuhle (Sis. Janet), Usher is Bro. Eric Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan), Lead Song Leader is Bro. Eric Indermuhle (Sis. Lisa), Sunday School Superin-

tendent is Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy), Kitchen Committee is Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Bro. Dana), and Silver Lining Correspondents are Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Jami Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry).

Those visiting the emergency room this month were Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) and Sis. Almeda Brake (John). May the Great Physician, our Heavenly Father, grant healing as He wills.

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

*John 11:25*

May we keep our minds focused on Christ Jesus as we near the time of celebrating Easter; His death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb, that we may have a hope of life eternal.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**  
**Ruth Gasser**  
**Alyssa Miller**

Blessed, holy is the hour  
 When we, Jesus, think of Thee  
 And Thy Word in godly power,  
 Hear and in our hearts receive...  
 May it reach our hearts, we pray  
 Thee;

On good soil may it take root.  
 With Thy heavenly blessings nourished,  
 May it bring the pleasing fruit.

*Zion's Harp #218*

We were blessed to have several brothers who willingly ministered God's Word to us this month. They included Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction,



OH) who joined us on January 24-25 for baptisms. We are thankful for our new brothers, Joel Landis (Bro. Harvey and Steph), Kyle Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari), Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Jenna Older. Our prayer for them is that they will continue to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (II Peter 3:18)

Our Memorandum was read the following weekend. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) assisted Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Merle Hartzler. We trust that the teachings we heard will "reach our hearts" and find "good soil" that it may bring forth the fruit that God desires from us.

It is always a joy when another seeking soul confesses that they have found peace with God and man. We rejoice with Becky Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) and lift her up in prayer as she awaits baptism, Lord willing.

On February 10, Nathan and Bonnie Bauman welcomed a daughter, Shaina, into their home. She has an older sister, Samantha. Grandparents are Daryl and Ivy Bauman. We wish them God's blessing in this added responsibility.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND Louisa Gallup

On January 31, the Portland congregation assembled in Silverton with our brethren there to hear the annual reading of the Memorandum. We sincerely appreciate the words of wisdom and caution. We thank our Elder brethren for their efforts. Let us remember to hold them up in prayer as they labor for us. Special gratitude to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) for

traveling from his Chicago congregation to assist Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty).

On January 19, Bro. Harold Miller passed on to his reward at the age of 76. He was the brother of Bro. Robert Miller (Sis. Pearl) and Sis. Virginia Cooper (Bro. Ray). Bro. Harold had moved out to Portland in 1947 with his relatives. He lived in Portland for about 24 years before moving to the Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. The later years of his life were spent at the Restmor Home in Morton. The funeral and service were held at the Skyline Memorial Gardens in Portland, OR. The support and help received for the service itself and the meal served that afternoon is very much appreciated by the Portland brethren.

We thank all visitors this past month and also the following ministering brethren who came and labored on our behalf: Bros. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), all from Silverton.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Harold Miller – "Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep", acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of love and sympathy! Thanks to the Apostolic Christian Restmor Home and Home for the Handicapped for the care you have provided for dear Bro. Harold over the years! May God richly bless you!

*In Christian love,  
Robert Miller  
Elva Unsicker  
Kathryn Hackenjos  
Virginia Cooper*

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### OREGON, SILVERTON Kelsey Walder

I'm a lamb of Jesus' flock;  
Untold blessings are my lot;  
For my Shepherd gives protection;  
Showers on me His affection;  
And with peace and gentle love,  
Calls to me from heav'n above.

*Zion's Harp #17, verse 1*

The weekend of January 24, we welcomed three more lambs into the body of Christ. We rejoiced to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Tresa Dettwyler (Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene), Bro. Tim Hansen (Carol), and Sis. Bethany Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann). Our prayers are with each of these souls as they begin their journeys as members within the body of Christ. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) for his labors with our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in this weekend.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Scott and Bethany Zollinger, in the safe arrival of their son, Ethan Scott, on January 28. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman from Bern, KS. May God bless this couple with wisdom in raising their family in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord."

On January 31, we had the reading of the Memorandum. It was good to be encouraged and reminded of how we should walk as children of God. We were thankful to have with us Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), and appreciate his labors for us.

Earlier this month, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. James Schneider (Sis. Tonya) was



elected to be an usher, Bro. Jim Kuenzi (Sis. Barb) was selected to be a trustee, Bro. Kyle Walter (Sis. Trisha) was chosen for sound system, and Sis. Carol Wackerle (Bro. Greg) was elected to be the head of one of our dinner committees. May God bless each of these brethren in their new duties and we wish to thank each of those who have completed their terms.

Our prayers and sympathy are with our Bro. Cliff and Violet Kuenzi in the loss of Cliff's half-sister, Bertha Stadeli. May God provide for their needs during this time of loss.

In the hospital this month were Vance Snook (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Dean Sinn (Sis. Heidi). May God grant them healing with these unexpected illnesses.

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## **PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and**

**MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we were blessed to partake in Holy Communion, and we thank Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for lending himself in this work. May the Lord continue to grow our congregation in faith and unity.

We are sad to bid farewell to our dear Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr and their daughter, Sis. Lana. Bro. Bob is pursuing a new job in Iowa and they will be moving away from the area after five years here. We are thankful to God for the time and the fellowship they were able to share with us, and pray He will watch over them and bless them in their new home.

This month we welcome Sis. Julie Herr who will be spending several months working in Philadelphia. We look forward to having her

worship with us.

We were also pleased to welcome Bro. Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) who shared the Word with us this month.

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## **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are thankful to welcome Chris Stoller to our congregation. He has recently moved to the area and has begun assembling with us.

We rejoice in the birth of our first grandchild, Jaelah Celeste, to Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz (Junction, OH). Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz. Great-grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz (Junction, OH), Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Nate Gutwein (Sarasota, FL). Great-great-grandmother is Sis. Ruth Heinold (LaCrosse, IN). We pray that God will richly bless Jaelah, and will grant wisdom and joy to her parents.

Recently, we have been encouraged in our spiritual lives by the Word brought to us through our visiting ministers: Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington -Normal, IL), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN), Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Athens, AL; Bloomington-Normal, Cissna Park, Congerville, Eureka, Gridley, Morton, Peoria, Princeville, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Leo and Wolcott, IN; Bern, KS; Bay City,

MI; and Kansas City and Taylor, MO.

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: Cissna Park, IL (3/21); Kansas City, MO (3/28); Forrest, IL (4/4); Junction, OH (4/18); and Indianapolis, IN (4/25). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (4/12). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any mid-week visitors. 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.

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## **TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH**

**Carrie Beyer**

Many thanks to all the visitors who have worshiped with us over the past month as they were passing through the Dallas area. We especially thank Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata) and Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) for their service in the ministry at our church. The second weekend in April, a minister is scheduled to visit from Minneapolis.

Our congregation extends a warm invitation to anyone living near or traveling through the area to visit. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express immediately northwest of the D/FW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on



the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028).

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### TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Amy Ringger

We recently discovered that mistletoe is a parasite living off its host plant, which is usually a tree. The mistletoe takes water and nutrients from the host and can eventually kill the tree as it spreads. When I saw some mistletoe growing on a branch of one of our trees, I immediately asked my husband to trim off that branch to dispose of the mistletoe. The only other option is to suffocate it by covering the plant with black plastic so it can get no sunlight, which wasn't practical in this situation. We were so interested in keeping it from spreading that we didn't mind losing a small part of the tree in order to do so. May we all be diligent in "cutting off" undesirable things that might spread in our lives. (Matthew 5:29-30)

Our ministers this month were Bros. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar), Ben Manz (Junction), Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Smithville), and Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego). Thanks to them and our visitors from Alto, Peoria, Forrest, Morris, Latty, West Lafayette, Akron, Rockville, Fairbury, and single group members from Junction.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in April: Morton (4), Holiday - No services scheduled (11), Bluffton (18), and Philadelphia (25).

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. See the ministers' book for contact information.

Our congregation continues 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 southbound frontage road.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We have appreciated the willingness of the visiting brethren to serve here in Zapata. Visiting ministers the past month have been Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH).

We welcome Sis. Sandra Leman who moved here from Ixtlan, Mexico, and will be working in Zapata.

Sis. Delores Messerili has been a hospital patient and has now returned to Winthrop, MN, to be closer to her family.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Marlyn and Sis. Lois Messner (Winthrop) have been elected to the dinner committee and Bro. Wilbur Schneider (Rockville) is the new trustee. Bro. Roland Messner (Winthrop) will serve as usher and Bro. Wayne Rufener (Mansfield) is in charge of the speaker system. We certainly thank those who have so willingly served here in Zapata.

We have been enjoying the many visitors who have traveled south for

the warmer weather. It is always a pleasure to go to church and greet those from a distance who have taken the time to include Zapata in their travel plans.

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### VERMONT, NORWICH Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on February 8. We were again thankful to have many visitors with us from Rockville. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and Bro. Warren Zahner were among the visitors and we are thankful to them for their willingness to stand before us and be directed by the Holy Spirit in speaking His Word. With only a few local brethren to share in the duties, we have also relied upon visitors for assistance in teaching Sunday School, leading singing, and helping with many other duties. We enjoy the fellowship most, but are thankful that everyone is so willing to help out whenever we have a need. In spite of the harsh winter weather, we have come to expect that each month, a caravan of vehicles from Connecticut will make their way north to worship with us. As spring is around the corner, we look forward to the warmer weather that will make this trip a little less stressful than it has been these past few months with all the cold and snow.

Services are held on the second Sunday of each month and all are welcome. We begin our services with Sunday School singing shortly after 10:00 am. For information or directions, please contact Bro. Doug Mangers at (720) 979-7912 or Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

experience and yet believe. (John 20:25-29).

That is our part. We were not there in the flesh. But we go there in the Spirit as we read the accounts that God has inspired men to put down and has been preserved for us until this day. We go there in the Spirit. In the mind's eye we see the sepulchre. We see our Lord laid there in those linen wrappings and the handkerchief about His head. In faith we understand that. We see the rock that was put across the mouth of the sepulchre so it would be sealed. For His enemies feared that His disciples would come and steal away His body and say that He has risen. (Matthew 27:59-66)

Also in one of the gospels we read that they went so far that they gave the soldiers money that they would not tell the truth about what they saw at the sepulchre, about those angels (Matthew 28:11-15). We want to hear the truth, don't we, as we assemble. We need that. We need this that is sure and not changing. Something that we can count on in our life. We seek that out.

We read here about those that went to the sepulchre. It says, "...very early in the morning" the first day of the week. (Luke 24:1). The Lord's day. This day that we assemble. The day after the Sabbath. After the Sabbath was observed, then they had freedom under the law to go back to the sepulchre. And they found there the stone rolled away and no body therein (Luke 24:2-3). They found the linen clothes and the napkin folded up (John 20:6-7). It was there but the Lord's body was gone.

Then we read about Him speaking to Mary there. It must have

been near the sepulchre. He called her by name. She recognized Him. Called Him Master, Rabboni. (John 20:11-16)

When the Lord calls us by name, do we recognize that voice? This may happen a number of times during our life. When we come to an age where we recognize right from wrong, we recognize our responsibility before the Lord, He calls us. He calls us by name. That calling can be different. All of us that have responded to that can go back to a time and a place when we recognized His call. Recognized His voice when He called us by name. We are thankful for that.

In this day, many of us assemble here in this place because there are two souls that were converted, heard the Lord call them by name, with the instructions that they should become man and wife. We are here to observe that. We are here to support that.

So how do we react when He calls us by name? None of us really know what is ahead of us. We don't know what sort of callings we will have. Let's be assured that as He talked to Mary by name, called her by name (John 20:16), He can and He will call us by name to His service. That service will be completed whether we are faithful to the calling or not. The Bible tells us if we don't speak out, if we don't tell, if we don't speak the gospel and express the gospel in word and in our life, the Lord can raise up stones to do that (Luke 19:39-40).

We read here the account of those two that walked to Emmaus. They communed together and were talking about the things that had happened. How that their Lord was crucified and laid in that sepulchre. Now there are some that say He is not there anymore. We read how the Lord came and walked with them, communed

with them, as it says here. And He told them and instructed them more perfectly out of the prophets, of this, how it was foretold how He should be hung on a tree. How He should be lifted up between heaven and earth. How He should be the sacrifice (Luke 24:13-27).

We are so thankful that God eternal saw our need. Saw that we of ourselves could not please Him. He saw this need that we had for a Saviour. He supplied that. He made it free to us, this way of salvation.

Eventually, the men there that walked to Emmaus came to the knowledge of who this was that was walking with them. "And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight." (Luke 24:30-31). The Lord uses sometimes unusual circumstances to open our eyes. We need that from time to time. That our eyes would be opened. That we would be refreshed again and again of our duties. We would be reminded again and again of the narrow way that the Lord has put us on. We would be reminded again and again. Our eyes would be open to see how we are walking on that way. To see what our direction is. To see if our direction is correct. Or if we need some correction. Here it tells about their eyes being opened. It said he vanished out of their sight.

Again we read about Him coming back into their presence. He said, "...Peace be unto you... Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." (Luke 24:36-39). We are reminded there



that even though He was Jesus Christ the Son of God, yet He went through that crucifixion and suffered as a man would, any man would. The pains of death were real. In fact, they were intensified because He carried our sins there on the cross.

Those of us that have carried a burden of sin understand that in a small way, a very small way. We came to the cross. We didn't bear our sins there on the cross. But we came to the cross and left them there. We unburdened ourself there. Our Lord carried all that burden with Him on the cross. So we have this reminder that He indeed suffered there just as a man.

"And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?" (Luke 24:40-41). He as a man took and ate before them to show them He was actually, in the flesh, risen.

We look forward to that. We look forward to that resurrection. The Bible tells us about having a new body. One that is not corrupted by age as we experience here in this life (Philippians 3:21). We don't understand it completely. But we certainly look forward to that resurrection. That it will be real. It will be something that we can, as these disciples did, something that we can observe and find that it is real.

Sometimes in our life we don't quite know what is real and what is not. There are many things thrown at us in this time that are not real, that are not true. We sometimes have a difficult time sorting that out. But that resurrection will be real. We will be eternal.

Hopefully each one that assem-

bles here in this morning and all those in the Sunday School will experience the resurrection to life and not a resurrection to death. A resurrection to life. That resurrection will be with our Lord and our Saviour. Our eternal home will be heaven and not a place of eternal destruction. This is what we look forward to. We have this resurrection of Jesus Christ, this bodily resurrection that we read about here, as an encouragement to us. That it is indeed real. Through that, we can have faith that our resurrection will be real.

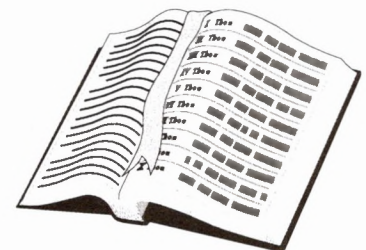
"...These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:44-47). Indeed, in this day, we have this opportunity to preach repentance, remission of sins, to the end that redemption is observed, redemption is experienced in our life.

If we would go back into the Acts of the Apostles, we can read there where Peter says it very plainly. That there is no other way that we can find salvation except through Jesus Christ. Here we have the words of Jesus, that we should go out and express this. That through Him is the redemption and salvation possible. As He expresses here, through repentance, that remission of sins is available.

We have that opportunity in this day. Those of us that stand have that opportunity to say it in words. All of us have the opportunity. And it is an opportunity to say it in our deeds, in our actions, in our life day by day.

"And ye are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:48). We are witnesses through faith. "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49). This power from on high we read about in the Acts of the Apostles when God's Holy Spirit came upon the people (Acts 2:2-4). We can have that power from on high. We need that. Those of us that have walked in the way some time understand that. We've leaned on the Lord and His guidance. It is a need that we have as real as food and drink and the air that we breathe. We need to experience that. We need to have that in our life in a place where we can rely upon the Lord.

That pathway is open and free to us. It is not something that's new, only when we have a great need, but day by day we rely upon the Lord's guidance. So it is something we can understand very well in our life. May the Lord grant us grace to that end.





## 2004 Tennessee Fellowship Weekend

Plan to attend the 13th Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing scheduled on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30 during Memorial Day Weekend. In addition to singing, three guest speakers will talk during the weekend on "Committment or Lukewarmness," "Attendance to Sound Doctrine," and "Holding the Faith for Coming Generations." The speakers will be announced as soon as possible. Church services will be held on Sunday at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church.

On Saturday afternoon, we again plan to hold an auction at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. 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:

**SATURDAY, MAY 29** (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  
 6:30 p.m. Singing (Congregational & Special Numbers)  
 7:00 p.m. Speaker on "Committment or Lukewarmness"  
 7:30 p.m. Singing resumes

**SUNDAY, MAY 30**  
 10:00 a.m. Church Services at Apostolic Christian Churches in Athens, AL  
 Speaker on "Attendance to Sound Doctrine"  
 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. Speaker on "Holding the Faith for Coming Generations"  
 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 plan to attend, please call or e-mail one of the contacts listed below by **Monday, May 3** 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

## U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

For area work projects, please contact the following Disaster Work Project Committee Representative:

<b>Kansas:</b>	<u>Paul Kaeb</u> Phone: 785-284-3261 Cell: 785-547-5269 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com
<b>Iowa:</b>	<u>Martin Zaugg</u> Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693 Cell: 515-320-2404
<b>Illinois:</b>	<u>Marvin Sauder</u> Phone: 309-925-4171 Fax: 309-925-2409 Cell: 309-241-8171 E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net
<b>Indiana:</b>	<u>Gerry Waibel</u> Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582 E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com
<b>Ohio:</b>	<u>Ken Zollinger</u> Phone: 330-925-6370 Fax: 330-927-6370 Cell: 330-466-2247

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2004 Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing Schedule



## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail [thitzhome@juno.com](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
AWA-FRW	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	April 8 - April 16, '04	Kingston	Roanoke BC - Kevin Fischer	Deaf School	50
CCCD	May 21-29, '04	Deaf Village	Warren Kloter	Work Place	40
CCCD	June 4 - June 12, '04	Deaf Village	Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield BC - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40
CCCD	July 17-24, '04	Knockpatrick	Chicago/Francesville BC - Tom Neu	Deaf School	40

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		<a href="mailto:jzeller@mtco.com">jzeller@mtco.com</a>
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		<a href="mailto:Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com">Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com</a>
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		<a href="mailto:jmmaibach@valkyrie.net">jmmaibach@valkyrie.net</a>
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		<a href="mailto:gbherman@juno.com">gbherman@juno.com</a>
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	IL Phone: 309-696-7804	FL Phone & Fax: 941-485-4302	none
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Pete (Linda) Webel	419-756-2587		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	<a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		<a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		<a href="mailto:th@parlorcity.com">th@parlorcity.com</a>
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	<a href="mailto:mreinhard@msn.com">mreinhard@msn.com</a>
Warren Kloter	309-208-2785		<a href="mailto:wkloter@myexcel.com">wkloter@myexcel.com</a>
Tom Neu	630-983-6267		<a href="mailto:mtneu@aol.com">mtneu@aol.com</a>
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	<a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffi.com">topnotch@home.ffi.com</a>
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



### - NOTICE -

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

*We have so many requests for Sunday School material. Please send us your children's used VBS workbooks except grades 1 & 2 as they do not have Bible stories included.*

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

### **Haiti Coordinator Position**

The Caribbean Board of the National World Relief Committee is taking applications for a couple/s to serve as full time coordinators in Haiti.

The job would consist of helping work teams in construction, well drilling, trade schools and assisting the MEBSH construction department with sea containers and lumber shipments. This position would also require some oversight of fund allocation and accounting of funds.

*For information contact Roger Sauder, Chairman, 954-584-0947 or e-mail at [rjsauder@juno.com](mailto:rjsauder@juno.com).*

### **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 260/824-5587  
E-mail: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)



## Mexico Work Teams 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone &amp; (e-mail)</u>
Rio Bravo	April 10-17, 2004	Construction	Jim Rieker	309-693-1721 <a href="mailto:JRieker@SBCGlobal.net">JRieker@SBCGlobal.net</a>
Juarez	April 14-21, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>
Rio Bravo	June 19-26, 2004	Construction	Joe Zimmerman	309-263-0254
Rio Bravo	July 3-10, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 <a href="mailto:dafiechter@parlorcity.com">dafiechter@parlorcity.com</a>
Rio Bravo	July 10-17, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 <a href="mailto:dafiechter@parlorcity.com">dafiechter@parlorcity.com</a>
Juarez	September 1-8, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>

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

### Opportunity to Serve

At our 119 bed skilled nursing facility located in Central Illinois. We have an immediate need for RN/LPN's to join our care resource team. We offer a competitive wage and benefit package as well as a positive Christian work environment. We would encourage qualified individuals to consider this in prayer. Interested individuals should contact Mike Zobrist, DON, Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka, 610 W. Cruger, Eureka, IL 61530 (309) 467-2311.



### 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 contacting Bro. Joe Gerber at 888-443-4283 or [joe.gerber@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:joe.gerber@gatewaywoods.org).

Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 1, 2004. We encourage all eligible members or friends to apply.





*This is the second in an eight-part series of church practices. These are excerpts from booklets distributed to Sunday School teachers from Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois.*

## SINGINGS

Singing is a particularly viable means of expression for a child of God — for those who have been transformed from darkness to light, and whose cleansed hearts have been filled with the goodness of God. They truly have something worthy of expression — namely, the joy of the Lord, and the kingdom of God within their hearts.

There exists (in the brotherhood) a very distinct form of song worship. It is a wonderful tradition almost solely unique to the Apostolic Christian Church. It is aptly and appropriately termed a “singing.”

A “singing” is the gathering together of believers for the express purpose of collectively blending voices of praise to God in song. Over the years it has served as a blessed way to bring adulation to God, and at the same time bring spiritual edification to each individual singer.

The “singing” has played an important role in the spiritual

development of the church. In fact, its presence among the brethren has been so constant and so universal that perhaps at times this wonderful form of worship is almost taken for granted.

Young people most frequently hold these song services. Although they range to encompass all age groups, singings for the most part are organized by young, converted, unmarried members of the church.

### *A Reason To Sing*

Why is a singing considered a celebration in song? Because those who are doing the singing — converted and sanctified children of God — have something within which is worthy of joyful expression. Their hearts and minds contain the peace of God. The atoning work of Christ, on Calvary’s hill centuries ago, gives occasion for this inner joy, which so appropriately finds an outlet in singing.

### *Characteristics of a Singing*

Singings are usually held in the homes of believers, with the young believer(s) of the home acting as host or hostess. All young, single people are invited. Often, some married adults are

present as well. The singing usually begins around 7.30 p.m. when a brother announces the first song. By this time, most everyone is seated and ready to begin singing. Brothers and sisters are usually seated apart, as space and conditions allow.

The singing continues for nearly an hour or more. Sometimes glasses of water are handed out. Candy is sometime passed around during the singing.

After an hour or more the pace slackens and a “farewell” song is given. The Scriptures are read and a prayer follows. Lunch and fellowship are next. The lunch is always well-prepared, and enjoyed by those who attend.

Singings are not held exclusively for young single people, but for other adults and all brethren as well. In these cases, the format is just about the same, save for the fact that the participants are mostly married.

### *Summary*

A great blessing has been realized over the years in these singings. The church indeed is fortunate to hold onto this wonderful and Biblically-prescribed tradition of singing praises to

...continued on page 51



## REMEMBERING

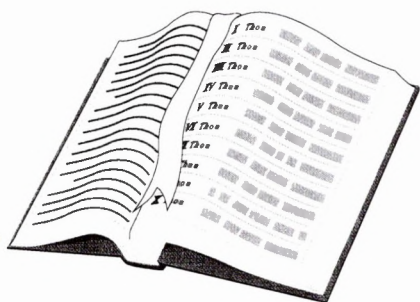
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God. In an era when singings in nominal Christian churches are virtually unheard of, it is especially gratifying (to the brethren) that God has continued to bless them with a thirst and desire for this edifying type of worship and fellowship.

There is an old proverb that says, "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Proverbs 22:28). Singings truly represent a type of landmark (tradition) in the church. Let's pray this landmark will not be removed — because our children and grandchildren will be most appreciative when they can see and utilize this worthy landmark.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: **Prayer Veil**



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### "Accountability"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is very important that human beings are accountable to someone. We are all accountable to God in the end but if a person can take over a country as a king or a dictator, and he isn't accountable to any other person or persons, he can wreck havoc before he meets God. Also, that must be why companies have, not only a president, but a board of directors to which the president is accountable. A board of directors is never one person but a group of persons. "In the multitude of counselors, there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)

The framers of our constitution knew that the ideal government must have what is called "Checks and Balances". The Greek philosopher, Plato, felt that no one man should be trusted to run a country, but that there should be a group of men called Governors, who should run a country. The framers of our constitution decided that we will have a president but that he is responsible to the congress. The congress can not only reprimand him but they can put him out of office. The president is accountable to the congress, which is composed of hundreds of senators and congressmen.

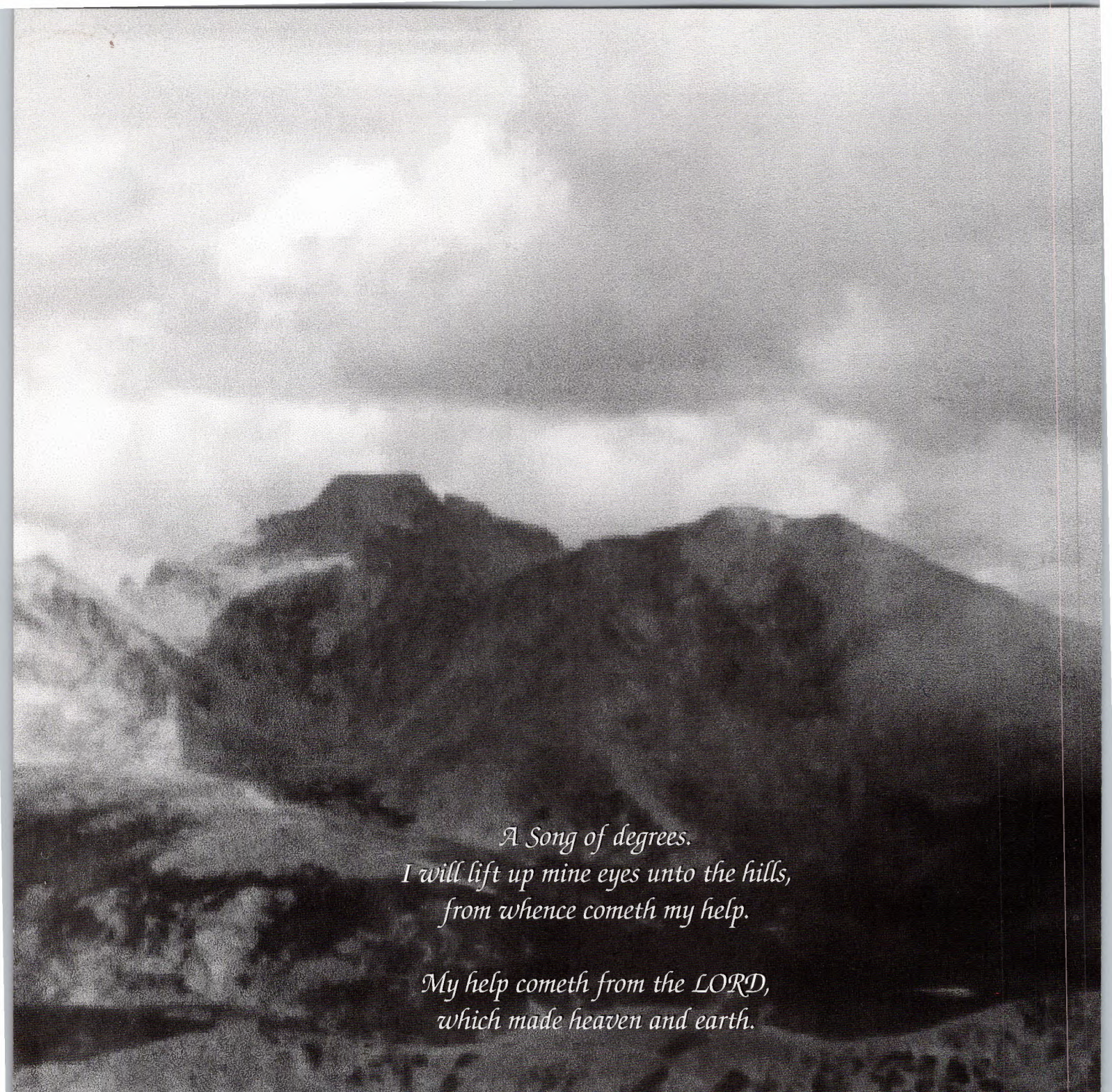
In our government, there is the Executive Branch, the President; the Legislative Branch, the Congress; and the Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court. If the congress passes a law and the Supreme

Court says it is not according to our constitution, the only way the congress can get around it is to amend the constitution. If the Supreme Court makes a decision which the President feels is bad for the country, all he can do is try to appoint judges to the Supreme Court who feel like he does about the issue. Then the next time that issue is brought to the Supreme Court they may reverse their former decision.

In our church we have an elder over each church, we have the congregations, and we have the elder body. In Genesis 4:9, God asked Cain, "Where is Abel, thy brother?" Cain replied, "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?" We believe we are our brother's keeper and are accountable to each other. Many people may not like that but it is good for us.

Each elder in our church is responsible to the elder body. All committees, including the Elder Committee, is responsible to the elder body. The Word of God is our Judicial Branch. If any decision is clearly against the Word of God, every effort should be made to change that decision. The congregations in our church have great power, but only so long as it is in accordance with the Word of God. The Elder Body is accountable to the Word of God, to each other, and ultimately, to God Himself. Accountability is important in the spiritual life as well as in the secular life.





*A Song of degrees.  
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help.*

*My help cometh from the LORD,  
which made heaven and earth.*

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