

The Silver Lining



He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

April 2004

Sermon by Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Oakville, IA

St. Luke 8:1-21

Certainly a very familiar scripture that we have heard many times and know it does apply to each and every one of us that is here tonight.

When we consider the parable that the Lord taught here, as we think of the different conditions that applied, we have to even look within our own hearts, whether we are yet standing without or whether we have become God's children. We know it does not give a time frame for each one of these different conditions; of whether it may have occurred early in the life of a believer or late in the life of a believer.

We have an obligation, those of us that have become His children. We have an obligation to stay true unto Him. We have made that vow in the baptismal waters that we would be true and faithful as long as we have life and breath. It shouldn't be something that should be difficult or hard for us to want to accept. But it should be something that we desire to do out of the love, out of the depths of our heart because of what God has done for us.

As we can read here and the Lord explained to us so clearly, that the seed is the Word of God (St. Luke 8:11). The Word of God is a way that we can find direction in life. It is a way that we can find the way to eternal life. Where we can find salvation. It is all there contained within God's Holy Word and it has been preserved for us.

So as the seed is then planted within our hearts, those of us that have had the good fortune of being raised in God fearing homes, brought to church, we have heard the Word from our youth. We have heard it in Sunday School. We have heard it from our parents. We have not only heard the Word but we have seen it lived also. For that we need to be so very thankful. When we have seen the life of those that have even separated themselves from the world, from their sinful ways, the miracle of repentance and conversion that has been experienced by mankind that this is, we are

so fortunate to be able to be a part of that. That we can even know that there are people, have the feeling within our heart, that these are people that serve God. So those of us that have been brought up in the faith, that have had this attitude and thankfulness upon our hearts that God has even given us this good fortune and good heritage, we have had those little seeds planted from the days of our youth.

As time progressed, the seed is never removed from our hearts. But depending on how we react to the Word, whether that seed will sprout and bring forth life. We know that it must bring forth life if we want to entertain the hope of life eternal. So there could be that condition. It does exist and it will exist. We know from God's Word. It tells us that the way to destruction is broad and there will be many that will follow that way (St. Matthew 7:13).

So there will be that soil that is not fertile and that seed that is put within that soil, it never springs forth. When we think about it, if that happens, if that occurs in our lifetime, we won't be able to stand in front of God on judgment day and say, I never received the Word. I didn't know what to do. But if that seed has been planted within our hearts, we will have no excuses. For God will give us everything we need that salvation can be found. But we have to take that step in faith.

So as we consider the different conditions here then, the first is by the way side. "Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." (St. Luke 8:12). Probably many of us have been out perhaps on a trail or a walk along the road, a path that is well trodden and beaten down. When we compare that to a good, well tilled soil that is prepared for planting, it is pretty easy to understand of how could that seed be planted within that type of a soil and then it sprout

and bring forth life?

He tells us here, that even before that seed could sprout, the devil will come and he will take it away. That is a danger that can be faced if we do not allow the Word of God to penetrate our hearts. If we let our hearts become so hard and so calloused that the Word is not able to penetrate.

How could that happen in our life?

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

April 2004

The Call of God

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to repent, be converted and become children of God, realize that it was only by the grace and mercy of God that He called us to be His child. The call of God is necessary for us to become His child.

Unfortunately there are those who believe they have never been called of God and therefore have put off their repentance, waiting for His call. What is the call of God? How can we recognize it? Can those of us who have been exposed to the Word of God much of our life really claim that we have never been called of God? If God called us one time and we ignored it, can we expect to be called again?

God calls His people in many ways and for many reasons. Certainly the call to repentance is one of the most important reasons God calls us. Additionally He calls us to do His work, perhaps to lead, and to worship Him.

There are many scripture passages that tell us that God does not want anyone to spend eternity separated from Him. Isaiah wrote "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Is. 45:22). Jesus said "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage" (Mt. 22:9). Paul wrote to Timothy that our Savior would "...have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4). Finally, John wrote "...And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

Therefore, if we believe that God would have all men to be saved, can we believe He would not call us? How can we recognize His call? There are some who were called of God in ways that could hardly be mistaken. Moses' attraction to the burning bush and his subsequent conversations with God could hardly have been missed. Gideon received two very clear signs with the fleece and the dew as he sought the courage to follow God's direction to lead the children of Israel against the Midianites (Ju.

6). Saul (Paul) also had a calling that was very dramatic and caused him to make a complete turnaround (Acts 9). There are many other examples, both in the scripture and in other sources, in which very clear calls were made to various individuals. However, most of us do not receive calls of this nature. So how do we know when we are called?

God reminds us to remove ourselves from the confusion of the world and seek His will in quietness. The Psalmist reminds us to "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Ps. 46:10). In despair Elijah was seeking God's assurance that he was not alone in serving God. He searched in the strong wind, in an earthquake and in the fire, but it was not until he listened to "...a still small voice" (I Ki. 19:12) that he found God.

We can also hear God's call in the quietness of His creation. The call to repentance may come in the quietness of a sermon when the message of repentance is preached. "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" (Rev. 3:20). Sometimes the call may come in the quietness of the night when there is nothing but the ticking of the clock to break the silence.

The calls to repentance by John the Baptist (Mt. 3:2) and Jesus "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17) were neither harsh nor calamitous. They were simply statements of fact. If one wishes to enter the kingdom of God, there are some tasks that must be done.

In the quote from Rev. 3:20, Jesus simply stood and knocked. He gave us two tasks: hear and open. Therefore, from this we can understand that, although the call comes from God, we do have some responsibility. We must be willing to hear and we must be willing to open the door of our heart.

We might prefer a call that is so strong and unmistakable that there are no questions in our mind. However, we need to be careful what we ask for. Jonah was given a clear, but simple message,

"Arise, go to Nineveh" (Jonah 1:2). Jonah knew what he was to do. He understood clearly, but he rose and went a different way. God was merciful to Jonah. After three days and nights of a very frightening experience in the belly of the fish, he was given another chance. He obeyed God's command but he did not do it with submission. He was rebellious toward God.

Other examples of clear, strong, but distressful calls include: Zacharias (Luke 1:5-22), a lord of King Jehoram (II Ki. 7:2), Peter (Mt. 14:22-31) and Thomas (Jn. 20:24-31). Each of these had doubts when called by God for a special task. Each of them had a time of trial because of their doubt.

When we consider what God has done for us, we would do well to answer His call without requiring something special. For many of us He has given the knowledge of what is required for salvation. He has given us a means of acquiring the knowledge and of applying it to our lives. He has placed us in a situation where it is relatively easy to put our knowledge into practice. He has allowed a measure of conviction to come upon us that encourages us to yield to His call.

How often will He call? No one knows for sure. We can be sure He will call one time, but we have no assurance of multiple calls. If we are willing to admit that each time we hear the truth of God's Word spoken we have received a call from God, we must acknowledge that we have been called many times.

Perhaps the call of God is accurately described in the words of a hymn: "Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me. See on the portals He's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me. Come home ... Come home, Ye who are weary come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home!" (Tabernacle Hymns No. 128). We would do well to answer a tender call rather than demand a stronger one that may bring us deep distress.



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

Observing God's work in Haiti

Last fall the Caribbean Board was searching for short-term coordinators to serve as project coordinators in Haiti. Bro. Marvin & Sis. Mary Sauder, Tremont, were approved and served the last 3 months of 2003. It was a real joy for them to host and travel with many different work teams.

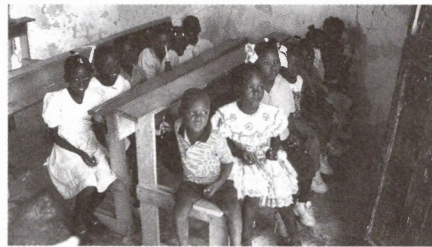
Brethren from the Caribbean Board go to Haiti each fall to evaluate the many different facilities that are sponsored through World Relief. Evaluation includes checking and monitoring the accountability of past funds and materials, and checking on future needs. Each facility that receives help shows much gratitude and appreciation for all of the efforts of our Apostolic Christian brethren back home. At Grace Children's Hospital, a colored poster on the window welcomed all of the team members by name. Seeing these poor Haitian people reconfirms the need of sending more food, clothing, and medical supplies.

At the King's Garden Orphanage it was a real blessing to see the children's eyes light up and their white tooth smile as health kits with small toys were given to each one. It was very touching as these Haitian children sang "Give Thanks" in English in return. While touring the Asile Dorcus nursing home, we saw the blessing of the masonry wall surrounding the property that was funded by World Relief. Each work team had the privilege of visiting, singing, and praying with the elderly residents of this nursing home. Their favorite song was "When the Roll is called up Yonder." Just thinking and singing about our Heavenly

Home keeps each one motivated no matter how poor or what nationality we are.

The Apostolic Water Aid work team typically comes to Haiti 3 times a year. The brothers find plenty of maintenance work, training, and encouragement for the seven Haitian well drillers to keep the well drilling rigs operable. Also brothers checked on the Trade Schools to encourage staff to continue to educate students with masonry, electrical, welding, carpentry, and sewing skills.

The Child Sponsorship Board came to Haiti to visit not only the different field offices but also many country schools where our brethren back in the States sponsor students. It was quite an experience to see many students crammed into small classrooms seeking an education and learning about Jesus.



Students in the classroom

The maintenance work team of 5 couples was enjoyable as they worked around the Citi Lumiere mission compound in Les Cayes. The Sisters painted at the Child Care Office while the Brothers worked on electrical wiring.

The S.E.E.D. Ministries work team did veterinary training, seminars, painting, and assembled more chicken cages.

It was a joy to see several small communities have school roofs installed by two different work teams. The local people would

watch and help our teams build the roof on a building that they had labored many hours to prepare the foundation, floor, and walls. The Sisters helped assemble and paint school desks along with willing Haitians. As the team mingled together and typically spent the nights in a classroom, there were many opportunities to let the love of Jesus shine forth. The highlight of all work teams was Sunday worship. What a moving experience to hear the Haitians sing and feel the spirit of Christian love and hospitality. Our minister had the service which was translated into Creole. After church, teams were treated with a fabulous meal.

Travel in Haiti remains most treacherous on very poor roads. The National main road is mostly black-top with many potholes. All other roads were gravel and dirt. The heavy rains create many mudslides and deep potholes that made interesting van rides. The Lord was always faithful in answering prayers offered by our brethren.

Work teams and coordinators had the opportunity to unload sea containers and see all of the goods given from the States in the name of Christ. Thanks to the many donors and volunteers who have labored so fruitfully in this work back home. May God richly bless you as we strive to "do good unto all men."

What a blessed opportunity to have shared this experience and what a joy to be back home safe. Recently, there have been uprisings in Haiti and our work teams have been canceled through March. Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, Bay City, are the spring coordinators, but they have now returned safely to the States along with many of the other compound missionaries.



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

The Church in Ostrita, Ukraine

Many years ago, brethren who follow the tenets of the same faith we embrace, moved into a region called Bukovina, which was then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is now in Ukraine. They had endured the rigors of the first World War and then faced the Communist revolution which followed it. These people had very little in the way of earthly goods.

Years of darkness under Communism

As the Communist system entered the lands taken under their control, these dear brethren had very little opportunity to practice their faith. They coped with this by meeting in small groups, often in remote areas. In spite of many difficulties, the true faith took hold and endured. Even today there are old sisters and brothers in faith who remember these very difficult times when they had to assemble in secret.

Our brethren discovered that if they assembled in small groups and made no trouble in the community, they could carry on their faith without a lot of attention from the authorities. Late in the decade of the 1980's the great democracies put enough pressure on the communists that they eased the oppression of small groups of true believers, and our brethren in Ukraine began to assemble in houses.

History of the Ostrita Church

In the small village of Ostrita, located a little south and east of the city of Chernovitsy in Ukraine, believers have assembled for many decades. They met for worship in

houses. In 1988, due to a relaxing of the oppression against small, individual projects of commerce, Elder Vasile Paladean planted watermelons in the hope of selling them in the open markets. This was a new concept resulting from a gradual declining of oppression by the central government of the USSR in Moscow. By God's grace and mercy, this harvest was blessed, and the family used the profits to build an addition to their house that could be used as a church. Brethren from America have worshipped with them there a great many times.

However, this primitive facility did not meet the needs of a growing congregation. There are about 185 members, 180 children who are attending Sunday School, plus friends to bring the normal Sunday attendance to about 450 souls.



Church in Ostrita, Ukraine

Approval to Build a New Church

Over the years, groups of elders and other brethren have visited Ukraine at various intervals. They have kept in close contact via fax and e-mail. After much prayer and discussion, the European Board and Mission Committee approved building a new house of worship for this group of struggling souls in their far and distant homeland.

It is almost beyond comprehension that we were allowed to help build a place designed to worship God in

a country that had officially denied the very existence of the one and only true God. However, at this time, by the grace of God and the support of our US brethren, such an edifice exists, built by the Ukrainians themselves. Several times groups from outside their land assisted them with some needed skills.

The new church has a seating capacity of 500 persons in the main assembly room. It is the only building in Bukovina that has been erected solely as a place of worship after over 70 years of oppression. The building has a baptismal, dining room and four rooms that are specified for Sunday School use. This is unique in Eastern European church buildings since many of them do not include Sunday School facilities. They have also furnished several guest rooms for visitors.

The rigid control of movement under Communism prevented many young people from leaving Ukraine. As a result, it is the observation of teams of brothers who visit this area, that there is opportunity to teach the many children the truth of the Gospel and to train them with useful skills with which they can then make a living. This will encourage them to stay in their own land and build for the future of their families and the church.

Gratitude for Help

The years of building this new church brought many challenges. We thank all of you who have given your financial support and have placed your trust in the Mission Committee and the European Board so that this church could be built. Only God knows the future, but we believe He has already blessed this effort. The believers in Ostrita are deeply grateful for their house of worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

There are posters up to remind staff to attend a mandatory meeting on the topic of Abuse and Neglect. This is something required by law that employees are reminded of what abuse is and what to do if abuse or neglect is suspected. One of the questions on the poster to get our attention is: What is the difference between "kidding" and Abuse? So many of the residents at the group homes and even Timber Ridge have a great sense of humor. They love giving staff "a hard time" and it's often easy to give it right back. It would be good to remember the verses in Ephesians 5 that tell us to not let foolish talking or jesting be a part of us. We know that, though it can seem fun to tease someone, it is far better to boost their spirits with a kind, true word, a compliment or an encouragement. Something else that the poster asks: Do you know what the opposite of Abuse is? Perhaps the answer will be tenderly and compassionately caring for others. We should remember that this includes the things we say to those we care for. Ephesians 4:29, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Our residents are enjoying celebrating St. Patrick's Day and looking forward to the Easter season. Some Timber Ridge residents have recently been enjoying Enabling Gardening classes, where they are allowed and encouraged to get their hands dirty in the soil. This is also the time of year that staff help residents practice for the upcoming Special Olympic events. Many hope

for and even expect a gold medal, so that they can have the privilege of participating at a state level.

We praise God for His goodness towards us in providing a nurse to fill the expected opening of Director of Nursing at Timber Ridge. Our current DON, Maurine Collett, will be retiring after serving in this position for 21 years. Anna Liza Raboza has been an employee of the Home for eight years and now has started the process of training to be the new Director of Nursing. We wish for her God's grace and wisdom in her new responsibilities.

May birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Yvonne Arbuckle (5/1), Judith McRoy (5/2), Terry Stoller (5/6), Steven Slagel (5/13), Allison Given (5/14), Ruth Klopfenstein (5/19), Marlene Moser (5/22), Jacob Terhorst (5/22), Garth Boyer (5/26), Marjorie Feller (5/30).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Rd., Morton, IL 61550: Kristi Knapp (5/29).

At 650 Detroit: Jacqueline Barton (5/26).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Sis. Jenny Rufener

I have the privilege of working with families who are adopting children. As I work with these families I am encouraged by their commitment and by their faith. I see the time and money that they dedicate to bringing children into their homes. I see the stress and grief that they experience as they wait for a child to become theirs. I see the many miles they travel to meet their children only to leave them in orphanages for months while all the

paperwork is being completed. Through all of this I see faithful parents who press onward strengthened by their God, knowing that if it is His will their children will one day come home. Finally, I see the joy when the children arrive home with their new parents, adopted into a family where they will be given the opportunity to have a new life. These children bring much happiness to their new families, but there are also challenges as the parents deal with overcoming their difficult pasts, and training them for the future.

As I consider this complex yet wonderful process, I am reminded that God understands what these parents are going through. He has adopted more children than any earthly parents, but instead of money and time, God's price for adoption was the death of His only begotten Son, Jesus. God allowed His Son to pay the ultimate price so that we can be His adopted children. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15). Just as adoptive parents grieve in their adoption process, God feels disappointment and grief because of the choices we make. Unfortunately we are often hesitant to accept the price that was paid for our adoption. We often harden our hearts to His call, but He continues to call us, patiently waiting for the day that we can become His. When we become God's, this brings Him great joy. We read that "likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:7). Once we are adopted

we are given a new life in Jesus, an opportunity to have a future. The way will not always be easy, but we must remember that like other adoptive parents, God will walk by our side. He will help us to deal with the issues of our past and if we ask Him He will train and mold us for His Kingdom.

We would like to welcome Shawn R. and Stacey G. to our foster care program. Both of these young adults have spent time in our residential program and are now in a Christian foster home.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Representatives Meeting in Indiana on March 13. The Spirit was definitely at work, and He continued to remind us all to pray, pray, pray for Gateway Woods!

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Bro. Eldon Getz (Wolcott) and Bro. Alan Ringger (Bluffton) for their service on the Board of Directors. They truly made an impact during their terms, and we wish them God's continued blessings in the future. We would also like to welcome Bro. Dean Fiechter (Bluffton) and Bro. Ron Gress (Indianapolis) to the Board. Please pray for these willing brothers.

Lastly, we would like to announce the hiring of Sis. Margo Waibel (Leo) as the new Gateway Woods School teacher. She will be replacing Sis. Jody Kaeb (Bern), who is engaged to Bro. Kevin Sauder (Tremont).

May we all continue to pray for the ministry of Gateway Woods – as God faithfully touches the hearts, minds, and souls of today's troubled youth and families!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Bethany Gerber

Greetings of love from Alabama! The weather is getting warmer now and it is so nice to let the children run outside a good part of the day. The sun has been shining more and the trees are starting to bud. It is so easy to see God's hand amidst all of the color and beauty of the days.

We are learning about the color yellow and are talking about different animals this month. The alphabet lessons are almost done and we will soon be practicing for our graduation ceremony. I can't believe that the year is almost over. It has gone by so fast!

Our Bible stories have been focusing on the miracles of Jesus and the days leading up to His death. The children have been a lot more enthusiastic about the stories lately and we are excited about that.

We are still looking for a preschool teacher/coordinator for the preschool for this summer and next year. The current opening is for someone with a degree in education, either preschool or elementary, 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 or contact Bro. Mike by phone at (256) 729-0620.

The Memorial Day weekend gathering at the Tennessee Fellowship Center is coming up May 29-30. Everyone is welcome! Please plan to join us!

the hospital or sick this month. Sis. Doris Moore has had more back problems and was out for a week with that. Alfred Perry, a brother to Sis. Corrine Thomas and Sis. Hazel Vibbert, is back in this area after living in Michigan. He had a stroke and has been in and out of a coma for several weeks. He is on bed rest now. Jeff Moore, Sis. Doris' son, had surgery this month and is scheduled for several more in the weeks to come. Please pray for each one of these dear people as they struggle with health problems.

There were visitors from Sardis and Smithville, OH, and from La-Crosse, Bluffton and Wolcott, IN, this month. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) was here for Wednesday evening services on the 17th and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and their boys were here on the 21st. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Please check your calendars! The Memorial Day weekend gathering at the Tennessee Fellowship Center is coming up May 29-30. Everyone is welcome! Please plan to join us!

Currently, there is a need for a member to reside at the Tennessee Fellowship Center and act as the caretakers of the facility and grounds. The center is located between Nashville, TN, and Athens, AL, just off of I-65. Anyone who might be interested in the position should contact Bro. Mike Moore at (256) 729-0620 for details. This should be an excellent opportunity for a newly wed or newly retired couple.

We are still looking for a teacher for next year. The current opening is for someone with a degree in education, either preschool or elementary, to teach and serve as the coordinator, so some teaching experience is desirable. If you are inter-

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

We have had several people in

ested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by mail at 8653 Beechwood Rd., Athens, AL 36511. You can also e-mail him at ALM38@aol.com or contact Bro. Mike by phone at (256) 729-0620.

I was touched by this poem and I wanted to share it with everyone. I hope that you can get a blessing out of it as well.

Making God Second Best
 I'm always prompt to punch the clock;
 I never miss a date.
 But when I go to worship God,
 I'm usually always late.
 I wouldn't think of leaving work,
 To visit brother Fred;
 I just wait 'til Sunday comes,
 And forsake the church instead.
 I never miss a day at work;
 Perfection's what I seek;
 But I miss the worship of my God
 Once or twice a week.
 I talk to people daily
 Of many subjects rife,
 But I never mention Jesus,
 Nor show Him in my life.
 I spend extra on my family,
 For things I can't afford;
 But I don't remember, ever,
 Giving extra to the Lord.
 When your life on earth is over
 And they lay you down to rest,
 How can He say to you, "Well done"
 If you've made Him second best?
 —author unknown

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Not that I speak in respect of want; For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

The weekend of February 28 and

29 was a very special time. We shared God's love (there were greetings from 18 churches). On the evening of the 28th we heard the testimonies of Leah Wiegand, Whitney Gutwein, and Sam Sutton. They were baptized on leap day before an overflowing group of relatives and members. Sis. Leah's parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynn Wiegand. Sis. Whitney's parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein. Bro. Sam's parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) was here to share the duties with Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich. After a short testimony the church also unanimously supported Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein's reinstatement to full fellowship.

Travis James was born February 23 to Bro. George and Sis. Willow Gramm. Mya is his sister. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL), and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Lacrosse), Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton), Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton), and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North). We were richly blessed.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie LaBudde on the death of her brother, Mathias Baumann (Mansfield), and to Bro. Alan and Lindy Knochel on the death of their brother - in - law, Ed Suever, Prescott Valley.

Bro. Clarence Beyer had a medical procedure performed on his eyes. Matt Ringger had emergency brain surgery.

World Relief meetings are busy times when much work gets done to

help so many. Thanks for your caring and sharing.

Dear readers: The Silver Lining Publication has asked us to send your \$11.00 remittance to them. We will collect at Church Sundays and Wednesday nights through April. For the 18 out of state names or just happy receivers, our address is: Ron and Ev Hoerr 9230 N. 26th St. #112, Phoenix, AZ 85028. The letters "RP" above and to the left of your name and address shows you on the Phoenix list of subscribers.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Glen Furrer was voted as the trustee chairman, Bro. Ed Schambach and Sis. Janon Furrer as Sunday School teachers, Bro. Tim Furrer - song leader, Bro. Wayne Koehl - sound room, Bro. Rolf Kaeppler - usher, and Sis. Rowena Furrer - kitchen.

Our sympathy and prayers are with our church families who have lost loved ones this last month. They include: Sis. Eileen (Bro. Glen) Furrer, whose brother, Wayne Baumgartner, from Bluffton, IN, passed away unexpectedly; Bro. Darby Knochel's brother - in - law, Ed Suever, who died after spending several months in a nursing home; and Sis. Elena Kornja's son, George, died suddenly at home. George had been hospitalized a couple times this winter, but was doing better and had been attending church the last month. Even though he was mentally handicapped and often didn't feel well physically, he loved to help at church with lighting, doors, books and making sure the ministers had a glass of water on the pulpit. His

smile and loving ways will be greatly missed by our congregation.

We wish to thank Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ) for coming to help Bro. Dan Dubach with the ministry one Sunday while Bro. Jim Furrer was attending his uncle's funeral in Indiana.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers during the past month. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) were with us to serve Holy Communion on March 7. Also visiting that day were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN). Two Sundays before that Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) was willing to serve us on the pulpit. We certainly wish to thank these brothers for the efforts they made on our behalf. God bless you all.

We had mixed emotions as we heard the news that the precious grandson of Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer (who own a winter home here) had passed away. We knew that his family would miss him here on earth but couldn't help rejoice that little Noah would be forever with Jesus. We pray the Lord's comforting presence will surround Noah's family in the weeks and months ahead as they adjust to life without him. Our prayers are with them all.

Our winter visitors are leaving and signs of spring are everywhere. Our mornings are cool and the children have stopped wearing jackets to school. Our afternoons are quite warm and the short sleeve shirts

have come out of the closet. It's that wonderful time of year when we don't need the air conditioning and we don't need the heater, either. After weeks of rainy, cool weather we are having above normal temperatures this third week of March with highs in the upper 80's.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

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

Psalm 121:1

God has blessed our state with rain this month, prompting lush greenery and flowers in the mountains surrounding our city. His creation alone elicits our praise!

We were thankful to have a visiting minister, Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL), assist with mid-week service. We always appreciate those that make the effort to assemble with us, in the face of many road miles and Los Angeles traffic.

Prayers were answered for hospital patients, Bro. Bill (Sis. Mary) Witzig and Alan (Bro. Bob) Crockett. Bro. Bill was treated for his heart condition while Alan was ill with pneumonia. May God bless each loved one as they look to continue the race, only by His grace.

Our congregation enjoyed an engagement singing for Sis. Rebekah Rokey and Bro. Koertland Beyer during Koertland's visit to California. May the Lord bless them as they seek out His will in their lives.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Greetings one and all. This past

month we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN) with us to assist Bro. Peter with the reading of the Memorandum. What a timely reminder to us all of what we need to be aware of and guard against in the days in which we live. Also, Bro. Leroy imparted to us a kind Communion exhortation that we all might be prepared to partake of it next month. May the Lord richly bless him for his labors of love.

We were privileged to host the National Building Advisory Board meeting this month. We were thankful Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) were able to extend their stay through the weekend and minister unto us from God's Holy Word. May the Lord reward their willing service unto us.

We rejoice once more as it was announced that Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) had received peace through repentance and desires baptism. We wish her the grace of God in abundance and look forward to her sharing her testimony with us in the near future.

CANADA

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Ingrid Fortenbacher

How shall it be, when we at last
returning
From weary wanderings and from
toil and strife
Shall reach the home for which
our heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of
earth has vanished
The last sweat from our brow is
wiped away
Our eyes behold what oft earth's

care has banished
And gave to us new courage on our
way.
Zion's Harp #146

Our prayers are with Sis. Myra Livingstone (Bro. Mark) and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother, Gina Jokic, of the Nazarene Christian congregation.

We are continually thankful for our visiting ministers. This past month they were Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty OH), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

What a beautiful time of year is spring! It reminds us of God's salvation and newness of life.

"Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it."

Isaiah 45:8

The Lord has called Robert Gonglach, Jr. (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) to repentance and newness of life. Let's remember to uphold our converts and young members in prayer.

The Scriptures speak of our adoption into God's family (see Gal. 4:4-5). On March 17, Racquel's (5), Brandon's (4) and Anthony's (1-1/2) adoption into the Martin family was finalized. Bro. Mike, Sis. BethAnn and all their children (including Benjamin, Joshua and Victoria) are thankful and happy that the long process is over and they are

now legally a family.

Our annual business meeting was February 7. Elected to positions were Bro. Brian Pfeiffer, as trustee; Sis. Marcel Huber to the kitchen committee; and Sis. Naomi Wiegand and myself to World Relief sewing. May the Lord enable us as we serve in these capacities.

Some of our members who have moved away have been back to visit us recently: Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic and their children and also Bro. Duane and Sis. Anne Wulf and their children. We had opportunities to visit with each of them at potluck suppers held at the church.

The Scriptures make it clear that it is our duty to glorify God and to praise Him. Several places, in both the Old and New Testaments, tell us to "Sing praises to the Lord." How many opportunities do we take in our daily lives to do this?

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually. . ." (Heb. 13:15a). We should be thankful that we can sing and worship the Lord together whenever we gather in His name, for if we should hold our peace, the stones would immediately cry out (Luke 19:40).

Psalm 95:1 says, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise unto the Rock of our salvation."

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler Amber Reutter

"But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 1:25

We had the privilege this month to have many visitors among us to share in our worship, including Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy) of Philadelphia, PA. It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers among us and we hope that the Lord will richly bless Bro. Shawn and his family for the many times they have come and been with us.

Love Thou me, Heart so loving,
love Thou me!
Grant that with sweet inclination
I love Thee without cessation,
And childlike and gentle be;
Therefore give Thou strength to
me.

Zion's Harp #152

This certainly is our prayer for our children as they are born and grow that they will someday be a sensitive child of God. Many families have been blessed with children recently. Drew William was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi LaPlante. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson and Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri LaPlante. Abel Jee Min was brought home from Korea to join the family of Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue Kloter. He joins his siblings John, TJ and Grace. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Mary Kloter, and Andy and Annette Ouelette. Little Brendan Vadim of Russia has been welcomed by his new parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Cathryn Couzens. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Matthew and Donna Couzens. It is such a wonderful blessing when we are able to take these children into our homes and rear them in the fear and admonition of the Lord and give to them a heritage of faith. Also born this month were twin girls, Ella Sue and Anna Rose, to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Angela Moser.

They are surely welcomed by their new brother, Ethan. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser, and Bro. Rollis and Sis. Lori Scheitlin. May God grant each family grace to bring up these little ones according to the scriptures so that they too someday are part of the family of faith.

Faithful was he until death's day,
now God will wipe his tears away.

What are the sorrows of this time,
against God's glory, so sublime?
Zion's Harp #248

We wish to extend our loving support to the family of retired Elder Bro. Corbin Bahler, as he passed away this past month. Bro. Corbin served our Rockville church for many years and we're sure that many keenly feel the loss of this dear Brother. He leaves his wife, Sis. Virginia, and his children, Sharon, Sis. Maxine (Bro. Wayne) Schneider, Bro. Dan (Sis. Carole) Bahler, Sis. Miriam (Bro. Dean) Reutter, and Beth (Bruce) Ehlen, as well as eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Our prayers are certainly with this family and hope that they can rejoice in the victory that has been won.

This month we also bid farewell to Sis. Gerri O'Brien as she made her way back to the Akron, OH, congregation. We pray that Sis. Gerri felt our love while she was with us and pray that God will be with her in all she plans to undertake.

Many have been hospitalized or under the care of physicians this month. They are Bro. James Beyer, Sis. Eunice Schneider, Sis. Judy Carlson, Sis. Angie Moser, and Sis. Shannon LaPlante. We pray that God will be near unto each one dur-

ing these trying times and grant healing where it is His will.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

One of the hymns we sing says "Count your many blessings, Name them one by one." We have many blessings in our congregation this month.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La-Crosse, IN), and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN). The Sunday Bro. Ben was here and had to leave at noon we had an extra blessing as he prevailed upon his father, retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Champaign, IL), to have the afternoon service.

Not only do ministers travel a distance to be with us and usually preach both services, but within the past month we were blessed with two Bible studies. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand had one on "Prayer" and Bro. Steve Stieglitz's topic was "Metaphors of God's relationship towards man".

We have had lots of visitors this month including a group from La-Crosse that came with the Troxels. Other visitors were from Leo, IN; Rittman, OH; and Bloomington, IL.

We are thankful Ken and Roberta Belsley are again able to assemble with us after Ken's stays in the hospital following shoulder surgery.

Suzi and Renaud Subra and Aidan welcomed Kieran into their hearts and home on March 1. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman of Bloomington,

IL.

As I write this it is trying to snow, but not having much success. Spring has come early this year. Some of the early flowers are starting to bloom and by the time this is read even our famous cherry blossoms will be past their peak.

Truly this has been a blessed month for us.

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.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have several visiting ministers with us this past month. Visiting were Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). We pray that God will bless His servants who are so faithful.

Sis. Elena Zurz is home from the

hospital recovering. Our prayers are with her for a complete recovery.

The combined all men's choir from Ft. Myers, Sarasota and Ft. Lauderdale sang at our church this month. Every other year the churches take turns hosting. Following the singing, there was a church dinner. It was a blessed time for all of us.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Mary Masters

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on March 7, with Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Pulaski, IA) being present. We thank these dear brothers and their wives for coming to Florida and serving us this Holy spiritual feast. After Communion services, a meal and fellowship was enjoyed. A big thank you to the sisters who labored to make this possible.

Other visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). We thank each of these dear ones for coming to share their God-given talents with us.

Alice Myer continues to be able to assemble with us each Sunday and is continuing to get better. Sis. Jeanette Yergler had some eye surgery and we pray for a quick and successful recovery for her.

I read recently that one of the gravest dangers to the church throughout history has been disunity and a spirit of factionalism characterized by persons striving for position or their own way. Let this never be named among us brethren. "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves." (Phil. 2:3). "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil. 1:27). "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Eph. 6:11). "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8). "Let us be encouraged brethren, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (I John 3:8-9). "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (I John 3:16).

A small group of us were privileged to go to the nursing home where our Bro. Rolland Keller resides and share some hymns of praise with the residents there. This has been our regular practice on the third Sunday of the month for some time.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Carol Koehl

What a blessing it was to partake of Holy Communion together with Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) on March 20. We were exhorted to always remember the terrible suffering and death that Jesus endured for us at the Cross. Let us daily make that journey to Calvary and carry the Cross of Jesus Christ in this dark world.

We wish to express love and gratitude to our winter residents for all their kind deeds shown towards the Sarasota church and especially for hosting the annual Appreciation Dinner at Sunnyside. The food and fellowship were excellent!

Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller just returned from their ninth construction work team to Kingston, Jamaica, along with 24 other willing laborers. May the Lord richly bless Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev for their sincere dedication to the precious deaf children in Jamaica.

Once again, we had a very successful Sunday School auction, bake sale, and chili lunch, preceded by homemade rolls and coffee. We thank everyone for their generous help and support of this worthy project. It's a lot of work, but it is also very enjoyable for everyone, children and adults.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Bro. Glenn Price and Jim Zimmerman are hospital patients and both need our prayers for continued healing.

We wish to extend sympathy to

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter and their family in the unexpected passing of Bro. Jeff's brother, Bro. Don Streitmatter (Princeville, IL), and also to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma Blume in the loss of Sis. Norma's brother, Danny Stoller (Remington, IN).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Carol Kaufman

Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) reminded us that those who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves. Are we willing to give up things that would be a stumbling block to others, because we love God? Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) also spent a weekend with us. He spoke about boundaries being given for our help. Do we view God's boundaries as restricting us or as the help they are meant to be? Are we willing to accept the consequences that come with breaking the boundaries? May God richly reward each ministering brother for laboring in God's vineyard. We appreciate each one!

We are thankful to report that little Wynn Waldbeser (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) is home from the hospital and has recovered from his pneumonia. Our prayers are with Jacob Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie), Philip Kaufman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Carol) and Kelly Camp (Chris and Sis. Peggy) as they recover from injuries. God has been faithful in healing Bro. John Kaufman after oral surgery and a minor stroke.

Our family had the opportunity to stop in Camilla one Saturday on our way to Tallahassee to visit the Lindberg family. We visited with three of the four families whom

World Relief volunteers built houses for after the tornadoes went through. These families are so appreciative of the willingness of each one who helped them. They would like to have a reunion of everyone who came to help. Please contact us via email: kaufmanelec@juno.com or via phone: 1-877-458-7706 to let us know if you would be able to come. We are looking at a date after school is out so as many as possible can come.

God has richly blessed us with many visitors this past month. May God richly bless you for your willingness to take time to visit. It is very much appreciated. 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.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,
When His covenant He did endow,
When His blood, in love and grace
eternal,

For transgression and for sin did
flow,
He established for His church a token,
That His covenant ne'er be broken,
This His holy Sacrament and feast,
For His own, from sin and death
released.

Zion's Harp

The Cissna Park choir blessed us with their presence and voices as they sang hymns to our Heavenly Father. We were further blessed with Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) as our visiting minister. We felt our cup of blessings overflowing the weekend of their visit.

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) preached our Communion exhortation. So when the choir sang the Communion Hymn the following week, we were again reminded of the special upcoming event of the Lord's Supper for our congregation.

Bro. Art Mueller did the Madison, Wisconsin, Bible study pertaining to the verse, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." (Mark 12:30). The discussion included the clarification of the words heart, soul and mind. At our church's monthly Bible Study we learned of the prophet Joel from Bro. Ted Schock. We thank our ministers and Elders for being servants to our Heavenly Father on our behalf.

We'd like all of you who have touched our hearts but have since moved from Belvidere to mark your calendars for a reunion we are planning for the weekend of October 16 and 17.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kara Martin

Rebekah Kaufmann

The Word was brought to us this past month by Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN).

Bethany Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Mary, Roanoke) has turned her life to the Lord. Our prayer is that she will feel God's nearness as she seeks Him.

On February 9, Tim and Trisha Virgil were blessed with Titan Creed. He is welcomed by big sister, Tea, and big brother, Tyrell. Titan's happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Bev Virgil and Roger and Vivian Beadles (Ellery, IL). A daughter, Tessa Rene, joined the home of Bro. Brad and Sis. Kara Martin on March 9. Her excited brother and sister are Harrison and Davis. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jay Martin and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville, IL) are her grandparents. A son, Isaiah David, is welcomed home by big sister, Shauna. He was born on February 15 to the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter. Sis. Mary Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) and Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser are his grandparents.

Our sympathies are with several in our congregation who have experienced loss this past month: Bro. Stan Hodel's (Sis. Verna) sister, Sis. Mary Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), passed away on February 22; Bro. Ben Daily (Sis. Mary) lost his father, Shirley Daily (Chenoa, IL), on February 25; Bro. Mark Streitmatter

(Sis. Sara) lost his father, Bro. Don Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) on March 7; and Sis. Dorothy Harsh's son, Phillip Harsh (Longview, IL), passed away on March 8. We continue to lift each of these families up in prayer.

Bro. Greg Umland (Sis. Louanne), Sis. Nadine Ringger (Bro. Ray), and Sis. Lindsay Gramm were surgery patients this month. We are prayerful for each of their recoveries.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Steve Endress

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Job 23:10

We were so richly reminded by our Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) of the blessings we receive from the trials of life. Through these trials, we are tempted in our thoughts by the devil to give up hope, complain, or try to change our circumstances. However, God means these trials for our good. He knows that the enduring of trials through a heart of trust will draw us closer to Him. So, just as the same sun can harden and soften ground, the fiery trials of life will either consume or purify us.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone who came to visit me and for all the beautiful cards, flowers, and gifts during my stay in the hospital. I also appreciated the many who came and sang for me so many times. May God bless you all.

Sis. Elizabeth Kimble

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Kieser

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! It is so exciting to see the tulips peeking out of the ground after what seems like a long winter. Spring also mean that our Snowbirds return and we are always glad to have them back home.

The Young Group had their annual Invite-A-Friend weekend February 14-15 and it was nice to see some new faces and some familiar faces of past students.

Several weeks later, the College Young Group invited several other college young groups and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger and his wife, Sis. Jane, from Bluffton, IN.

Bro. Doyle was gracious enough not only to speak to us Saturday night but also to preach on Sunday where we were asked to think upon the question "What if there were no forgiveness?" This was humbling and almost unimaginable especially since we had read and meditated upon the account of the crucifixion from the Gospel of Luke the previous Sunday. We really have so much to be thankful for. We have a Saviour who did die and who did forgive. We thank Bro. Doyle and his wife for their efforts.

We had one hospital patient this month. Sis. Ethel Wiegand (retired Elder Bro. Dave) experienced a pulmonary blood clot and we are grateful that she is back home and feeling well again.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, calls and gifts of love I received while in the hospital and since returning home.

Sis. Ethel Wiegand

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. Today as I type, the sun is shining, the sky is blue, and I heard birds chirping this morning. God is good. He is good in all things as He blessed our congregation with five visiting ministers this month. A sincere thank you to the following brothers for sharing with us: Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL), Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and Art Ingold (Rittman, OH). We also thank their wives for coming and worshipping with us as well. We also rejoice in welcoming Bro. Daniel Messner (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) who has accepted employment in our area.

A few weeks ago I was studying late for a mid-term. Anyone who has taken one of these tests knows the tremendous pressure one feels as the test looms, many times determining about half of one's grade for the semester. I was frantically searching for one sentence that contained some information that I really needed. I was going through paper after paper, knowing it was there but getting more frustrated by the minute. I decided to calm down, step back, and try to look at this rationally. When I took a good look at the table on which I was studying, I counted six stacks of papers/notes, along with two textbooks and folders! No wonder I was confused. I was looking at the whole lump of information and trying to pull the proverbial needle out of the haystack. You can probably predict what happened next. I calmly looked at the paper on the top of one

of the stacks and there was the sentence I needed – in front of me the whole time.

Have you found it to be that way with God? I have. When my life has been overwhelmed, and I feel confused, rushed, and even like things are spinning out of control, stepping back and taking a look at what is in front of me always brings me back to the bottom line. No matter what is happening in life, God is on the top of every "stack of paper", if you will. There is no need to search and try to find Him. He is here ready to respond to our prayers and needs. "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them." (Proverbs 20:12). Let's use what God gave us to respond to whatever comes our way this month. May God be with each one of you always.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Andrea Walder
Susan Waldbeser**

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.
Zion's Harp #46

We extend our sympathy to the family of our friend, Franklin Rocke, who passed away this past month. We especially remember his brother, Bro. Lester, and sisters, Sis. Lorine Rocke, Sis. Doris Koehl and Sis. Aldean Kaufmann, who will surely miss him. Our prayers have also been with Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman on the passing of Urban's mother, Anna Edelman. May God comfort both of these dear families in the days and months ahead.

Some of our loved ones either had surgery this past month or have

been hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers go to Bro. Dale Walder (Sis. Dorothy), Bill Bauer, Sis. Marguerite Bauer, Bro. Lester Rocke, and Sis. Lorene Rocke. We wish these dear ones the Lord's healing and grace as they recuperate.

The evening of Wednesday, February 18, we had our Topical Bible Presentation. We thank Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) on his timely topic of Deception. On Saturday, March 13, we gathered as a congregation to hear the reading of the Memorandum. It was read and expounded upon by our Elder Bro. Tom Stock and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). How thankful we are for the encouragement, the love shown, and also the pricking of the Spirit, for the Bible tells us "... My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..." (Hebrews 12:6-7).

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder welcome home a new little boy to their family circle. Little Jordan Andrew joins Brittany, Jeremy, Jonathon and Brooke. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Wilma and the late Bro. Charles Walder, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosie Frank (Tremont, IL).

Grandchildren are a special blessing. We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrad on the birth of a little grandson, Treyton Blake, born to Bro. Blake and Sis. Rachel Graham (Peoria, IL). Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeanie Kaufmann also welcomed two new grandbabies on the same day. Kyan Ashton was born to

Michael and Kori Kaufmann and Sophia Louise was welcomed home by Tim and Robin Kaufmann.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Arlene Banwart

A ministering brother shared the following:

It's interesting Jesus would liken Himself to a grapevine. It's one of the homeliest little fruit bearers. It doesn't have a wonderful flower springing out with butterflies fluttering around. It's really nothing to look at. First of all it gets trimmed way back – it's a pretty pathetic looking thing. It weeps and will drip and drip. But severe pruning makes it bear a lot of fruit. When the flower finally comes, it's a very tiny white flower that no one would ever see. It's glory only lasts for a day or two and it starts making fruit. The leaves come out and while it's developing early in the season, the leaf loses its color. It withers and you wonder if it's sick, but it withers up so the sunlight can come in and ripen the fruit. It seems like the vine's only objective is to bear fruit – not to make a splash in the world. It's a sacrificial thing, isn't it? I suppose that's why Christ likens Himself to a vine – nothing to look at, nothing to show, no glory – at least not in this life, but forever in eternity.

He says we are branches – we are part of the vine. Should we be any different? If we are branches of a vine whose only objective is to bear fruit, how should our life be? Should we be grappling for all the things money can buy? Should we be in for all the amusements that our eyes can lay hold on?

On March 14, we welcomed Bros. Ben Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol)

and David Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) as newly baptized children of God. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted in this special work and shared God's Word from the pulpit with Bros. Jeff Grimm and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL).

Mikayla Marie was born February 19 to Chris W. and Michelle Miller. Big brother, Christian, and grandparents, John and Sis. Barbara Gastman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Chris C. and Sis. Phyllis Miller also share in the joy.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock welcome two new grandchildren. Melody Marie was born to Bro. Jaron and Sis. Julie Schlipf of Gridley, and Porter Levi was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Hoffman of Roanoke. It's our prayer that these little babies can grow to love and serve the Lord.

Having hip replacement surgery was Bro. Allen Schrock. It's our hope and prayer he will be more free from pain and be able to walk better. Sis. Millie (Bro. Carl) Schieber is recovering at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.
*Zion's Harp #200,
Communion Hymn, Verse 5*

On March 6, our minds were stirred through remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death, as

Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) assisted Bro. Ron in the serving of Communion. Other ministers who visited Elgin in the past month were Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). We thank all of them for their willingness to labor on our behalf.

We have been encouraged to see evidence of God's work in the life of Amanda Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), who has begun her repentance. May she feel our prayerful support during her conversion.

There were three birth announcements in the past month. Kalli Sage was born February 20 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach and Ken and Anita Anderson. A little boy, Nicholas Lambert, was also born February 20 to Tony and Kenda Martin. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin and Dick and Pat Pfaffinger of Marengo, IL. First-time parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Andrea Heiniger, welcomed a daughter, Savanna Loren, on February 29. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger and Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Georg (Sis. Hilde) Schumacher, who recently spent time in the hospital, and with ministering Bro. Gary (Sis. Edie) Anliker, who had knee surgery. Both brothers are now recovering at home. It is encouraging that Sis. Marge (Bro. Bill) Wewetzer is able to assemble with us again.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

Our congregation has been richly blessed with several new converts. Our prayers are with Danielle Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris), Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Landon Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa), Amanda Wiegand (Bro. Don and Sis. Jane), Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris) and Ashley Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine). May they feel God's sustaining grace as they build their foundation on Christ, our Rock.

Bro. Kevin Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Brenda Huber (Bro. Gary and Karen) were united in marriage on February 29. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca Braker have been blessed with a healthy baby boy. Jacob Lee was welcomed home by his sister, Hannah, and two brothers, Daniel and Caleb. Grandparents are Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn.

Our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital recently are Sis. Donna Carr (Bro. Tim), Sis. La Vina Dotterer (Bro. Joe) and Sis. Norma Pfaffmann. We wish them God's continued nearness as they recover.

We are truly thankful to welcome two new brothers and a sister into the family of God. We were encouraged and inspired by the exhortations given through the provings and baptisms of Bro. Ben Roche (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan), Bro. David Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis.

Cheryl). We rejoice with them and wish them God's continued grace.

The fellowship of our faith has brought many visitors to our congregation this month. Ministers among them were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We thank them for being willing to lend themselves in the service of the Lord.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen Zimmerman along with their children, Rose, Lucas, Lois and Joan, as they relocate from Chicago. May they feel at home as they worship with us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr**

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser are the parents of Owen Lee born February 23. He is a brother to Myrna, Martha, Esther, and Corbin. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser, the late Myrna Moser, and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller.

Richard and Karen Stoller are first-time grandparents of Kyra Elizabeth who was born March 3 to Scott and Aimee Stoller of Manlius, IL.

We know these new babies are very precious to these dear families and may God help the parents as they raise each child.

Some from our congregation have been in the hospital due to sickness, illness or accident. We ask for God's healing powers for Bro.

Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne), Sis. Colleen Walter (Bro. Rich), Bro. Reuben Huber (Sis. Marie), Sis. Marguerite Bauer, and Pauline Lawrence.

We are so thankful that Dale Mowery (Sis. Elaine) has given his heart to God in repentance. May he feel God's grace and help each step of the way and we pray that many more could come and seek their soul's salvation.

March 14 was the wedding day for Bro. Joel Plattner and Sis. Amber Kilgus. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus (Forrest, IL). We rejoice with all of them and ask for God's richest blessings in their marriage.

We extend a word of thanks and appreciation to Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) who spent a Sunday with us, along with his wife, Sis. Wendy, and their dear family. May God bless them.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Dotterer**

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:38

We felt the presence of the Lord as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four souls the weekend of March 6-7. Our new brothers and sister are Bro. David Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta), Bro. Dan Banwart (Bro. Albert, West Bend, IA), Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Myra Steidinger (Bro. Ray and

Sis. Shelly). May God give them strength and grace to remain faithful until the end.

As we welcome these new brothers and sister into the fold, we are also thankful that another soul has answered the call. We rejoice with Scott Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and pray that he will build upon the firm foundation so that when the storms of life come he will be able to stand fast.

On March 14, we witnessed the marriage vows of our Sis. Amber Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) and Bro. Joel Plattner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Ann) of Fairbury. May God bless their marriage and continue to provide for them as they walk life's pathway as one.

On March 3, Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen Mueller welcomed Erin Marie into their hearts and home. Allison, Nicole, Lincoln, Stanton and Wade are also excited to have another sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida Mueller and Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid.

Bro. Tory and Sis. Wendy Zimmerman are thankful parents of their second son, Kenton Noah. He was also welcomed home by big brother, Tyrel. Kenton's grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman and Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell Dotterer.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who are facing infirmities of the flesh. May God be especially near Bro. Dave Schmidgall (Sis. Alma Jean) and Bro. Elmer Stoller (Sis. Rosetta) and may He provide for them as He sees best.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. We pray that God will bless Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Tom

Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA), as well as Bros. Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), and John Hartman, Rick Plattner and Paul Kilgus (all of Fairbury, IL).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

We are thankful for our new sister in Christ, Sis. Tiffany Eastman (Dave and Dianne). We were privileged to hear her testimony of how Christ worked in her life and to witness her baptism. We welcome her with love and pray that God would bless her in her new walk.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Stephanie Wiegand welcomed home their first baby, William Jon. Also welcoming a new baby boy is Bro. Luke and Sis. Jill, Caleb and Wyatt Rocke as Drake Edward joined their family. Chad, Kalene, Taylor and Brady Kloter welcomed a new daughter, Lauren Eileen. We pray for each of these families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Don Ott (Sis. Carolyn). He had surgery and spent time in the hospital. May God's healing hand be with him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Eric Hinrichsen (Bro. Charles and Sis. Brenda) and his family. He is serving our country in the armed forces and has been transferred to Iraq. We pray for his safe return.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam). We thank them for their service to us.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and their many acts of kindness shown to our family at the time of Donnie's surgery. It has been a real encouragement. God's blessings to each of you.

Donnie and Carolyn Ott

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

"Who plants a seed beneath the sod,
And waits to see believes in God."

As the time of planting is upon us, the above saying is fitting. Surely the idea of planting and waiting is a reflection of God's giving the increase. Man can plant and nurture the seeds, but it is God that gives them growth. In a spiritual sense, as believers plant the seeds (of truth), it is God who calls people to truth, and gives them the power to grow. In both instances, man can only plant. So that is what we should be doing, and especially in a spiritual sense.

Several from our congregation have been ill. Donna Butikofer is recovering from surgery. Bro. Louis Kieser is doing nicely as he has gained back strength from a stroke. Sis. Linda Wettstein has been ill and is recovering. Sis. Mary Ringger broke her arm. Sis. Lucille Stoller is recovering from a broken leg, and is residing temporarily at the Eureka home.

We welcome Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Feucht to our community. They are living on Northview Drive. They formerly lived in Lester, Iowa.

We are thankful for the three new babies born recently. Samuel

Michael Knapp was born on February 4 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Janet Knapp. He is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Stephanie Knapp, Gridley, and the late Sis. Rosella Knapp, and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser, Tremont.

On February 25, Mara Lynn was born to Bro. Casey and Sis. Jamie Knobloch. She has an older brother, Wade, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch, Bloomington, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp, Taylor, MO. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, Gridley, and Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Princeville.

February 26 was the birth day of Kya Avalon Witzig. She is the daughter of Bro. Todd and Sis. Nicole Witzig. Grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig, Gridley; and Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie Yackley, Taylor, MO. Great-grandparents are Sis. Louise Witzig, and Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold, all of Morton; and Sis. Clara Yackley and Bro. Mike and Sis. Luann Knapp, all of Taylor, MO.

New babies are such a blessing to the parents and a host of others. Surely, they are a gift from above. May God give the parents much grace to nurture them in the Truth; and may all of us have grace to be a good influence on all growing youth.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Julie Bahr

Christie Zeller

Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner are the grateful parents of a new baby girl, Kayley Renee, born Feb-

ruary 10. Kayley is welcomed home by big sister, Brianna, and big brother, Brody. We wish them God's continual blessings.

Gilbert Mott passed away February 11 in Wolverhampton, England, where he lived with his son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth. His services were held at Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home. May our Heavenly Father comfort this dear family.

We feel so blessed to have added to our pulpit, Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) as our new minister. They have twin girls, Coreena and Julia. May God continue to bless these dear loved ones as they continue to serve Him.

Our visiting brothers for the month were Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL). May these dear brothers be blessed for all their endless labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the many cards and prayers that I received following my accident. They were a great encouragement to me at the hospital, nursing home, and now while I continue to recover at home. May God richly bless each one of you.

Shirlee Baer

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Lou and Marjean Lonteen

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:7

On March 3, Bro. Herb Stoller spoke at Family Night on the topic:

"If you are an Apostolic Christian, What are you?"

On March 17, Bro. Mike Rieker spoke at Family Night and his topic was "Respect".

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalms 51:10

Three souls from our congregation have repented, express a converted heart, and have found peace with God. They are: Sandy Fritzenmeier, Kelsey Klopfenstein, and Mike Jones. Their testimonies and baptisms are planned for March 20 and 21. Parents are: Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein.

"Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

Special prayer is appreciated for: Bro. Matthew Moser, Sr. (heart surgery), Bro. Leon Kaisner (surgery), Bro. Allan Herman (surgery), and Bro. Kenny Plattner (hip replacement).

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Matthew 5:8

Sincere sympathy is expressed to the family of Bro. Doug Schwenk. May God provide comfort to each of you: Sis. Ida Schwenk, Sis. Mandy Schwenk, and Sis. Susan Meister (Bro. Dan).

"Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowl-

edge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

II Peter 5-7

Engagement announcements: Dale Kaisner (Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice) became engaged to Paula Clark. Their wedding is planned for October 16 in Austin, TX.

Janis Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy) became engaged to Brian Makiney. Their wedding is planned for July 2. They are both from Bloomington, IL.

Bro. Mike Kaisner (Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice) became engaged to Sis. Mindy Hoerr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr) on Sunday, March 14.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

Birth announcement: Little Olivia Ann Menold was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Wendy on January 26. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Rieker and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold (Princeville).

Little “Alia” was born to Dan and Michelle Geyer (Wirtz). Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer and Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz (Goodfield). Great-grandparents are: Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli, Sis. Hazel Geyer, Sis. Emma Meyer (Lester, IA), and Sis. Betty Wirtz (West Bend, IA).

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that

loved us.”

Romans 8:37

Deaths: Sis. Ella Wagler (Burlington, IA) passed away on March 10. Sis. Ella was a sister to: Bro. Harlan (Sis. Mazie) Thomas, Bro. Ivan (May) Thomas, and Sis. Rose Steiner (Oakville, IA). She was preceded in death by four brothers and three sisters. We express sincere sympathy to Sis. Ella’s entire family circle.

Sis. Janet Schubert passed away Monday, March 15. Surviving is her husband, Sigfried Schubert. Also surviving are three brothers and three sisters: Bro. Nathan, Bro. Ellsworth, and Gerald all of Princeville, and Sis. Doris of Morton, and Sis. Arlys and Sis. Arlene of Princeville.

Our Peoria congregation welcomes Bro. Neil and Sis. LeAnn (Lehman) Banwart who were married on January 4. Bro. Neil is from Champaign and Sis. LeAnn is from Bern, KS.

At this writing, we have a work team in Rio Bravo, Mexico. We pray for their safety, and many spiritual and material blessings as they give as unto the Lord.

We are thankful for the blessings of recent remodeling to our Peoria church building. Many thanks for all the labor and cooperation in this big project. We look forward to the opportunity to host the Brotherhood Conference in August this year.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

“I have been crucified with Christ...”

Galatians 2:20

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen...”

II Corinthians 1:20

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Phyllis Knobloch
Crystal Streitmatter

What a lovely time of year! We are blessed with sunshine and many signs of spring. The miracles of God are almost overwhelming at times! Let us all be thankful!

Bro. Craig and Sis. Cherie White are happy, first-time parents. Benjamin Levi was born on February 16. He is special to all of us! Sis. Gloria White (Princeville) and Claude White (Rossville, IN) and Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat (Rockville, CT) are the happy grandparents. They have spent some time getting to know their little grandson. May God bless this family with joy and understanding.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital. They include Sis. Martha (Bro. Burton, dec.) Streitmatter, Sis. Sadie Streitmatter, Sis. Geri Streitmatter and Bro. Leonard (Sis. Marie) Menold. As of this writing, Sisters Martha and Sadie Streitmatter are in the Peoria Nursing Home. They all need our prayers!

We have had several visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Bros. Greg and John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). Thank you to you and your families for including Princeville for a Sunday. It is amazing to see how the Holy Spirit works through each of our brothers!

Bro. Tim Sauder gave a presentation on Gateway Woods the evening of March 7. It was very informative and we thank him for this. We have work to do. We have been blessed so abundantly while others are hurting. It is hard to imagine what it would be like to be in charge of young people that have been exposed to so many evils. May we all continue to support this worthy cause. No matter what our age, we can still make a difference with the physical and spiritual welfare of these unfortunate children and teenagers. Pray also for those who care for them. It is a tremendous responsibility!

Sis. Joy (Bro. Art) Baurer's mother, Sis. Dorothy Bittner (Roanoke, IL), passed away on February 24. Even though she lived to be a high age, she had a pleasant outlook on life. We share our sympathy with the family.

Our dear Bro. Don (Sis. Mary Lou) Streitmatter passed away very suddenly on March 7, following a heart attack and stroke. He will be sadly missed by all of us. He was always willing to lend a helping hand. We pray for the dear family. May God comfort them and help to ease their sorrow.

On March 13, we were again reminded of Jesus' death and suffering by Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) helped our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner with the services. We appreciate your kind and loving ways. The next day we had "Invite a Guest" day and enjoyed the many visitors from many places. The ministers that shared the pulpit were Bros. John Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). God blessed our fellowship with love towards one another. It is always a blessing to be

with those we have known from other congregations.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Doris Fischer

Joan Leman

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

Hebrews 13:17

We thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka) who was with us on Wednesday evening, February 25, to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman with the reading of the Memorandum. May God continue to bless the labors of our Elder brethren and may we all strive for a closer walk with the Lord.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Ryan Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) as he has seen the need to surrender his life unto the Lord in repentance. We are thankful that Ryan did heed God's call and pray that he can feel God's love and direction as he walks with Him.

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

Genesis 2:18

Believing that God has brought

their lives together, the engagement of Bro. Sam Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Marjorie Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) was announced on Sunday, March 7. May the Lord guide and bless them as they make plans to be united as one in Him.

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

Psalms 127:3

Three families from our congregation have been blessed with new additions. Porter Levi was born March 4 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi Hoffman. Welcoming him home are big brother, Ethan, and thankful grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock. Bro. Jason and Sis. Ali Knepp as well as Gracie welcome Josie Alexandra into their hearts and home. She was born March 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield). We rejoice with Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder as they became first-time grandparents on January 20. Luke Ashton was born to Bro. Zach and Sis. Caesy Sauder (Bloomington). May the Lord grant these parents Godly wisdom as they raise their children.

We lift up in prayer several loved ones from our congregation who have been hospitalized this past month. May God grant them strength and healing and may they feel the love and prayers of their church family. They were Sis. Elsie Zimmerman, Sis. Ann Pfister, Sis. Colleen Leman (Bro. Don), Bro. Tim Stoller (Sis. Peg), Sis. Carol Metz (Bro. Gene), Bro. Dick Hoffman (Sis. Ann), and Sis. Judy Luginbuhl (Bro. Les). Our

thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sis. Wilma Fischer and Sis. Leigh Getz.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Psalm 116:15

Though there is sorrow, yet there is rejoicing as God fulfilled Sis. Mary Hoffman's (late Bro. Rudie) deep yearning to go home to be forever with the Lord. She was taken from this life into eternity on February 22. Her example of peace and contentment was an inspiration to all of us. We extend our heartfelt love and sympathy to her children: Elder Bro. Tom (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Dick (Sis. Ann), Bro. Mike (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Annie Leman (Bro. Jim), Sis. Linda Harris, and Julie Tibbs (Jim); and to her sister, Sis. Helen Leman, her brother, Bro. Stan Hodel (Sis. Verna); her 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

On February 24 our Sis. Dorothy Bittner gained her crown of victory as she was called home to her eternal rest. We extend our heartfelt love and sympathy to her loved ones left behind. May they find comfort in knowing she is safe in the arms of Jesus. Sis. Dorothy was a grandmother to Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Cheryl) of our congregation.

Funeral services were held Tuesday evening, March 9, for six-year old Noah Eckman. Noah had endured many struggles in his short life here on Earth but is now resting peacefully in Jesus' arms. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are extended to his parents and three sisters, Troy and Jennifer, Abbey, Lydia, and Rebekah Eckman, of Macomb, and to his grandparents, Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan

Rechkemmer, and his great-grandfather, Bro. Bill Fehr, of our Roanoke congregation. May God be their strength and comfort in their time of sorrow.

We also extend our love and sympathy to Jim and Julie Tibbs and family in the passing of Jim's father, James A. Tate. May God grant them comfort and peace.

What a joy and blessing it is when we can work and fellowship together while serving the Lord. The week of March 7 our World Relief Sewing Committee held its annual comforter marathon. Many were gathered in our church basement to knot comforters for the needy. Then on Monday evening, March 15, many gathered for our annual church cleaning.

We were blessed on Wednesday evening, March 10, as our Scripture Memory Class (K-5) presented their annual program of reciting scripture they had memorized through song.

May they tuck these verses in their hearts and remember them in years to come. May God bless the parents and teachers who labored on behalf of these children as they are our future church.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, visits, food and gifts at the time of my surgery and during my recovery. Your love and kindness was sincerely appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Joan Leman

We would like to thank you for the many deeds of love and kindness shown us during this time. Many of you touched Mom in a special way, enriching her life. Your expressions

of love and encouragement during her declining health and loss of eyesight were a real blessing to her and her family. May God bless you all. We sorrow in her passing, but rejoice in her victory.

The family of Mary Hoffman

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

Once again the Lord has revealed His teachings through ministering brethren. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) were visiting ministers this month. We give God our thanks for supplying the needs of our congregation and for blessing us with willing laborers.

Bro. Galen Rocke (Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Betty Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula, West Bend, IA) were joined in matrimony. May they feel the presence and guidance of the Lord in establishing their marriage.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch are first-time grandparents, along with Joe and Doris Haas (El Paso, IL). Bro. Tom and Sis. Lisa Haas are thankful that little Lauren Marie has arrived home safely after an extended stay at the hospital. May God continue to strengthen her day by day.

Others hospitalized this month included Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Chris Schweigert (Sis. Ida). We continue to pray God will keep them in His care.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the many deeds of kindness shown us and our families during the passing of our dear mother. The prayers, food, flowers, cards and generous donations will always be remembered. Also, through the years at the nursing home, your many prayers, visits, flowers, gifts and cards were greatly appreciated by her family. May God bless each one in a special way.

The family of Sis. Mary Bauer

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Dianne Wyss
Marcia Koch**

Ready to go, ready to bear,
Ready to watch and pray;
Ready to stand aside and give,
Till He shall clear the way.

Hymns of Zion #124

The Washington congregation was privileged to host the western World Relief meeting this month. It was a day of both information and inspiration as many brethren reported on the various relief projects that are presently supported. As the Lord clears the way, we all play a part whether we are "going, bearing, praying or giving."

Once again we want to lift up Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger in prayer as Bro. Ron continues to receive treatments and has been in the hospital. Truly, we all need the prayers of those we love to help us through the trying hours.

Many from our congregation have traveled to Rio Bravo this month to help in the work at the deaf village there. We pray not only for their safe passage, but also that hearts could be encouraged by their support and fellowship.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner recently encouraged the brothers and sisters to examine our lives as we approach Communion and the commemoration of the Lord's death and resurrection. Certainly, He is worthy of our complete and unreserved praise and obedience.

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

Rev. 5:12

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Tiffany Aschliman
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

We rejoice with three converts who are at peace with God and man and have expressed a desire to be baptized. Rachel Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean), Abby Reinhard (Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee) and Brad Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) are awaiting baptism. Our prayers are with them.

Our love and prayers are with John and Etta Steffen in the death of their infant grandson, Christopher Terry Steffen, on February 14. His parents are Christopher and Kelly Steffen.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Sis. Henrietta Baumann (Bro. Adam, Mansfield, OH) who passed away this month. Sis. Henrietta left behind numerous stepchildren who attend Bluffton. Bro. Don Gerber (Sis. Mary), Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Pat), Bro. Lester Gerber (Sis. Rosemary), Bro. Paul Gerber (Sis. Mary Jo), Sis. Pauline Gerber (Bro. Larry) and Sis. Lois Gerber (Bro. Harry) mourned the death of their dearly beloved step-

mother.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Wayne Baumgartner. Wayne's brother is Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary, Bluffton North). He left behind five sisters: Sis. Violet Meyer (Bro. Harold), Sis. Nova Steffen (Bro. Robert), Sis. Eileen Furrer (Bro. Glenn, Prescott, AZ), Sis. June Lehman (Bro. Harold, Wolcott, IN) and Rosina Baumgartner (Park Forrest, IL). Our congregation also shares in the loss of Sis. Devona Gerber's (Bro. Ralph, Dec.) brother - in - law, Lyle Gerber. We are prayerful that all of these dear ones will lean on our Lord in their time of need.

Spending time in the hospital this month were: Sis. Denise Steffen (Bro. Ed), Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner (Bro. Tom), Sis. Lolly Harter, Bro. Kenny Gilliom (Sis. Marie) and Bro. Roger Baumgartner. We hope that they will feel the love and prayers that we send their way.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. They include: Bros. Jim Furrer (Sis. Rowena, Prescott, AZ), Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North).

February 7 was the arrival date of Sydney Patrice Leyse, daughter of Jon and Angie Leyse. Her grateful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara Pulver welcomed another bundle of joy on February 13. Aubrey Lynn came home to Taylor, Chad and Morgan. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores Heyerly and Sis. Dulla Pulver.

Alyssia Danielle Cobarrubia was born on March 10 to Ted and Laurie

Cobarrubia. Her grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hackenjos.

February 22 was the day of the final sermon of our Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne). We have been blessed to have such faithful ministers serve our Bluffton congregation. We pray that Bro. Jim will feel the prayers of our church as he resigns his pulpit duty but continues on in his other church duties. We will miss his presence on the pulpit.

We rejoice with Bro. Byron Gerber (Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Brittany Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa, Bluffton North) as they have announced their engagement to the church. We wish them God's richest blessings in the coming months.

March 14 was the wedding day of Bro. Brian Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet) and Sis. Kim Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie). Our prayers are with this dear couple as they begin their walk of life together in the Lord.

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalm 150:6

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10

Many prayers were answered this month by the quick recovery of Matt Ringger, son of Bro. Steve and

Sis. Myra, after a sudden illness. And even more prayers were answered because Matt has answered the call of the Lord and has surrendered his life to Him. Our prayers continue to be with Matt as he works on his walk with the Lord.

We were blessed with the sweet songs of praise when the Peoria choir visited our congregation this month. Traveling with the Peoria choir were ministering brothers, Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol Anne) and Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra). We were thankful that these ministers and the choir were willing to share their God given talents with us.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Jim Furrer (Sis. Rowena, Prescott, AZ) minister unto us this month.

We were joyful to have two engagements this month. Sis. Ashley Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan) was announced to Bro. Vince Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary). The other couple was Sis. Brittany Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa) engaged to Bro. Byron Gerber (Bluffton, IN), son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat (Bluffton, IN). It is always an encouragement to see the Lord working in the lives of our young people. We pray that both couples will seek the Lord and look for His direction as they go through their engagement period.

We grieved this month with our Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary) at the loss of his brother, Wayne Baumgartner.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Rochelle Gerber (Bro. Rob) and her family, as she continues to spend time in the hospital. Our prayer is that all who may be going through tough times now could just cling to the promises of God.

"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

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

Greetings of love from Francesville! Even though we are going through "mad-cap March" as far as weather is concerned, the promise of delightful spring is before us.

The robins are busily building and happily singing while they are about their work. So, once again, we can see that God's plans are all in order and His design is perfect.

We were privileged to have a topical Bible Study presented by Bro. John Lehman of the Wolcott congregation. The topic was "Conditions of the Heart" and was quite insightful and gave us all cause to examine our heart's condition. How thankful we are that our brethren are willing to study and share the truth of the Bible with us. May we pray for and utilize the grace necessary to have a heart open to God as soil in which the seed of His Word can flourish.

We extend loving sympathy to Sis. Marian Gutwein and family as her son-in-law, Dean Hertzler, has passed away after a debilitating illness. May God wrap His loving arms of comfort around his widow, Janet, her children and the entire family circle.

The results of our recent nominations and balloting for church offices are as follows: Assistant SS Superintendent, Bro. Mark Wuethrich; Sunday school teachers - Bros. Larry Pledderer and Mike Putt and Sisters Peggy Huber,

Christine Kaeb, Tianne Overmyer, Gina Tanner and Kelly Zeltwanger; Church Trustee - Bro. Dale Pelsy; Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Wendell Anliker; Ushers - Bros. Harv Gutwein Jr., Bert Isch, and Doug Leman; Missionary Committee - Bro. Wally Bucher; and Parkview Haven Board - Bro. Dennis Leman. Let us thankfully affirm these loved ones as they willingly serve on behalf of all of us. Thank you also to all who are already serving!

We have had several loved ones going through trials of health this month. Maxine Boehning fell and injured herself in her home. Sis. Carol Gutwein had out-patient foot surgery and Bro. Walter Culp also spent some time in the hospital. Also, Bryce Murray, who is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Jessica Murray, had surgery this month. It is my hope and prayer that I have not omitted anyone in this article. Please know that our prayers go out to all who are ill and going through valleys of concern.

When life's afflictions batter you
Like waves upon the sand,
Remember to look up to God
And take His outstretched hand.
- *Sper*

Let us take seriously the command given in the Bible to "...love one another, as I have loved you" (John: 15:12). We can practice this command by fervent prayer for one another.

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus from the Remington congregation lovingly assisted our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein in the reading of the Memorandum from the Elder Conferences. The prayerful guidance brought forth gave us all pause for

thought and self-examination. May God grant us the grace to honor Him by prayerfully submitting to the directives given us through the earnest counsel of our Elders who through the Holy Spirit of God have been given the oversight of our precious faith.

Our Bible Class traveled to Purdue to participate in ACYF on March 14. We appreciate and support the love and endeavors of our Sunday School brethren in planning and supervising this activity for our youth.

Since this article will be published during the beautiful season of Easter and we will again rejoice in the Author and Finisher of our salvation, I would like to close with verses 7 and 15 from "Christ The Resurrected" from our Zion's Harp:

O, the lovely, glorious portal,
That o'er Jesus' grave I see:
"Jesus lives!" O words immortal,
Like a magnet drawing me!
"Jesus lives!" This, too, I see:
"Who believes shall live with Me!"

In my Saviour's resurrection
There is comfort; I am blest.
In His life my hopes renewing.
In His love my soul shall rest.
Everything I have in Thee,
Life and hope and victory.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

John 11:25-26

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Debbie Anliker**

Greetings from Indianapolis.

Signs of spring are beginning to pop up here in central Indiana. Reminders that the Lord is in control, bringing what was dormant back to life. What He does for the flowers in my garden He is willing to do in each of our lives.

We were blessed this month with a visit from Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN). We were reminded from Acts 4:12 that there is no name other than Jesus Christ where by we can be saved. We ask the Lord to richly bless them for their labors of love on our behalf.

We recently bid farewell to Bro. Nate, Sis. Sara, and Avery Huber. They left March 8 for seven weeks in Africa as part of their medical training. We pray the Lord will bless them with safe travels and wonderful opportunities to shine for Him.

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him..."

Psalms 37:7

INDIANA, LACROSSE Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father
above;
Sweep over my spirit forever I
pray,
In fathomless billows of love.

Gospel Hymns #746

We are thankful to hear that our convert, Ned Troxel, has felt God's forgiveness and feels at peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing Ned's testimony in the near future.

In March, we hosted our Invite – a – Friend weekend. We were thankful to have so many visitors to share in an uplifting weekend. Special thanks to Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) for sharing the Word with us.

Other visiting ministers in the past month were Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI).

We are happy to welcome Bro. Josh Johnson to our congregation. We also want to welcome Mark and Marinella Nedelcu and their children along with Marinella's mother, Maria, from Romania.

We have had several that have spent time in the hospital in the past month. Keith Elcock had surgery on his arm. Sis. Lorene Moser underwent surgery. Bro. Ed Frank also spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Lucille Nuest also has been ill. May God bless each of them with a speedy recovery.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

I greatly appreciated Sis. Carol Schrock's willingness to fill in as correspondent while I vacationed in Florida and Israel. Israel was a special time. I quote from a booklet I received "Finding Jesus at the Holy Places Today". "Today at the Holy Places Jesus is waiting for us to have a new encounter with Him, the living Lord, who is present in our midst. Normally we shall not find Jesus, the Crossbearer, when we pass through the dense crowds in the Via Dolorosa where the cries of the shopkeepers fill the air. Nor shall we be likely to find Him as we make our way through the Valley of Kidron, which is assuming more

and more the characteristics of our day. At times it will also be difficult for us to find Jesus at the sites of His sufferings, for the edifices or churches built over them give little or no impression of the events of long ago. And yet the same Jesus, who once lived, spoke, performed miracles and suffered here in Jerusalem and Galilee, is waiting for us at these places. Today He yearns to reveal Himself again as the living Lord to human hearts that seek Him." Yes, He is wherever we are willing to receive Him.

Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein had back surgery for a ruptured disc on February 19. He is doing better but still has some pain. We are happy to welcome him back to church.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) presented the "Bring Them Up" seminar on February 27-28 to our congregation. He also stayed for Sunday. Other visiting ministers during the month were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN). It was a great blessing to have them visit here with their families. The spiritual food encouraged us.

On February 29, the engagement for marriage of Sis. Amanda Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda) and Bro. Trent Regier (Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay, Princeville, IL) was made known. We are rejoicing with them as they seek God's will in their lives.

Representatives from many churches attended Gateway Woods meeting on Saturday, March 13. It was an interesting time of information and fellowship.

The day when Jesus stood alone
And felt the hearts of men like
stone,
And knew He came but to atone –
That day "He held His peace."

They witnessed falsely to His
word,
They bound Him with a cruel cord,
And mockingly proclaimed Him
Lord;
"But Jesus held His peace."

They spat upon Him in the face,
They dragged Him on from place
to place,
They heaped upon Him all dis-
grace;
"But Jesus held His peace."

My friend, have you for far much
less,
With rage, which you called righ-
teousness,
Resented slights with great dis-
tress?
Your Saviour "held His peace."
—*Streams in the Desert*

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Paula Haab

We welcome warmer weather, the green leaves and the time of planting. It reminds us that God's promises are true. It is also Easter time when we commemorate Jesus Christ, God's only Son, suffering and shedding His blood on the cross for the sins of each and every one. Thanks be to God!

One of our many blessings this past month has been to have visiting ministers share the labors with our own ministers. Bros. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Rhonda, Bluffton, IN), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) and Elder Bro. Bill

Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) were appreciated.

Sis. Ginger (Stan) Price and Bro. Don (Sis. Ruth) Beer needed to have surgery. We pray God will continue to grant them healing.

February 21 was an evening of sweet fellowship when so many of us got together to share a meal and have an auction where we could give of our abundance to help the needy.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Although Bro. Harold resides at Carriage Manor, their family was able to be in church with Sis. Kathryn and then enjoy a meal together with Bro. Harold.

We are thankful for the safe travels of so many of our church family. Some were with church work teams or were able to visit friends and family in far away churches.

So much focus is on taking care of our heart by losing weight, exercising and eating healthful food. More important is to take care of our spiritual heart by losing the weight of the burden of sin, by exercising trust in God and praise Him, and by "eating and digesting" the Word of God.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Rochelle Ward
Beth Virkler

Congratulations are due to Loren and Jenni Honegger on the birth of their first daughter, Abby Grace, born on March 16. Grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger (Forrest, IL) and Kirk and Jeanne Johnson (Bethalto, IL), welcome her along with big brothers, Troy and Cory.

Also local grandparents, Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin, are rejoicing over the birth of their twin

granddaughters born to Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Angie Moser of Rockville, CT. After a month of bedrest for mom, little Ella Sue and Anna Rose entered the world safely.

The Remington church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary/homecoming on September 12. If you spent any part of your childhood in our congregation and a story comes to mind as you read this, please write it down as a blessing for the younger generations to glean from the history. Send to Jayne Price, 610 N. Maine Street, Remington, IN 47977. As our society speeds ahead, faster and faster, let's be inspired to help our children and grandchildren remember the past.

Our hospital list this month includes: Bro. Elmer (Sis. Marilyn) Bahler, Sis. Diane (Bro. Phil) Isabell and grandson, Blaize Reyes (Megan).

INDIANA VALPARAISO

At our annual business meeting earlier this year, Bro. Dennis Weiss took the place of outgoing trustee, Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger. Thank you to all who have served in this position and in other positions throughout our church. Your dedication and commitment are very much appreciated.

In February, several brothers and sisters served to the entire church a lovely dinner to honor God for His love. It was enjoyed by all. Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville) came to share the Word with us. We thank God for bringing him and for his message. How thankful we are that the love of the Brotherhood extends throughout all of our churches. It is sweet to

enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In this Easter season, let us take time from our earthly troubles and trials to think upon the empty tomb. Let us think of the hope we have in our risen Lord and Savior.

A troubled world can find
Blessed reassurance
And enduring peace of mind.
For though we grow discouraged
In this world we're living in,
There is comfort just in knowing
God has triumphed over sin...
For our Saviour's Resurrection
Was God's way of telling men
That in Christ we are eternal
And in Him we live again...
And to know life is unending
And God's love is unending, too,
Makes our daily tasks and burdens
So much easier to do...
For the blessed Easter Story
Of Christ the living Lord,
Makes our earthly sorrow nothing
When compared with this reward.

—Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Diana Houston
Nettie Haab

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

I Cor. 11:28

Many thanks to Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) for helping out in our ministry with Communion. Many thanks also to other visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Loretta, Remington, IN),

Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Brad Eisenmann, (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), who was so kind to come and help with the reading of the Conference letter. With that and Communion this past month, let us always examine ourselves, and judge ourselves to be worthy of our walk with the Lord.

As the college kids are out on spring break, may they have a time of refreshing and closeness with the Lord in seeking out their plans for the future. We pray for God's protection over them and pray for those that are lost and searching for that something to fill the void, hopefully God will fill that void!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lisa Furrer
Heidi Bahler**

Our assembly benefits each worship service when the Holy Word is preached through God's inspiration. Recently we welcomed Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and so appreciate their sincerity.

God has revealed His special plan of marriage in the lives of our Sis. Sherice Bahler (Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla) and Bro. Mike Reinhard from Detroit, MI (Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, Croghan - Naumburg, NY). Their engagement was announced February 22, and we look forward to a June 20 wedding.

Fourteen - year - old Joshua Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) was hospitalized to help in the treatment of rheumatic fever, and now is at home slowly recuperating. May we prayerfully remember him and

his family during this time when much patience is surely needed.

A busload from our Morton Church came for a Sunday spent together in worship. After church we again met at the fellowship hall for supper and then a song service, including the Mortonaires with their inspiring men's group hymns. We appreciate your wives and children coming along, too!

West Lafayette hosted Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship for the Bible Class, and we trust it was a blessing for all the students and their teachers, Bros. Jon and Mark Schwab.

What an uplift to hear the good news of God speaking peace to the hearts of both Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) and Austin Harris (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott). We pray for His continued presence in their busy, young lives.

Just this week we received word that Dan Stoller (Sandra, Remington, IN) passed away. Our condolences to his family from our assembly: Bev Blume, Sis. Frances Bahler (Elder Bro. Alfred) and Bro. Richard (Sis. Viola).

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

Isaiah 25:8

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Laurie Schulz
Brenda Schulz**

Greetings! Elder Bro. Doug Schock was here for our Memorandum. It was a blessed evening. There are many areas we should improve on. We thank Bro. Doug Schock and our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall for their efforts, and may God bless and provide for them

accordingly.

Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) was our other visiting minister. We appreciate him coming down to help when two of our ministers were gone.

Sis. Ella Wagler has passed away. We extend our sympathy to her niece, Marilyn Anderson, and her niece, Sis. Elaine Eisenmann, and Bro. Paul; and their children, Mark and Jamy, Matt and Monica, Sis. Monica, and Tom Eisenmann.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for their labors of love in sharing the reading of the Memorandum with us. In II Timothy 4:2 we read "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." Curiosity led me to turn to Webster for some definitions.

Reprove: Express disapproval of or to.

Rebuke: Reprimand sharply.

Exhort: Urge strongly, advise or warn sharply.

With loving concern for our spiritual welfare we received all three of these directions. May we be appreciative and obedient.

We rejoice with Maria Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) who now feels at peace with God and man and is looking forward to her baptism. What a blessing to give your youthful years to the Lord and commit your future into God's hands early in life.

Jonah Moore is now a big brother, as his little sister, Zaida

Elizabeth (Wes and Kim), arrived on February 22. Happy grandparents are Dave and Jo Schneider and Scott and Julie Torkelson, and Gene Moore.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

"Why are you invited?" I was asked recently at a wedding. I paused a moment. The question was asked in all good will—was I related to the bride, the groom, or was I a close friend?

The question made me ponder another wedding feast—that one we anticipate in heaven. Why am I invited? Why are you? What is there about my relationship with God, that I should be invited to the wedding of His Son, let alone be a part of the wedding party? It is nothing I have done, but only God's grace and unending mercy, that will allow any of us to be present at that glorious wedding feast.

Those who have visited to share God's precious Word with us are Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City), Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington) and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont). We thank them for their efforts on our behalf, and thank our Almighty Father for providing faithful brothers and sisters who are willing to travel to be with us, and who remain true to His Word.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We rejoice with Luke Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) as he turns to God to lead his life. Our prayers are with him and the others who have made this important step in life.

We thank our Elder Bro. Jon

Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) for sharing the Memorandum with us. We appreciated Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie staying with us for Sunday and Bro. Jon's help on the pulpit. Our other visiting ministers were Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). We are grateful for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Zion's Harp #41

We welcomed Jessica Moser into the family of God the weekend of February 21-22. Our prayer for her is that God's abundant grace will be with her each day of her life. Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) was here to assist Bro. Dennis Warner in this most precious occasion. Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) were also here for the weekend. We thank these brethren for laboring on our behalf.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Eleanor Popkes, Louise Tolvstad (John), Sis. Helen Knobloch (Bro. Wilbert) and Sis. June Knobloch (Bro. Delbert). Wishing each one God's healing touch as they recover.

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

Isaiah 25:8

We had several in our congregation that bid farewell to a loved one

this past month. May God's comfort and peace be with each one who is mourning a loss in their family circle. Bro. Doug Schwenk from Goodfield, IL was released from his bodily ailments and passed into his eternal rest. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger in this loss. Sis. Emma Feucht is mourning the loss of her sister, Louise DeCarlo. Our sympathy is with Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter in the passing of Jerome's sister-in-law, Lisa Hartter. Bro. Don Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) was here for the weekend when he was stricken with a heart attack and passed away the following morning. Grieving his loss in our congregation is his mother-in-law, Sis. Emma Meyer, along with Sis. Doreen Meyer, Bro. George Meyer and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer.

Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer's lives were blessed with the arrival of Javen Raymond on March 17. Jessica and Erica are thrilled to have a baby brother. Javen's grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer. Sis. Emma Meyer is a great-grandmother to him.

We bid farewell to Kouri and Nora Wysong and boys as they have moved from our area to Elgin, IL. May God's blessings be upon them as they settle into their new community.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Rosalie Wiegand
Sharla Wiegand

On February 21, Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) held a slide presentation on Haiti at the Fellowship Center. On Sunday we also had vis-

iting ministers, Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA). We always appreciate visitors!

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of Renee Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya), Dan Lanz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet), and Candace Wagenbach (Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene) the weekend of February 28 and 29. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) helped carry out this work.

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) came to share in the reading of the Memorandum on March 13. We are very thankful for the willingness of the Elders to share concerns and encouragement with our congregations.

IOWA BLOOMFIELD-PULASKI Barbara Schock

We began a new chapter in our church history this month as we moved from the old church in Pulaski to our new church building in Bloomfield. We held the last services in Pulaski on February 22, and on February 29 we held the first worship services in the new church. We have many fond memories of the old church, and look forward to making new memories in our new house of worship. We are still in awe of all the volunteers that came and helped on our new church. We cannot thank all the volunteers enough for all that they did. We also have many memories of the time that we spent with all of those that came out to help.

On March 7, we had our annual Invite – A – Friend weekend. We enjoyed getting to meet new people and getting to know others better. Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy,

Burlington, IA) was here to share the weekend with us and we thank him for sharing the Word with us. May God bless him for his efforts.

We were also blessed with other visiting brothers this month. They were Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL). We thank them for sharing the Word with us and may God bless each of them. We always appreciate having a visiting minister come. "... as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." (Romans 10:15)

March – Comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb. ("... and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6)

April – April showers ("There shall be showers of blessings: Send them upon us, O Lord", Tabernacle Hymns #208, vs. 3)

May – May flowers ("I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." Song of Solomon 2:1)

Another spring is upon us. The grass is turning green. Flowers are starting to come up. There are new little calves in the fields. Leaves are starting to grow on the trees. Each one is a miracle. There are miracles all around us. We only need to look. As we approach Easter, we are reminded of the greatest miracle of all – Jesus Christ giving His life so that we may live.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to sincerely thank each one of you who remembered me with prayers, cards, phone calls, and many deeds of kindness during my recent heart surgery and recovery at home. I truly felt the power of prayer and the love of the brethren

during this trying time. May God bless each of you and may you always feel His nearness.

Humbly in Love,
Bro. Lloyd Wettstein

IOWA, WEST BEND Betty Wirtz Lori Skoglund

We are thankful for the ministers who were with us this month and so willingly brought us the Word: Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA).

On March 14 we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Carl Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane) and Sis. Sara Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail). Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) was among the many visitors and shared in the ministry on this special day. Also, Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) was here and offered prayer and support. We rejoice with this dear couple and pray that they will have many years to be together and live for the Lord.

My Heart's Wish

A marriage in the Lord
Is honorable in all;
When anchored in His Word,
And guided by His call...

...May Godly love increase,
Whatever may befall!
Seek first His love and Peace,
And heed His Spirit's call.

—Henry Beer

Little Benson Fehr (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lonnie) was in the hospital for a few days but is home and able to be out again. As we write this, Marie Fisher is in the hospital and

quite ill. She needs our prayers.

Sis. Polly (Bro. Norm) Zaugg, Irene (Dean) Banwart, Kay (Robert) Banwart, and Margaret (Eli, Jr.) Grimm have our sympathy at the sudden passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Donald (Sis. Mary Lou) Streitmatter of Princeville, IL.

Recently one of our home ministers read the following scripture:

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

He commented that none of these things can separate us from the love of God. But that there is one thing that was not mentioned – and that is our own will. Ultimately, it is we, ourselves, that keep us from the love of God.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Eiko Nozawa**

We enjoyed other guests from the States on the first Sunday of March. Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress from Bradford, Illinois, were here with us. Our February guest, Bro. Neil Schmidgall, was his war buddy for a year in Vietnam. Bro. Neil came with his wife, Sis. Linda. They are from Morris, Minnesota.

After visiting a little village where their camp once was during the war, accompanying their wives, they stopped in Japan. Our congregation visited the small village and their camp of 38 years ago, through Bro. Larry’s slides.

Mrs. Masami Iwama was a faith-

ful attendant of Shioda Church until her husband got very sick and weak. He recently passed away and she lives alone at home. Our thoughts go out to her. May God comfort her and give her strength to live each day. We hope to see her again soon at church on Sundays.

Lately, on my way to work, I see farmers spraying peach trees. Under these peach trees, one special kind of weeds are opening the buds. When their tiny pink flowers cover a whole peach field, it is so pretty! I think that the riches of Solomon can’t beat the beauty of the wild flowers.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...”

James 1:19

This was the verse of the day recently for our family devotions and the children had a time at first getting it right and mixed around the “swift” and “slow”. But as we, their parents, stopped them and made them think about what they were saying, I have to admit I felt convicted that they had probably seen more than enough of the opposite in me. However, I am thankful that the Word is living and can speak to our hearts daily and that the Lord’s mercy and grace are new and abounding every morning for those who acknowledge their need for Him.

Much to our joy, two couples from the US were able to worship with us on February 29. They were Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Neil and Sis.

Linda Schmidgall (Morris, MN). They had been to Vietnam the previous week together as that was where Bros. Larry and Neil were stationed nearly 40 years ago. They came to Japan during that time for “R and R,” so it was very special for them to be back to both places after so many years.

We thank Bro. Larry for his part in the afternoon Bible class on “The parable of the sower” (we are striving for that hundredfold!) and for the interesting slide show of pictures from years gone by later on in the evening. Several of us from church were able to spend more time with them during the week, too, and we thank them for their love and fellowship.

The Klaus family is very thankful for Sis. Arlene Banwart (Bro. Jerry, Congerville, IL) giving of herself and coming to help us out for a few weeks. We recently extensively remodeled our home and were badly in need of help to reorganize. The Lord sent hard working and loving Sis. Arlene and we thank Him for His goodness! May He bless you richly, Sis. Arlene! We look forward to her worshiping with us the next two Sundays and meeting our church family.

As I wrote in previous months’ articles, if there is anyone interested in helping out our family of seven children and being an encouragement to those in our small church, please contact us at: jana@klaus.jp or Andrew and Jana Klaus, 425-31 Nagafusa-cho, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, Japan 193-0824. Phone is +81-426-68-4064. We continue to lift it up to the Lord in prayer and trust He will continue to provide for our needs as He has so faithfully in the past.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Sally Strahm

Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) worshipped with us on Wednesday, February 18. Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha) also ministered to us this month. Thank you for your labors on our behalf.

Two precious babies have been born within our congregation! On February 21, Bro. Victor and Sis. Jananne Menold welcomed Chloe Neil into their home. Alexa and Lauren are excited to have a little sister! Grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold and Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn Hartter. Kellen Joseph was born on March 7 to first-time parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tiffany Menold. Grandparents are Bro. Joe D. and Sis. Kathy Rokey and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

We are thankful when God leads two lives together in holy matrimony. Sis. Brianna Miller from Sabetha, KS (Tim Miller, Portland, OR, and Carol Miller, Gresham, OR) and Bro. Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie) announced their engagement. They are planning a June wedding.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Lillian Esslinger who had surgery on her arm due to a recent fall and Grant Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer) who had surgery as well. May God continue to heal them.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dan Edelman on the death of his brother, Moses Edelman, as well as to Moses' nephews, Bro. Wayne Edelman and Bro. Earl Edelman. Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm also have our sympathy re-

garding the death of their sister-in-law, Lisa Hartter (Atchison, KS).

April 18 is the beginning of Sunday evening singings in lieu of Wednesday evening services.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) brought timely messages on the pulpit. The time they spent with us was much appreciated.

On February 25, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) stopped through here on their way South. We were pleased to have a visiting minister for Wednesday evening services.

Craig Colegrove, son of Jimmy and Pam Jackson, and grandson of Sis. Ethel Smith, was hospitalized a few days for injuries from a truck accident. He is recovering. Sis. Ethel thanks all that have helped in any way and requests prayers for Craig's soul and body.

On March 7, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) ministered and brought the Communion exhortation. It is a time to fully focus on our own lives and personal walk with the Lord.

The weekend of March 14 we hosted a group of young folks from various congregations. Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) spoke to the group Saturday evening along with a singing and held Sunday services. The true Word that they brought forth was a blessing to all ages.

LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

The Lord blessed us this past month with visiting ministers and families: Bros. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), and Steve Martin (Eureka, IL). Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler shared Communion services with us. We thank them all; may God richly bless them for their efforts. Do visit again.

Unfortunately, we again had a conflict with invite - a - guest weekend, but were wonderfully blessed to attend our granddaughter's (Chelsie Bahr) proving and baptism at Kiowa on March 13-14.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanette Plattner

We rejoice with Wayne and Carrie Grimm who were announced with peace and we look forward to hearing their testimonies, Lord willing, on April 3.

Several have been hospitalized or had surgery. Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger and Bro. Carl Strahm (Sis. Sharon). May they trust in Him who will provide for their every need.

We have been blessed with ministering Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH). Bros. Clint Schmidt and Mike Baumann were with us for an invite - a - guest weekend. Bro. Mike had a separate message at the Fellowship Center on encouraging us to keep the faith. We thank him and all the ministering brethren for sharing in the Word. It was an extra blessing to have visitors from across the country being with us for the invite - a -

guest weekend.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter on the recent loss of their daughter – in – law, Lisa Hartter (Doug), of Effingham, KS. May God fill the void as only He can.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger are excited to be first-time grandparents. Kellen Joseph Menold was welcomed by his parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tiffany Menold (Bern, KS), on March 7.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Brianna Miller (Tim Miller, Portland, OR, and Carol Miller, Gresham, OR) and Bro. Brent Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie, Bern, KS). Lord willing, they plan to be married on June 13.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks to all our family and friends for the beautiful cards and also phone calls we received for our 60th wedding anniversary. It was much appreciated and God's blessings to all of you.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

The Wichita congregation had a special opportunity to hear Bro. Tim Sauder give his presentation on Gateway Woods the evening of February 29. I personally marvel at the insight and leadership opportunities which the Lord provided throughout the years in order that there could be a facility like Gateway Woods.

The following weekend, we were again blessed. A number of Kansas State students came for the week-

end. We appreciate their youthfulness and the blending of their voices in songs of praise. Another plus was the fact that Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley) and their wives, Sis. Jan and Sis. Jane, were present for the weekend. In lieu of Sunday afternoon services, the Brothers along with Bro. Max Reimschisel, shared the minutes of the recent Elder Conference.

We often hear the saying, "If it happens twice, it will happen thrice." So, the third activity that weekend was a supper provided for the church by the Sunday School as a fund raiser. Those in charge put together a lovely meal. The tables were tastefully decorated using the theme "Fishers of Men".

On a recent Sunday morning, I was in the kitchen with my sister, Ann Greiner, when a couple enroute home to Iowa came in. The brother commented that he had been in the Wichita church when we held the dedication of the new sanctuary in 1975. Then he and my sister reminisced that event. It was one hot July day with 109-degree temperature. The church was packed with visitors. The air conditioning was strained. When the women turned the electric roasters on during the afternoon service, we were suddenly in the dark. No lights, no cooling, no sound system. My husband, Godfrey, was an employee of the electric utility company and sent in a call for help. After replacing the transformer, the power was eventually restored and the rest is history.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber
Betty Baltic

We were privileged on the week-end of February 28-29 to witness the testimony and baptism of Sis. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) at Rittman, OH. What a blessing it was to share this joy with the many brethren, family, and friends whom so willingly gave of their time, love and kindness.

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and their family were with us on March 7. May God bless you for being with us and sharing the Word through the inspiration of God.

We wish to thank our visiting Sisters from Tremont, IL, and Morris, MN, when singing at the nursing home on March 10.

Other visitors this month were from Elgin, IL, Chicago, IL, and Fairbury, IL. May the Lord richly bless each one of you for coming to worship with us.

We welcome your visit to Lexington. You may contact Bro. Doug German (859) 224-8710, Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541, Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574, or Bro. Dan Baltic (502) 696-9979.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Rosario, Claudia, and Gloria Gonzalez

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

Psalms 117

We can see God's power every morning when He gives us a new day. The purpose is that all men

praise and glorify His name.

This past month our Sis. Eloisa Aguilar had hernia surgery. She is recovering little by little.

The first weekend of this month our church was full. We had visitors from nine of our churches in the U.S. We enjoyed the time that they spent with us sharing God's love. Among them was ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk who preached God's Word this weekend. It is interesting to hear some of the comments by people waiting to see "Dr. Loren". Someone wonders why anyone would do this and another replies "Oh, God sends them to help us see better." We are thankful God receives the glory.

Meet Bro. Roberto Sanchez:

My name is Roberto Sanchez and I am 67 years old. I have lived in San Cristobal (about a 10 minute drive from Ixtlan) for 55 years. The first time I went to the Apostolic Christian Church was because my wife had a problem with her eyes. She needed help with her physical sight and she received it, but I realized that I needed spiritual sight. So that is how I started to attend church and I really like how they explained the Word of God. I knew what was right and wrong in the eyes of God, but I didn't make a decision until I realized that I needed to repent and confess my sins, and stop doing the things that were not pleasing to God. When I did finally give my life to Him, I knew that I had to stop doing what was wrong. It is not a game. After I made confession of my sins, I felt free of guilt. It felt so good to talk to Marshall and Lalo. During this time, I went through a difficult and sad situation in my life. My wife was not ready to make the decision to follow the Lord with me, and this

was discouraging. However, I learned that I needed to completely surrender to the Lord and that He was the only One who could help me in any situation, because His grace is sufficient.

I was baptized on July 13, 2003. Now that I believe in Him, I trust Him. My desire is that my wife will also one day surrender her life to Christ. I pray every day that the Lord would touch her heart. Before going to sleep, I also pray that all would come to know Him. I also think we should invite people to church. Everyone needs to hear the Word.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Once again we have been blessed with two new little babies to our church. Savannah Eve Steffen (David and Tanya) was welcomed home by her two older sisters, Brooke and Cheyenne, along with grandpa and grandma, Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta.

Jerry and Annie Link also welcomed a new addition to their home, James Gerard. Joanna and William are enjoying their new little brother along with grandpa and grandma, Bro. Fred and Sis. Donna Oesch.

There was a Family Night where there were multiple activities. Stuffed teddy bears were made for the Children's Hospice, 50 hygiene kits were put together in tote bags that were decorated by the kids for a Work Ready Group, which is local. Also, we continue to make prenatal kits. Thanks to all who came and participated in making the night a success.

Our prayers are with Dennis Koehl who was recently in the hos-

pital for a few days.

On March 11, Leonard Blough, the beloved son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Ella Louise (Oesch), was called home. He left many brothers and sisters along with other relatives and friends to mourn his death. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Sis. Marilyn Meylan with the news that their son, Wade (Amanda), has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. We pray that the Lord will continue to walk beside Wade and help him follow the straight and narrow path.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jill Weiss as she mourns the death of her husband, Ron. We also pray for their children, Chad and Brooke, that they may feel Christ's comfort of love during these trying times.

May the Lord provide His healing touch where it is His will. Sis. Vicki Ramseyer, Sis. Esther Waibel, Bro. Windsor Mosher, and Bro. Dave (Sis. Margaret) have all spent time under physician care this past month. We also pray for Sis. Connie Pashak as she heals from a fall.

We praise God for His faithfulness in the safe return of our dear ones in faith, Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak, who were serving in Haiti. Our prayers are with all

those who are still in Haiti. May the Lord protect and guide them.

We were blessed in the past month to have ministering brothers visit our congregation. Our thanks go out to Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for their service. May the Lord richly provide for them both.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7

March 13-14, our Bay City congregation was blessed to have many visitors from the Eureka, Tremont, and Remington young groups. It was such a blessing to see our congregation filled and to hear the beautiful singing. We thank the Lord for His many blessings.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Jamie Bahr

Krista Wieland

We are happy to share the news and engagement of our Bro. Mike Reinhard to Sis. Sherice Bahler of Wolcott, IN. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard of Croghan, NY, and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler of Wolcott, IN.

We are blessed to have another young soul answer the call of Jesus. Kristi Baran, daughter of Craig and Sis. Pat Baran, began her walk with the Lord. We need to continue to pray for the youth of our church.

May God bless new parents, Ryan and Sheri Maibach. Jacob Benjamin is the grandson of Ben III and Barb Maibach.
Sis. Ann Tachar and Sis. Linda

Shaw were both hospitalized this month. We pray for a speedy recovery for both.

We pray that grace go with our Sis. Eva Kotecz as she is moving away from the area.

As we approach the Easter season, may we find hope in the promise of the empty tomb, wherein lies our salvation.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS LaRae Dill

Our congregation has offered many prayers for Maxine Larson, as she underwent a serious surgery this month. We miss the presence and grace of this sweet lady on Sundays, and look forward to her return to good health.

The Deragisch family is anticipating two summer weddings. Two of Dan and Lola Deragisch's children have announced their engagement. Brent is engaged to Tina Bucetich, daughter of Tom and Jana Bucetich of Hibbing, MN. The wedding is set for August 14. Tera is engaged to Justin Runquist, son of Jim and Maureen Runquist of Eagan, MN, with the wedding being planned for July 16. Congratulations!

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Don and Sis. Bernadine Miller, as well as to the entire Miller family. Jean Ishaug, wife of Kelly Ishaug, and sister to Bro. Don passed away at the age of 52, following a long illness.

We're all glad to see Sis. Ethel Bednarski back in Minnesota after spending the winter months in the San Diego, CA, area.

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and

verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Psalms 37:3-5

We appreciated Bro. Duane Metzger's message on these verses during his and Sis. Ruth's recent visit to Minneapolis. We also enjoyed visits from these ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Leroy Messner and Sis. Joanne (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Tom Troxel and Sis. Luann (LaCrosse, IN).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Heidi Nohl

Katie Koehl

Bro. Byron and Sis. Julie Koehl welcomed another precious son into their family on March 6. Zachary Allen joins Brady and Patrick. Grandparents are Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl and Jerry and Audrey Cline. Josh and Marcy Sundheim are thankful first-time parents to Clint Joshua, also born on March 6. Grandparents are Steve and Vikki Sundheim and Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf. We pray God will grant grace and wisdom to these parents.

Renee Luthi and Matthew Konz have announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Tony and Nancy Konz.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Frank Messner (Sis. Gladys), Amber Jones (Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Doug Koehl (Sis. Maxine) and Bro. Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen). We trust God will continue to provide for them and grant His healing hand.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

The mid-winter Elder Conference was held at Congerville, IL. We are thankful we have guidance to enter the narrow gate with the watchful concern of our shepherds.

Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Marylou) underwent surgery on his ankle. With God's healing mercies, he is again gathering with us.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank my dear family and church family for prayers and cards I received after my surgery. God bless you all.

Sis. Julia Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:11

We certainly appreciate Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) speaking the oracles of God to us recently. Many thanks for your efforts, Bro. Bill.

"And as they did eat, Jesus took break, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, take, eat: this is my body.

And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

And he said unto them, this is my

blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until the day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Mark 14:22-25

Passover is believed to be the oldest continuously observed holiday of the human race. Out of this observance came Holy Communion as commanded by Jesus at the Last Supper. This solemn occasion draws us together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Administering Communion was our Elder Bro. Don Braker who was assisted by retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti. We greatly appreciate the labors of our Elder brethren.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Wendy Braker
Becky Marti

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on February 21-22 when we could hear the testimony, witness the baptism and then greet our new Sis. Haley Braker (Bro. Jay and Sis. Sharon). We appreciate Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) being with us to assist in this. We also thank Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) for being willing to minister the Word to us this past month.

We are thankful that God has provided another ministering brother for our congregation. We give Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy Braker our prayerful support as Bro. Greg has been given this responsibility. May God provide the needed grace as only He can do.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger

at the loss of her sister, Jean Ishaug.

Our prayers are with Sis. Hilda Stefan (Bro. Willie) as she is in the hospital with serious health problems at the time of this writing.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Krista Banwart

This past month our visiting ministers were Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) was also in St. Louis but unable to worship with us as he was not feeling well. We trust he is feeling better by now and thank him as well as the other brothers for their traveling efforts which always bring us encouragement.

As summer approaches and vacation plans begin, we again extend a warm invitation to any who would be coming to or passing through Saint Louis. If you wish to gather with us on a Wednesday evening, contact ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk re. Bible study location. As God's children, we are traveling every day on a journey towards Heaven. May we consistently look to Him for direction ... and seek to find the JOY in the JOurneY.

The Right

We were born unworthy ... but

God chose to forgive

Because our debt He freely paid ...
 we are free to live.

And though a wrong may come our way ... by His example we
 Are called to be forgiving ... that
 we could remain free.

Calvary is calling and this message
 it must tell ...

We who were first forgiven, must
 forgive as well.

Christ did not harbor bitterness

that darkest of dark nights
 It was about His love for us and
 not about His rights.
 And so before the throne of grace
 we lay our burdens down
 And thank Him that He chose a
 cross though He deserved a
 crown.
 And lay down our ideas about our
 own rights and what's fair
 And give to Him our deepest hurt,
 our anger and despair
 He can take the hardest things
 that we will ever face ...
 And use them for His good if we
 are walking in His grace.
 And as we give Him full control ...
 He will help us live
 A life that is forgiven ... and will-
 ing to forgive.

"For if ye forgive men their tres-
 passes, your heavenly Father will
 also forgive you: But if ye forgive not
 men their trespasses, neither will
 your Father forgive your tres-
 passes."

Matthew 6:14-15

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Susan Haerr

"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;"

Eccles. 3:1-2

We wish to express our sympathy
 to the family of Bro. Mike and Sis.
 Luann Knapp at the death of Sis.
 Luann's mother, Sis. Dorothy
 Bittner, of Roanoke, IL.

As well, we express our sympa-
 thy to the family of Bro. Mike and
 Sis. Cheryl Stratton at the passing
 of Bro. Mike's mother, Pansy

Stratton, of Palmyra, MO. May God
 bless each of these families with
 many special memories and a com-
 fort that only God can bring. Their
 victory is won!

Thank you to Elder Bro. Charles
 Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL)
 for helping our Elder Bro. Kent with
 the Memorandum and for using the
 gift of ministry to bless us on
 Sunday as well. God bless you. A
 special thank you to Bro. James
 Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ) for
 blessing us with God's Word also
 this month.

Taylor hosted our semi-annual
 Invite - A - Guest weekend on Feb-
 ruary 28-29. God bless all those who
 made the effort to spend time with
 us that weekend.

As the time for Holy Communion
 and Easter approaches, may we all
 become more like the One who gave
 everything for us.

"This is my commandment,
 That ye love one another, as I have
 loved you."

John 15:12

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We were thankful to have minis-
 tering Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL)
 with us for the weekend of March
 20-21. We enjoyed having a potluck
 dinner followed by a singing Sunday
 evening. May the Lord richly bless
 Bro. Greg and his family for remem-
 bering us in their travels.

The women have spent several
 afternoons in March working on
 quilts for World Relief as well as
 sewing school uniforms. May each
 one feel a blessing as we use the time
 and talent that the Lord has pro-
 vided us with.

We rejoiced with Bro. Dan and
 Sis. Delores Reinhard in the an-
 nouncement of the engagement of
 their son, Bro. Mike Reinhard (De-
 troit, MI), to Sis. Sherice Bahler
 (Wolcott, IN). May they look to the
 Lord for guidance and direction as
 they make plans to unite their lives
 together.

On March 12, little Gabriel Joel
 joined siblings, Sis. Kristin, Sarah,
 Bethany and Hannah. Happy par-
 ents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan
 Reinhard (Peoria, IL) and grand-
 parents are Bro. Dan and Sis.
 Delores Reinhard and Bro. Paul and
 Sis. Rhoda Meister (Peoria, IL). Sis.
 Norma Conde would also like to an-
 nounce the arrival of her new
 granddaughter, Julia Kathleen.
 Julia is welcomed home by parents,
 Karl and Kimberly Askins, and sib-
 lings, Joshua and Olivia. May these
 families feel the blessings that these
 miracles from God bring into their
 hearts and homes.

Our heart went out to the family
 of Polly Grau Peebles in her death
 on February 21. May they feel com-
 fort and solace from God at this
 time. Our prayers have also ex-
 tended to Sis. Berdena Widrick and
 Sis. Loretta Graves in their recent
 illnesses. We are thankful that Sis.
 Loretta has been able to return
 home from the hospital and pray
 that she may continue to regain her
 strength each day.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Our dear Sis. Louise Graf, 91,
 went to her eternal reward Febru-
 ary 19. Her husband, Bro. Ernest,
 who was a minister, passed away in
 1994. Sis. Louise was an example of
 hospitality and charity. She is the
 mother of our Elder Bro. David Graf

(Sis. Barbara) and the other children are: sons, Ernest (Vicki), Stephen (Charlotte) and Roger (Sharon); and daughters, Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Gary) Maibach, Sis. Louise (Bro. Glen) Riggerbach, Sis. Rose (Bro. Marvin) Luginbuhl, and Becky DelPropost. There are 25 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.

We rejoice that Christina Steidl has turned to the Lord in repentance. May God give her grace to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

We welcome Sis. Gerri O'Brien to assemble with us, as she has returned from Connecticut and plans to make her home here.

We are sorry that Sis. Janet Graf, Sis. Martha Palitto, Sis. Esther Graf and Bro. Joe Grossenbacher have been hospitalized. May the Lord strengthen them to feel His presence.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

February 28-29 was a very special weekend when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Paul (George and Becky Suvar) and Nicole (Bro. Don and Sis. Karen Steffen) Suvar. What a blessing to welcome our new brother and sister-in-faith into the fold. We thank Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) who were here to carry out this important work of the Lord.

Other visiting ministers with us this month were Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for their efforts and taking time in their busy

schedules to worship with us.

Our prayers remain with Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder as their son, Will, continues to serve in the armed forces overseas.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

February 22 was the wedding day for Bro. Rex Boroff (Rex and Pauline Boroff) and Sis. Vicki Klopfenstein (Wilbur and Diane of Salem, OR). We trust our Heavenly Father will continue to lead, guide and direct this young couple as they walk the pathway of life together. May God richly bless Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) for his labors during this weekend.

Sis. Henrietta Baumann (Bro. Adam Baumann) was laid to rest on the 27th of February. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband and family members, including Bro. Eli (Sis. Evelyn) Manz, Sis. Madeline Manz, and Bro. Ben (Sis. Carolyn) Manz of our congregation.

We would like to thank Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for spending a Wednesday evening with us. We trust our ministering brothers can feel our prayers on their behalf.

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bill as we partook of Holy Communion. What an enormous sacrifice our Heavenly Father so willing offered for the sins of all mankind. It is our prayer that many yet outside the fold will hear and take advantage of this sacrifice while it is still the day of grace.

We rejoice with Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz as they welcome another granddaughter into their family. Carmen Rose blessed the home of first-time parents, Bro. Chad and Sis. Cindy Indermuhle

(Rittman, OH).

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen

Bonny Wenninger

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

We were pleased to hear in this past month that two more of our converts were announced for peace. Sam Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) and Joy Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) have found peace with God and man and are anticipating baptism in the spring.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa Sinn were blessed with a son on February 28. Cameron Dale is welcomed at home by big sisters, Chelsea and Tiffany. Paternal grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and maternal grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA).

Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) were our visiting ministers this past month. A special thanks to them for their labors.

Bro. Darl Stoller (Sis. Iva) and Theresa (Randy) Letso were our surgical patients recently. May God continue to grant them healing in the days ahead.

Many of our congregation assembled with the Columbus brethren the weekend of February 28-29 to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Paul and Sis. Nichole Suvar. She is the daughter of Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen Steffen and he is the son of George and Becky Suvar of Scott, OH. Our Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia) was

there to help Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) with the weekend. May God continue to bless this young couple as they look forward in life with God's grace.

As spring is soon going to herald its entrance once again, let us remember that it is also Easter time which is a time to celebrate rebirth and renewal. Thank the Lord for His bounteous gift!

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

We are thankful to God four young souls have obeyed this commandment and have begun their repentance. They are Justin Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina), Scott Gerber (Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy), John Ramsey Jr. (Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn), and Becky Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly).

Joseph Charles Sabo, born on February 27, is a delightful new addition to the home of Bro. Jason, Sis. Nora and little sister Sophie. Happy grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo and Carl and Lila Schuster.

Our dear Sis. Henrietta Baumann, wife of Bro. Adam, passed away on February 23. She is also survived by three siblings from our Junction congregation: Sis. Madeline Manz, Bro. Eli Manz (Sis. Evelyn), and Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn). In addition, she leaves behind twelve stepchildren, including Jake Baumann from our area. We will all miss her gentle smile and loving example.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina) who recently lost his brother, Matthias Baumann.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Laurel Indermuhle
Anne Widmer

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Ephesians 4:4-6

We were blessed and encouraged this month to witness the testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls. Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy), Sis. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY), Sis. Suzanne Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) were brought into the fold on February 29. Visiting ministers sharing in this special time were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Also visiting us this month was Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO). May God be their Rich Rewarder.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many that were in the hospital: Sis. Marian Hartzler (Bro. Joe), Sis. Violet Baltic (Bro. Mitchel), Michael Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Martha Beery. May each one feel God's healing and comforting hand. We also want to remember Brian Pelfrey as his father, Michael Pelfrey, passed away.

On March 7, Bro. Ben Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Susie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis.

Emily) became one in marriage in the Lord. May God bless this union and may He continue to be their constant Guide in the days ahead. Also on March 10, Lori Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joanne) and Todd Pelfrey were united in marriage. May God be with this couple as they begin their lives together.

We rejoice with those who felt and obeyed the call of God to come to repentance. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara), Maria Ackner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Darlene) and Tyler Gerber (John Gerber and Ricki Gerber) have each heeded God's gentle voice. May He continue to guide and grant each one the grace to carry out a true and complete conversion.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Zollinger
Terry Zollinger

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

I Peter 5:7

The Lord has cared for Sis. Martha Indermuhle as she has spent time in the hospital, and is now at home and thankfully attending services again. May the Lord also care for Raymond Headley (Sis. Ruth) as he endures afflictions.

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

May God bless Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for labouring by bringing us the Living

Word. May we have humble hearts to give of the abundance that God has blessed us with.

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

I Timothy 5:10

May we be thankful for our mothers that took us to church from the time we were babes until the age of accountability. May we also be thankful for the teaching, the love, and the godly example. God bless our mothers on Mother’s Day and always.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Alyssa Miller
Rachel Maibach**

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven that many precious souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. Susan Fetzer (Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth), Sarah Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla), Dorrice Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly) and Kori Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda) have answered the call to serve God.

Once again, the time of year is upon us to think of the great price our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, paid for us. On March 13, we gathered together as a brotherhood to partake of Holy Communion. We

wish to thank Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for serving us. Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) ministered to us this month, also. May God be the rich rewarder for the sacrifices of love.

We share in the joy with our Sis. Susie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) as she and Bro. Ben Rufener (Rittman, OH) were joined in Holy Matrimony on March 7. Bro. Ben’s parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen (Rittman, OH). May they continue to put their trust in the Lord as they begin serving Him together.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier are thankful for the safe arrival of a precious grandchild. Logan Andrew was born to first-time parents, Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank (Detroit, MI). Jeremy and Bonnie Bauman, along with Jordan and Janessa, welcome little Jed Walker into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman. Also, Daryl and Ivy Bauman welcome another granddaughter, Brynn Eliece. Thankful parents are Jamie and Todd Mowrer.

As the Lord gives life, He also takes His own Home to rest forever with Him. We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Sis. Louise Graf (Akron, OH). Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riggerbach, Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach, and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl share in the sorrow of the loss of their mother.

Our thoughts and prayers for the healing hand of God have been felt among our congregation. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Elmer Blough (Sis. Lorene), Bro. Charles Neiman (Sis. Delphine), Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Gordon Greenbank (Sis. Em-

ily) and Kelly Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose).

OHIO, TOLEDO Rebecca Beard Teresa Rywalski

The changing of seasons is upon us. We are looking forward to the new growth of spring and all its beautiful colors.

Sis. Frances Laidig has moved into a new apartment. This is a new period of adjustment for her. What a blessing it is to visit her in her new home and still find the same love and kindness as before. We will pray for Sis. Frances that she will come to feel at home in this new place. Her address is:

*Frances Laidig
5916 Cresthaven Lane
Swan Creek Village
Toledo, Ohio 43614
419-867-9080*

We remember our dear Sis. Herma Whittaker in prayer as she has spent time in the hospital this past month. May God’s healing hand be upon her.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”

Mark 13:31

Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) shared with us the conclusions of the summer Conference on Saturday, January 24. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) also shared a Thursday with us. May God richly bless them for their willingness to serve us and may they feel the love of the congregation.

A new little bundle of joy has arrived in the home of Michael and Lindsay Beard. Quinn Renee was

born on March 18. Thankful grandparents for her safe arrival are Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard and Bob and Kathy Glassner.

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

I Peter 1:19

As the Easter season is upon us, let us each consider what the precious blood of the Lamb has done for us.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Recently, Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) gave us a summary of the Winter Conference our Elder brethren held last month. We do appreciate the timely comments and reminders. We are thankful for the Elder brethren and their service to us. May God richly bless them all and may we be willing and obedient as these reminders apply to our individual lives.

During our annual business meeting last month, Bro. Denny Martin was voted in as third Trustee to replace Bro. Ron Jones. We are thankful for the material blessings we receive to maintain God's house and for willing brethren to do the jobs that need to be done. May the Lord guide and bless those who have duties and responsibilities within the church.

On Sunday, March 14, we were happy to hear the engagement announced of our dear Sis. Brianna Miller to Bro. Brent Strahm of Bern, KS. Sis. Brianna's parents are Tim Miller of Portland and Carol Miller of Gresham. Bro. Brent is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (and the late Sis. Kathryn Strahm) of Bern, KS. Sis.

Brianna had moved to Sabetha, KS, last summer to take a teaching position there, but plans are being made for the wedding to take place in Silverton, OR. We wish them both God's blessings as they take this new step in life.

We thank Elder Bro. Art Metz and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) from Silverton for bringing us the Word this past month. Our sincere thanks also to all visitors, including the song leaders who have been coming to help us!

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Walder

In the past month our congregation has been blessed with the arrival of two babies. Little Haley Kristine was born February 21 to Matt and Kristen Brockamp. Also welcoming his new baby sister is big brother Austin. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter and Jim and Bonnie Brockamp. On March 9, Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth Metzger welcomed Trisha Louise into their hearts and home, along with older brother Lee. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger from Lester, IA. We rejoice with these families and pray that God will grant them the grace and wisdom to raise and nurture them in the fear of the Lord.

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
 Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
 For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
 Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209, vs. 1

The weekend of February 28 and

29, we rejoiced to add four more souls to the flock. We were encouraged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), Bro. Monte and Sis. Kellie Kuenzi, and Bro. Shawn Schurter. Our loving prayers are with each of these new brothers and sister as they make their beginning within the body of Christ. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy) from Morris, MN, here to assist our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in the labors of the weekend.

We are thankful for our friends, Mark and Anne-Marie Tribbett, as they confess they have found the precious gift of peace with God and man. Our prayers and support are with them as they look forward to sharing their testimonies and being buried in baptism, Lord willing, the weekend of April 24-25.

Believing in God's direction, leading their lives together, Sis. Brianna Miller and Bro. Brent Strahm announced their engagement. Sis. Brianna is from Portland and moved last summer to take a teaching position in Sabetha, KS. Her parents are Tim Miller from Portland, OR, and Carol Miller of Gresham, OR. Bro. Brent is from Bern, KS, and is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (and the late Sis. Kathy Strahm). We rejoice with them as they plan for a June 13 wedding in Silverton, OR.

In the hospital this month was our friend, Alice Gehring. Having surgery this month were our friends, Sheree Hari (Howard) and Ron Lichty (Ginge). We are thankful that each are recovering well.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we welcomed to our congregation Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and their families, who visited from the Apostolic Christian Counseling Services. The brothers delivered a very informative presentation on anxiety and depression, and discussed the spiritual, emotional, and physical aspects of both conditions. We learned what signs to look for, in ourselves and our loved ones, that may indicate anxiety disorders or depression, and we learned that help and treatment is available from this church-sponsored center.

We are thankful that our church has been able to establish the center, both for the treatment they provide, and for educational opportunities like we received. We pray for Bros. Ron and Ted and their staff that God will continue to guide them in this work and that His healing hand would be upon those afflicted and hurting from these conditions.

Following the presentation on Saturday we had another blessed day of worship and fellowship, and are grateful to Bro. Ron for again serving us and sharing the Holy Word with our congregation.

We were also thankful to have ministering Bro. Everett Gerber and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Rockville, CT), with us this month. God's Word truly is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105) and we are appreciative of dear brothers who stand and proclaim to us God's Word.

Mike and Monica Fritz

This past month, we have been greatly blessed as willing ministering brothers have shared God's Word with us: Bros. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Brandon Plattner (Sis. Rhoda, Sabetha, KS), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), and Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). It has also been a joy to enjoy the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Athens, AL; Sarasota, FL; Bluffton North, Milford, West Lafayette, and Wolcott, IN; Bradford, Cissna Park, Princeville, and Washington, IL; Sabetha, KS; Morris, MN; Kansas City, MO; and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Junction, OH (4/18); Indianapolis, IN (4/25); Detroit, MI (5/2); Akron, OH (5/16); and Leo, IN (5/23). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Mother's Day (5/9) or Memorial Day weekend (5/30). 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 midweek 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.

TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH Carrie Beyer

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation"

Isaiah 12:3

When this verse opened up to Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix) on Sunday, February 22, it confirmed the presence of the Holy Spirit we had felt throughout the entire weekend. Beginning Friday, February 20, our church enjoyed hosting 25-30 students from Kansas State and Washburn universities. On Saturday, we were blessed to help package food for physically and spiritually needy citizens of Dallas. After some area sightseeing, the evening was wrapped up with a Bible Study presented by Bro. James entitled "Dig Your Well Before You're Thirsty." Bro. James challenged us to regularly dig into God's Word for sustenance, rather than waiting until the enemy strikes. I'm confident that the evening of study, prayer, and singing encouraged everyone present, and it even resulted in two souls giving their hearts to Christ in repentance!

We thank Bro. James and Sis. Gina, as well as all the young people from Kansas, for taking the time to travel to Fort Worth. God used all of our visitors to make the weekend an immeasurable blessing for our church!

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).

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS Amy Ringger

March is a marvelous month in Texas! If you came to visit during March, we would show you the beautiful wildflowers blooming. We have often been singing an appropriate hymn for this time of year, Creation (Hymns of Zion #207), either at church, Sunday School, or singings.

"Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings."

Our ministers this month were Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), and Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville), Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto), and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City). Thanks to them and our visitors from Morton, Fairbury, Morris, and Latty.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in May: Bern (2), Tremont (9), Goodfield (16), La Crosse (23) and West Bend (30).

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. See the ministers' book for contact information. Our family is in and out of our home quite often spending time in the country, so please use our cell phone number to contact us: 512-923-7463.

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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We thank those who were so willing to serve in Zapata. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) was here to serve Communion. Other visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). The willingness of the visiting brethren has certainly been appreciated.

Our winter residents are again returning to their summer homes and we will soon only have our permanent residents gathering each Sunday. We will again have services in Pharr this summer so it is important that those traveling to South Texas call to check on the schedule. We extend a welcome to everyone coming south this summer. Contact Bro. Leland (Mary) Plattner or Bro. Lloyd (Joyce) Nohl for service location. We thank all of those who traveled to Zapata this winter and extend a welcome for next season.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank all the Zapata brothers and sisters who helped me get my new home ready for habitation. I appreciate so much your tireless efforts. May the Lord richly reward you in this life and much more in the one to come.

*Sincerely,
Sis. Sandy Leman*

VERMONT, NORWICH Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on March 14. A smaller group was in attendance, but the visitors from Rockville were much appreciated as always. Bros. Dan Goric and Dan Stoller made the effort to come up from Rockville to share God's Word and message with us and we are thankful to these brothers and their wives for being willing to come.

Our small group generally does not have much news to report, but this month Tim Hann, the son of Jerry and Sis. Cindy Hann, had a rather serious accident while skiing. Tim broke his femur in four places, necessitating surgery and a four-day hospital stay. He is home now, but the doctors expect he will not be able to put his full weight on his leg for about four months. We are thankful that his long-term outlook is quite good, but we want to remember to pray for Tim as the four months of using a walker and crutches to get around will be difficult for this normally active young man.

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

It can happen by neglect. It can happen by pride staying in our life. It could happen by not allowing ourselves to be exposed to God's Word, by ignoring God's Word. There are just so many ways that can cause our hearts to become callous and not penetrable so that seed cannot even sprout and bring forth life.

The next is, "They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." (St. Luke 8:13). Another danger that can exist within our lives. What would cause that to happen when we consider a condition of rocky soil? Perhaps it could just be little rocks.

I know that I have seen it before where there has been a farmstead that is established. Perhaps within this farmstead there was an old building site. As you would try to till that soil, you run into perhaps the old foundation, oftentimes from years past, that was made out of rocks or stones. It is very difficult, first of all to till that soil. And then secondly, to have it in the right condition that you can have a decent crop or even grow anything.

So what can we do about those rocks that could be in our life? Would they exist there from the beginning? Could rocks enter into the soil of our hearts throughout our converted days? Here, the way the Word describes it, it is obviously someone that did believe. It says, for which for a while believe, but in time of temptation fall away.

I know that God is loving and merciful. We feel perhaps that at times we would fall in this condition and wonder, in time of temptation will we stay true to God? We need to have faith. We need to trust in God and we need to be diligent in what He asks us to do; through the reading of His Word, through our prayer life and many other things. I believe if we are diligent, God will help us. That if there would be some rocks in our life, that He could remove them. I do fully be-

lieve that He could take those rocks out of our life. But it is a situation that we just have to be so on guard. As we begin our pilgrim way, as we take that step in faith, that we review the condition of our heart. That we get those rocks out. That that soil is well tilled and cultivated, ready for that seed to sprout and bring forth life.

Then to have continual effort. It is not something that we just take a step and then sit back and relax the rest of our life, believing that we have taken that step and that there is nothing more to do. That is not the way it works. But there has to be diligence. As we, I believe, heard so much about this past weekend, perseverance in our life. It is that perseverance that will help us. We need to go out there and examine our life oftentimes. We need to review our life. Review the condition of the soil of our heart. Is there something that needs to be removed? Am I embarking on things in life that I once wouldn't ever consider in my new life? Are we taking some liberties that perhaps the first time we did it there was the that pricking in our heart? Then after we did it a second time and a third time, it seemed to go away. We need to review our life. Are we in accord with God's Word? Are we pleasing God in our walk of life?

When our life is over, it is too late. But when He gives us life and breath, we have time to consider our pathway. Is it leading to the heavenly kingdom? Or is it a rocky road? Are we veering off the path into dangerous territory? Where we know that the enemy is out there and he is ferocious, he is devouring. He wants to even stamp us out. He wants to remove our name from the Book of Life. He doesn't want us to go to heaven. He wants us to be with him in eternal darkness. So we need to be so careful, dear ones.

Then we read about the thorns. "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (St. Luke 8:14). I am not sure that every soul would have the same trials in

life. I know that we all have different trials, we all have different weaknesses. Perhaps what would be a thorn to one individual would not be to another and vice versa. But as it is expressed here, it describes it as choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life.

Cares can be very many things. There are obviously the earthly things that would weight us down. As we try to think of some different examples there of cares, one example I think of is Mary and Martha. As the Lord was there and the one was helping serve and everything, and the other was at the feet of Jesus, just listening and wanting to receive His wonderful Words, the Lord told her that she was busy and worried and cumbered with many things. But Mary had chosen the better part that shall not be taken away (St. Luke 10:40-42).

Cares can just consist of so many things. From our earthly endeavors to perhaps worrying about many things. Fretting about things that really we should not fret about. I know it is easier said than done. Life goes on. Oftentimes, perhaps through different experiences in life, we realize that, why did I get so worked up about this thing? It really wasn't that important. It wasn't that big of an issue. Yet that is our nature coming up. We have to drive it back where it needs to be in that deathly grave. We have to leave it there and we have to trust in God, that He will help us that we would not have to become overburdened with cares of life.

He speaks of riches here. Riches can be such a detriment to a soul. Properly handled, we can view lives of those that seem to deal very well with it. But I believe I would have to say for the majority of all of us, it would be a detriment to have those earthly riches. It doesn't define a level of riches here as far as a value. But really, as we consider our lives and the land and nation that we live, the many wonderful things that we enjoy, so many of us would have to consider ourselves rich with physical things and material blessings.

Again, for one person, maybe this level would be riches. Another, this level would be riches. How we deal with those things, we just have to be careful.

Again, back to that examination of our heart. What do riches mean to us and how do they control our lives? Are we always striving that we can go out and make that next buck when maybe we really wouldn't have to do it? Where are we satisfied? Are we content? Is there contentment in our life? We know what the Word says, that godliness with contentment bringeth forth great gain (I Timothy 6:6). That is the attitude that we need to have. We need it. So many times I believe, we need to sit back and then be satisfied.

Then along with the cares and the riches comes the occupation of our time. Our time is an element that we can never replace. Once the minutes have ticked away, we can't go back and get them back. So what are we doing with our time? How are we spending our time? Are we spending enough time in our service to God? Or is too much of our time being spent for self, for those things that would involve these cares and riches and then the pleasures of this life?

We know that we do have responsibilities and obligations. For those of us that have families, to provide for them. We are living in a day and time where I believe that as a believer, that we need to have discernment, and we need God's help that we can have this discernment of where we draw the line. Because as the world's standards are, that we just fill up our time with these things; whether it be working many, many hours in a week's time - six, seven days a week is not uncommon in the world - and if it is not that, perhaps it would be in spending our leisure time in the pleasures of this life. We know that there are just many things, many offerings out there that would fall into the category of pleasures of this life.

I believe it would be up to each and every one of us to identify it within our own lives. I would hate to stand

up here and give a listing, saying this would be a pleasure, this would be a pleasure, this would be a pleasure and we should not do it. We know there are things and we have been even exhorted by our Elder brethren, warned about certain things. I don't need to go over all those. We just need to consider our life. We know what they are. How are we spending our time?

Then the beautiful part of this chapter, where we all want to fall, where we want to be. We know we do fall short. We strive for this. May we by God's grace be able to obtain it. "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." (St. Luke 8:15). We want our hearts to be properly prepared for the Lord when that seed is planted and when He calls us, that we come. That we hear that call. That we are in tune with God. To be in tune with it, we have to be close to Him. We have to be close to His Word.

For those of us that are parents, we need to consider the importance of how we raise our children. What message are we sending them by our actions, by our life? Do they perceive by our life what is important for them? Is it to seek out their life and their career? Is it to become rich and famous? Or is it to just have them come when they hear God's calling and to answer the call of repentance and become one of God's children?

We can't help our children in living overcoming lives. We can't keep them from sin and Satan. Satan will be able to find his road there. We can't totally prevent that from happening. But what we can do is instill it within their hearts in their youthful days, of what is important and where they can go when they feel this emptiness, when they feel this burden of sin. That they have a place that they can go and find a haven, a place of separation from the world. A place where they can find a refuge, a place where they can find release from their burden of sin. It is through Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

It talks here in the next verse about, "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." (St. Luke 8:16-18).

We hear from time to time, the issue of faith and works. I believe that obviously it takes a faith. We have to begin that foundation, that step in faith, to even find our salvation. Then depend upon His grace and His love and His mercy to stay true and faithful to Him. There is no question about it. We need that.

But then He, as He stated here of the candle, that is something that He is trying to impress upon us. If our candle is not lit, if our light is dull, people won't be able to see our life. He wants us to be good lights and examples. I believe it is very clear here. May we even strive, that we continue to keep that light lit in our life. That it be bright and burning. That we keep oil in our lamps. That we trim it oftentimes. That we don't let it go out or let it become dull, into a condition where Satan would find entrance because of our sleepiness in our spiritual life, our lukewarmness, where he would be able to come in.

He is watching for the time. He is watching for the opportunity to come in and just pounce. If we keep our light burning bright, if the important things to us in life are serving God and not serving ourselves, or these things that we read about here, then by God's grace we will be able to stay true and faithful. It is a promise that we can take from God's Word, that He will help us endure to the end if we put our trust in Him and follow His Word.

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

*To facilitate transportation to and from the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend, a bus has been chartered. The bus will leave on Saturday morning from Indianapolis, In. and return to the same location on Monday late morning. More details will be communicated to your local church and via the Apostolic Christian e-mail list. To make a bus reservation or to find out more information, contact Tenn. Fellowship Board Member **Bro. Bob (Sis. Luann) Gerber** at 1(800)279-8210 or (219)279-2800.*

We encourage everyone to attend this weekend of fellowship, singing, and worship of the Lord. If you plan to attend, please call or e-mail Sis. Gwen Leuthold (info below) by **Monday, May 3** to assist with planning. The contacts below will also be able to give you additional information on the **Auction, Overnight Accommodations, and Directions**. Additionally, we ask that you please spread the word to others in your area/congregation to let them know about the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend.

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:

Kansas: Paul Kaeb
 Phone: 785-284-3261
 Cell: 785-547-5269
 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com

Iowa: Martin Zaugg
 Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693
 Cell: 515-320-2404

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
 Phone: 309-925-4171
 Fax: 309-925-2409
 Cell: 309-241-8171
 E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

Indiana: Gerry Waibel
 Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582
 E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com

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

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
AWA-FRW	May 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	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		gzeller@mtco.com
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		jmmaibach@valkyrie.net
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		gtherman@juno.com
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	ksss@dpc.net
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangn@mtco.com
Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mreinhard@msn.com
Warren Kloter	309-208-2785		wkloter@myexcel.com
Tom Neu	630-983-6267		mtneu@aol.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

- 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 YBS 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)

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- 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.

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: bibleldist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Rio Bravo	June 19-26, 2004	Construction	Joe Zimmerman	309-263-0254
Rio Bravo	July 3-10, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Rio Bravo	July 10-17, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 dafiechter@parlorcity.com
Juarez	September 1-8, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 cherylh@mtco.com

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

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.

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



This is another in an 8-part series of articles on church practices. The following consists of excerpts from a writing on the headcovering distributed by Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois.

The Prayer Veil

For those attending a worship service at an Apostolic Christian Church for the first time, there is something they are likely to notice right away. It is women wearing veils or headcoverings. Since most church denominations no longer stress this practice, it may strike a visitor rather poignantly. It is possible this pattern may appear unusual, but it was not considered so to believers in Bible times and in the centuries that followed.

The Biblical Reason

The Bible is clear in teaching that believing women are to be covered when they pray or prophesy. In his letter to the early church at Corinth, the Apostle Paul referenced this practice. The substance of his teaching is contained in I Corinthians 11:2-16. The King James Version records the applicable Scriptures regarding the veil: Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoreth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven (I Corinthians 11:4-5).

The veiling is also a indicator of

the divine order of God: But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God (verse 3). Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man. For this cause ought women to have power on her head because of the angels (verses 8-9).

This has been a treasured practice of our church since its inception.

Historical Usage

Historical research encouragingly reveals that women in the early church (and in the centuries that followed) observed the Biblical teaching of wearing the veil or headcovering when participating in prayer or prophesying. An early church father who lived from AD 150-220 said, "For this is the wish of the Word since it is becoming for her to pray veiled." His reasoning was grounded on the Word of God.

Likewise, another leader (AD 160-230) reasoned that his parishioners should continue to use the veil because the women at the Corinth church still observed this teaching. He interestingly pointed out that the veil had its origin in tradition, was strengthened by custom, and was finally made authoritative by the Apostle Paul according to the will of God. A fifth century leader indicated it was not becoming for women to uncover their hair when praying, in view of the Apostle's in-

structions.

In conjunction with the position taken by early church leaders regarding the veil, it is interesting to note that the art of the ancient church, as preserved in the Roman catacombs indicates that in the early centuries the church was obedient to the regulations of I Corinthians 11. Praying women are often depicted wearing the "palla," a veil or scarf on the head which hung down over the shoulders. As late as the tenth century A. D. there is a drawing of a worshipping group of believers. The men's heads are uncovered, and the women's are covered with a veil.

Continuity

Cultures change, both toward the good and bad, yet the divine precepts of God remain the same, even if social customs change. In His Holy Word, God gives a set of absolutes that are eternal and do not change with the times. The teaching of the prayer veil is a case in point.

Summary and Conclusion

It is simple and clear — converted women are to cover their head when they pray or prophesy, even outside of formal worship. Why? Because the Bible says so. Man cannot usurp the Scriptures. A woman wears a covering as a symbol of her place in Godly order. And it must be remembered that the Apostle Paul did not give these instructions regarding

...continued on page 51

REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

the headcovering on his own volition. This practice in the church at Corinth, and since that time, was instituted in accordance with the will of God. The Lord taught His followers to obey His teachings. In Luke 16:10, He said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful in much also: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

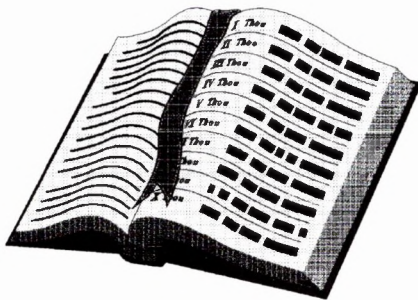
A songwriter put it very well when he wrote:

*"This is the test of true devotion,
To keep and hold fast to the Lord;
And evermore without omission,
In all things to obey His Word.
In small and unimportant matters,
Yet to be careful and sincere,
Not knowingly to faults consenting,
However small they appear."*

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

Closed Communion



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光

"The Validity of Christianity"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We believe that Christianity, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is valid, that it is based on convincing evidence. The former Mr. Ghandi of India, led India to independence from Great Britain by his "non-violence" philosophy. He was a Hindu and greatly revered. It is said that he once attended a Christian meeting with the thought that he might become a Christian. He was disappointed in the reception he received, and in the impression he got of those attending the meeting. He was thinking about the followers of Christ, not about Christ Himself. This can be dangerous as those of us who follow Christ can sometimes be less than we should be.

On the other hand, many who do not believe in, nor follow Christ, surprise us by how kind and loving they can be. Surely we need to be diligent not to lag behind others when it comes to good works. Friends are drawn to our fellowship if we have love one for another. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). However, it is the validity of the Gospel, the truth of the Gospel, that should give us comfort.

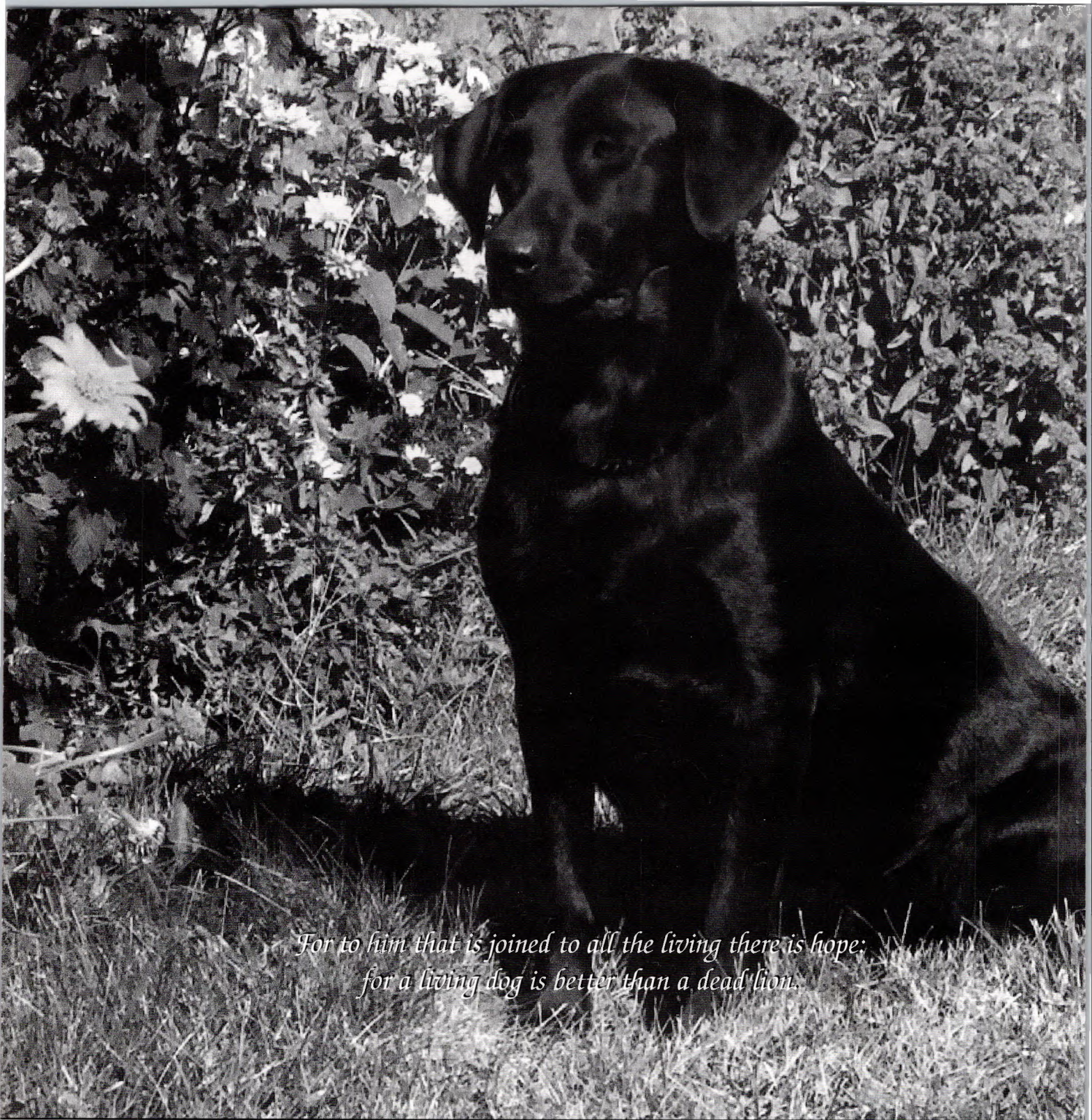
The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only religious teaching that claims the Creator God, through Christ, suffered for our sins so that we can be forgiven, and justice be maintained, by the Judge Himself taking our place in fulfilling the law. We

can be criticized by other religions, the followers of whom may say, "You do terrible things and then repent and believe and say it is as if you didn't do all those terrible things. We take responsibility for what we do." The problem is, even if we have lived very moral lives, we cannot save ourselves. In God's sight, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

The event that makes the Gospel of Jesus Christ valid, is the resurrection. It's true. Christ is divine, He is the Son of God. This makes His death for our sins, valid and all-encompassing, so far as our spiritual needs are concerned.

Some religions teach that we must do certain things and by our own doings, we will surely go to heaven. A man who attends our church regularly told me recently I am always telling people to repent but that I don't always tell people to believe on Christ. I repented on the spot and told him I would be more careful to include faith in Christ. I certainly believe in the importance of faith and obedience, and teach that, too. The thing of it is, we have the idea that all the friends who come to our church do believe on Christ but they haven't surrendered to Him. That may be true in our church in America, but it is not true in our church in Japan.

The good thing about the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that it is valid and trustworthy.



*For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope:
for a living dog is better than a dead lion.*

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