

The Silver Lining



*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible,
the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

February 2005

Sermon by Bro. Brian Huber, Francesville, IN

Job 1 and St. Mark 4:1-23

When we gather together on a Wednesday evening, it is in a different kind of a feel, a setting than it is on a Sunday. It is not nearly so busy. We did hear one little child cry and Brother Steve said, "That is the sound of my grandson, I believe." It is precious to have the little ones with us. But it is mostly just the church family, the believers together on a Wednesday evening. We are thankful for the friends that are with us. But it is a time to maybe just think of, what is the Lord trying to tell us, as His followers? What is it that we can learn from these two scriptures? Both of them very familiar. The first chapter in the book of Job. Let's just touch on some points and then try to think, how we can apply that to our lives.

First of all it talks about Job "...in the land of Uz ... was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job 1:1). So I don't know if the last part of that line is what it takes to be perfect and upright in God's eyes, but I believe that we could take it that there is a connection there. One that feared God and eschewed evil.

Eschewed evil means to hate it. To want to do away with it. Don't want to tolerate evil, I believe would be a - I am not a walking, talking dictionary and maybe a lot of times I have the wrong thought of what a word means - but that is the thought that comes to mind. He did not want anything to do with the evil. And had a fear, a reverence of God, even as we prayed.

Can we as believers, as brothers and sisters, men and women anywhere, can we be bold before God? Do we have any reason to be bold? Now the Word tells us we should come boldly to the throne of mercy (Hebrews 4:16). That means we shouldn't be afraid to come to God and let our petitions be made known. But I don't believe that we can bold, like we deserve anything. Or come bold like we can challenge God in any way. That we can come

bold and say, "God, why did You do this or that?" Sometimes those thoughts might come to us. Job, before this chapter is done, certainly had reason to maybe have that kind of a thought. He was one that feared God.

I don't believe we need to be afraid of God. That is not what it means. But to have a reverence of God. Recognizing God for who He is. Really our life and our breath is in His hands. We could think of those places - one of the kings, rulers there in the New Testament, he was making a speech and the people said, "Oh, it is the voice of a god and not a voice of man." He was just eating it all up. Because he was wanting to be looked at in that way. God struck him down just on the spot.

There are other places where, because of a transgression, not just in the New Testament, in the Old Testament, whatever, there's examples of transgression that evidently just were so grievous in the sight of God that people lost their lives in just a moment's time. So we have a God that needs to be revered. There should be a fear of Him for who He is.

Then when we think of that, doesn't it bring just such a thankfulness to our heart when we think, but we know Him as our heavenly Father because of Jesus Christ. We have the adoption to Him. We know Him as a God of love because we felt His love. We felt the forgiveness.

When we are in a time of great need and we pray, and we feel the direction that we pray for - sometimes we need help and strength and we feel it coming and we know it is not us. We say that is the grace of God. I couldn't have done that. I was feeling weak and the grace just gave me the strength. Thanks, God! I don't deserve it. So we have reason to be so thankful because God cares about us so.

It seemed like, as we consider Job's life here, didn't he have it going pretty well? He had a nice fam-

ily. He had abundance of everything. As we read down through here, Satan said, "well, why wouldn't he serve you because you even put a hedge about all that

Sermon continued on page 42

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

March

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Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:
For March Issue
(16 Jan. News - 15 Feb. News)
Due: 20 February 2004

The Silver Lining (Vol. 60, #2)
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561
USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
 Christian Church of America

Counselors:

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(e-mail is preferred)

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 Roanoke, IL, 61561

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 309-923-7359 (fax #2)

Periodical non-profit - postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

*"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

February 2005

Self-Sacrifice

"Let your whole life be an offering to God and to Christ the Lord. None who here to Him surrender will regret it, for His Word gives us peace and release, Sweet rest after battles cease" ("Self-sacrifice" vs. 1, p. 159, Zion's Harp).

The world suggests that we take care of "number one", to indulge ourselves, or to believe it is about time you do something for you. Human nature is such that the more we have the more we want and the more we want the less satisfied we are with what we have.

What does the scripture tell us about self indulgence versus self sacrifice? There are numerous places in the Bible that explain the folly of trusting in riches. "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man..." (Prov. 21:17). "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Ti. 5:6). To the church in Laodicea John wrote "...thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" (Rev. 3:17).

It is quite obvious from the scripture that material wealth does not bring peace with God. It tends to make one self centered and is deceitful. Solomon, in all his glory, had many problems that were made worse because of materialism. Jesus said that all of Solomon's glory did not even array him as a simple lily of the field.

Self sacrifice, on the other hand, if done in humility and in accord with the Word of God can bring joy, peace and contentment. The church at Smyrna was regarded as a poor church. However, Jesus said "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)..." (Rev. 2:9). Because of their faithfulness and willingness to sacrifice all for God, they will receive a crown of life and, if they overcome, "...shall not be hurt of the second death" (Rev. 2:11).

Jesus said to his disciples "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt. 16:24). To truly live a life of self-sacrifice, we must put Jesus Christ

ahead of self, home, family, friends, business, or anything else that would come in the way of serving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master. It may seem a bit harsh and demanding to be required to put all these things in their proper place, but Jesus recognized the seriousness and deceitfulness of idolatry. Therefore, he wanted to make certain that our priorities are in order.

To encourage the importance of putting our relationship with Christ first He said "if any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Lu. 14:26). The desires of the flesh must be mortified and put off (Col. 3:5-9) so we can put on the new man and the characteristics of a godly man (Col. 3:10-16).

It is very encouraging that the Apostle Paul was inspired to recognize that simply emptying our heart and mind of sin (mortify and put off) would not be enough. An empty heart would leave a vacuum for Satan to fill. Therefore, he went on to instruct us to "put on" those characteristics that would fill our lives with godly attributes that will defeat Satan.

We sometimes find ourselves too absorbed in our work. It may cause us to ignore our families as we work our way up the financial ladder. It may also cause us to miss regularly scheduled church services. It may consume our mind and energy to the point that we cannot focus on our spiritual needs even on Sunday.

We know that we are commanded to work, to provide for our own and "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread..." (Gen. 3:19). We also know that if we place too great of emphasis on materialism, it could be our downfall. "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry" (Lu. 12:19). What did Jesus say about our work? "...he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him" (Lu. 5:27-28). Certainly not all are called to leave their work completely as the disciples were, but we need to keep our priorities in godly order. It is not likely

that many men on their death bed wish they would have spent less time with their wife and children and more time at the office.

There are many rewards awaiting those who are willing to sacrifice self and serve God. We are promised that if we are willing to sacrifice self, the fleshly lusts will be subdued. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Ro. 6:6).

Self-sacrifice will help us control the desire for the cares of this life. "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you un-awares" (Lu. 21:34).

The Apostle Paul recognized the value of self-sacrifice in helping him serve Christ. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Ph. 3:8).

Jesus gave a very clear summary of the value of self-sacrifice. "...There is no man which hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting" (Lu. 18:29-30).

What inheritance do we want to leave for our children? Do we want to leave them many material blessings so they are not required to do without any of the creature comforts? Or do we want to leave them with a rich heritage of faith that will sustain them when Satan brings trials upon them?

When we realize the value of serving God and the fleeting nature of the things of this world, we can better appreciate the words "Tis important to be striving for this goal, O, child of God, and to realize the calling wherefore we live on this sod, not that we gathering be riches here that only flee" (Self-sacrifice, v.4, p.159, Zion's Harp).



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Mission Policy and Guidelines

The steps by which brothers and sisters can pursue a Spirit-directed calling to serve in various aspects of Church supported mission work are outlined in Mission Committee brochures available in all of our churches. Additional avenues are being utilized to communicate this important information to our Brotherhood. Following is a summary of the presentation on Mission Policy and Guidelines given at the recent Peoria Conference.

Christ taught: "If ye love me, keep my commandments" and to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Jn 14:15; Mt 28:19-20).

The first of four pillars of our church mission is to present the Gospel to the lost. This pillar is also the purpose of our Church Mission Policy. We believe the Scripture calls us to do this in harmony with the other three pillars of our church mission: To nurture the believer, to preserve and promote true doctrine, and to serve in humility and love. The church prospers when all four pillars are functioning together and in accordance with Scripture, all by the grace of God (Acts 11: 19-30).

As we create proper balance with these four pillars, we can further God's plan for "all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). Our Mission Policy prioritizes four objectives to accomplish this.

1. Sharing the Word – expressing our eternal hope, teaching, preaching, being an example. The word provides illumination. (Psalm 119:105)

2. Inviting others to worship with us. (Ro 10:14)

3. Supporting small churches. (1 Thes 3:12-13)

4. Establishing churches within and outside the USA – according to the Word of God and its directives as outlined on our Statement of Faith (Acts 11:22-26); and with the discretion, gentleness and leading of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 9:19-23).

Guidelines for Sending Brethren on Mission Projects:

1. Prayerful discernment of calling – a time of fervent prayer and a surrendered, humble heart; wanting only the will of God to be revealed (Acts 16:9-10, Ps 139:23-24).

2. Initial counsel – take time to establish open, candid, respectful communication and accountability with your local elder, enabling him to understand your heart and to confirm his consent and blessing with what you believe the Lord is calling you to do (Pr 15:22).

3. Mission Committee assessment – an interview by the Mission Committee or its designate. A time of listening, counseling, learning and seeking the Lord's will together (Philemon 14).

4. Confirmation of steadfastness – It is so necessary that brethren wanting to be sent by the church uphold the Word and be sound in faith, grace, doctrine and example (1 Thes 1:7-8); that the church can "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

5. Responsive placement – we want to follow the biblical pattern for brethren being sent with the authority and accountability of the

church. We seek to align the individual's gifts and calling with the actual needs that are known (Acts 11:22).

6. Accountability – sending brethren on mission work is sobering, inspiring and calls for loving and wise accountability among the elder, the church and the brethren being sent (He 13:17). We need to circumspectly discern and avoid ecumenical doctrinal intermingling and deception (Rev 17).

7. Counting the cost – prepared by God that we may be sufficient for the work, sufficient in terms of our spiritual health, humility, faith, grace, sanctification, a love for the brotherhood and for the lost, and logistical needs (Lu 14:28).

8. Ongoing oversight and support – from the chief shepherd Jesus Christ, from the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth and to moderate any tendency toward individualistic decision making, from our over-seeing elder and from our brethren. We are our brother's keeper. Therefore we want to understand the needs of those on mission assignments – the struggles within their families and within the work. We desire to communicate and fellowship with them enough that we can weep and rejoice together, and be fervently and responsively prayerful for them (1 Thes 2:11-12).

We sincerely entreat your cooperation and your Holy Spirit inspired submission to the spirit and the letter of this Mission Policy and Guidelines. May we as a church work together in singleness of spirit, mind, faith and judgment (Ph 1:27; 1 Cor 1:10), and may God grant us grace to fulfill His commission to spread the Gospel in a manner which will have His full blessing (Mt 28:19-20).



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

Florida Hurricane Disaster Work Project

During the late summer and early fall, people living in Florida experienced stress and fear, due to an unusual series of severe hurricanes. The State of Florida was struck by four major hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, between August 8 and September 25, 2004. The cost of the resulting damage was estimated by one source as \$20.1 billion.

An evaluation team from the Disaster Work Projects Sub-Committee, including Bros. Jerome Witzig, Martin Zaugg, and Arnold Gerst met at the Tampa International Airport on October 19. With Bro. Terry Miller, from the Sarasota congregation, the team visited the devastated areas of Port Charlotte, North Port, Punta Gordo, Cleveland, Arcadia, and Wauchula, Florida.

After seeing the needs of all these locations, all four on the team, by secret ballot, voted to setup our Work Project Site at Wauchula. This area was hit by three of the four hurricanes and 75% to 80% of the buildings sustained severe damage. This county is one of the poorest in all of Florida, with many of the victims being migrant workers, and other permanent residents that have lower economic capabilities.

While in Wauchula, the team met with the Director of the Hardee County Office of Community Development. The information on the disaster victims and their needs are collected by this department, and this is where the selection of those we help is made. The team also visited with the Director of Facilities for the Board of County

Commissioners for Hardee County. He showed us the Hardee County Camping Area, where he gave us permission to set up campers and motor homes, and is furnishing hookups. An indoor pavilion for preparing meals and a fellowship area is available at the camping site.

Brethren have donated seven camper trailers and several vans to use on this project. Two World Relief Tool Trailers and pickups are being used at the job sites.

The project began January 3, with Bro. Harold & Sister Sheri Fritz as Job Site Volunteer Coordinators, and Bro. Jared Schieber acting as General Contractor. The first week, slab foundations were poured for three houses. Framing began the second week. The restoration process also began the first week on houses, which were not damaged to the extent that demolition and rebuilding were necessary. This restoration includes roofing, dry-wall removal, mold treatment, new drywall installation, trimming, and painting. It is desired that all the houses, new construction and restoration, be finished by the end of March 2005.

Volunteers are needed. Building skills are a plus, but anyone with a willing heart can find a blessing in helping in the worthy project. Many would desire to escape the rigors of the northern winter. This project provides the opportunity to give encouragement to those who have suffered loss and to fellowship with faithful brethren and friends, as you labor together.

Please call Bro. Jerome Witzig to reserve your date.

Phone: (309) 747-2347
Cell: (309) 303-7934
E-mail: foxrun@mtco.com

Project Presentations at Cissna Park

On Saturday, March 12, Cissna Park, IL will be hosting a World Relief Project Presentation. Registration starts at 8 AM and the program begins at 9 AM. Brethren from various churches will come to share. Please come to show them your support. You'll receive the blessing!

You'll hear about:

- Our new orphanage project in Magdalena, Mexico called Casa Vida y Esperanza: the experiences of work teams who have been developing the site, and the plans for the future.
- New opportunities for sponsoring a child.
- Building and restoring homes for victims of the hurricanes in Florida.
- Meat canning in Rittman – The process it takes to turn turkey or pork into 35,000 cans to be sent outside the USA to needy people.
- World Relief on the local level – Different congregations share what they do, whether it's on a large scale or small scale, World Relief appreciates whatever any congregation can do to help the less fortunate. Whatever is presented may be an idea someone else hasn't considered.
- The Self-Help program in Eastern Europe.
- Medical teams in Mexico that provide health and dental care for thousands.

Contact your local World Relief Representative to let him know you'd like to join him in coming to the meeting so Cissna Park can plan accordingly for lunch. If the way opens up at the last minute, by all means come.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

What will the New Year bring? This is often our thought when we pass from one year to another. Changes have already taken place at one of our eight facilities. At Oakwood Estate we were happy to receive Angela and Kimberle Riggerbach, from Denver, CO. They are welcome additions and we look forward to getting to know them. We anticipate several other resident changes in the near future.

The Fairbury, IL, church sent a group to sing with the residents at Timber Ridge in January. We want to thank each person who gives of their time to help sing. Even the residents who are severely and profoundly mentally retarded are lifted by these beautiful hymns. One can see it on their faces. We would encourage each one to join song leaders when your church is to come. You will receive a blessing and you will give a blessing. Eureka, IL, church hopes to bring a group on February 4. On February 25, the Gridley, IL, and on March 18, the Peoria, IL, churches are scheduled. The Friday evening song service is held at the Timber Ridge multipurpose room and begins at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

MARCH birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Judy Grimm (3/6), Susan Crose (3/15), Jeff Zimmerman (3/17), Tom Christensen (3/20), Edna Haynes (3/23), Sheila Steffen (3/9), Jon Wilhelm (3/26) and Nancy Meister (3/31).

At 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: Richard Bundy (3/12).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Margo Waibel

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever ... To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth forever ... Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth forever."

Psalm 136:1, 5, & 23

Praise God for His promises to love us forever! The other day I was reading this Psalm and it brought such comfort to think that God's love is never ending. I know that, and you know that, but my challenge is to get this message across to the students at Gateway Woods School as we interact with them every day. How do you tell a child who has lost his earthly father that we have a Father in heaven whose love for us is everlasting?

That was my challenge recently when a resident asked, "What if you don't have a father?" It broke my heart to hear this, and I tried to comfort him with the promises of the Bible. Even for those of us who have earthly fathers, we know that ultimate comfort and love comes from our Father in Heaven. May we all be encouraged, no matter what the situation, to remember our Father's eternal love and mercy toward us!

News

Bro. Tim Wiegand, a teacher at Gateway Woods School, and Sis. Christa Kaeb, the Assistant Houseparent in the New House, were recently announced for marriage. We thank God for bringing them together and pray God's grace on their new life together!

The Gateway Woods Board Retreat held in January was a great success! The Holy Spirit truly was present as the Brothers gathered to plan and strategize for Gateway Woods and to enjoy good Christian fellowship. You will be hearing more about some of the plans that came out of the retreat in the near future.

Before we get too far into 2005, it is good to stop and reflect upon God's goodness in the previous year. Here are a few key facts about Gateway Woods in 2004:

1) Gateway Woods currently has 6 Christ-centered programs:

Residential Childcare - group homes in NE Indiana

Gateway Woods School - a Christian alternative school for residents and non-residents

Specialized Foster Care - children placed in Christian homes in the community

Adoption - placing children from the US and overseas in stable Christian families in Indiana

Home-Based Services - in-home counseling and accountability

Gateway Woods Family Services - counseling and Bible-based seminars

2) In 2004, Gateway Woods was able to serve 118 children and 252 families. This included:

42 children in our Residential Program

32 children in Foster Care

25 children and 14 families in our Home-Based Program

206 families, 11 seminars, & 18 teaching presentations through Gateway Woods Family Services

31 couples and 1 single assisted with adoption with 19 children adopted

50 of the children attended Gateway Woods School

3) Because of your generosity and the LORD's provision, we raised over \$320,000 at our annual Auction. Thank you! This year's Auction is scheduled for August 20, 2005. We hope to see everyone there!

4) In 2004, Gateway Woods provided over \$740,000 in free or subsidized care to troubled children and families. Contributions to Gateway Woods have a direct impact on hundreds of lives each year. Without your donations, many of our clients could not pay for the services they so desperately need.

5) Gateway Woods' staff made 24 presentations about our ministries to local congregations in 9 states in the last year!

May God bless each of you for your faithful support of Gateway Woods. The Christ-centered services offered to hurting and troubled children and families by Gateway Woods is truly an out-flowing of our supporters' hearts. May we move confidently together into 2005, trusting in God's faithful and loving care!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Athens, Alabama

Melissa Slagel

For the month of January our theme has been manners. We learned about please and thank you, table manners, and so importantly, treating others respectfully. It can be so interesting to see how children absorb and perceive the things we are trying to teach them. One day

during play time a child was growing so frustrated with his friends. The fort he was making of blocks was just not big enough for all who wanted to come in. Since he was the builder of the house, he felt he had some ownership. "NO, you can't come in and you can't either! Go away, you CAN'T play!" His voice continued to get louder and his anger was escalating. I could feel chaos coming. I observed for a moment and then said "Just remember your manners." He stopped and looked up at me, the look in his eyes and composure softening. He thought for a little bit and then looked at the crowd gathered at his fort door and said as kindly as he could, "PLEASE you cannot come in!" It can be so hard sometimes to truly treat others as you want to be treated. I hope that over the course of the month the children did learn that manners are more than just saying please and thank you.

Also this month we worked on the letters O, P, Q and R and the color purple. In our Bible stories we have been learning about the life of Jesus while He was here on earth and the miracles He performed.

We want to say a very special "thank you" to Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH). They are here for several weeks and have been wonderful in helping out with the students. You both have been a blessing to us and the children and may God bless your lives.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

Several in our congregation have been hospitalized in the past several weeks. Thanks to God for healing and answered prayers. Sis. Hazel Vibbert had an unfortunate car accident. She is healing and doing much better and so thankful that her inju-

ries weren't any worse. David Art has been in the hospital recently. He is also improving and we continue to pray for him. His positive attitude and continual praise to God is inspiring to us.

Ministering brothers this month have been Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. MaryAnn, Smithville, OH) and Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN). Also, it has been wonderful to have Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) bring God's Word to us this month on several Wednesday nights.

We are excited and thankful for ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter and his wife, Sis. Linda, from Junction, OH. They will be spending several weeks with us helping out at the preschool and spreading kindness. It is so good to have them back again this year and we feel so blessed by their presence and willing hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Eric Coulter who is stationed in Korea. He is the son of Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter. His address in Korea is:

Pvt. Eric Coulter
A Btry 1-32 FA
APO-AP 96257

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

Col. 4:5-6

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Janelle Ebert became parents on December 20 when Ashton Riley was born. We all rejoice with Ashton's grandpar-

ents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert and Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin.

Bro. Floyd (Sis. Clara) Banwart celebrated his 80th birthday with a supper at the Villas Community Room. We pray God's continuing blessings on our dear Brother.

We are thankful for many visiting ministers: Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville), Bro. Ken Lawson (Dallas), Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury), Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Winthrop).

Our sympathy to Bro. Quill Barna on the death of his brother, Ben, who passed away January 10 in Ohio.

Sis. Shirley Mohrman and Evie Howley need our prayers for health problems.

God blessed us with rain in January and lots of snow up north.

January 15 was the wedding day for Carl Richardson and Donna Smith. Sis. Lucille Richardson came for the lovely wedding and dinner reception. May God bless our dear couple according to His will.

O, give thanks unto the Lord!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

The Lord has blessed Arizona with more precipitation in the last three months than we have had in several years. It is disappointing to the visitors of our state, but it has helped alleviate some of the drought conditions. Our lakes are filling up again and the vegetation in the warmer areas of the state are turning green. The amount of water in some areas caused flooding, damage to property and loss of lives, but the conditions were less devastating than in California. Our thoughts and prayers are with those

who have suffered loss.

There were no visiting ministers to report for the last month, but we had several brethren from our other churches include us in their travel plans. We appreciate their fellowship and wish to thank them again for their visit. Please come back again and bring or send others our way.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

As I write this, the sun is brightly shining and the temperature is hovering around 80 degrees. Feels like spring but it's actually January 17. We have just come off a bout of cold (50's and rainy/cloudy) weather and our winter visitors are ready for some sunshine. I hope they enjoy it but I have my order in for some more winter weather!

We are so grateful and blessed to announce the safe arrival of another beautiful little baby. Sophia Anne Wilson was born January 8 to Rob and Angie Wilson. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. Sophia is grandchild #15 and we are ever amazed how beautifully God provides. We wish Rob, Angie and big sister, Morgan, God's richest blessings as they make Sophia part of their family and also as they raise her to be part of God's family.

We were privileged to have two ministers visit us this month. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) were with us for Sunday services as they traveled through Tucson with different work teams. We were blessed to have them and their families join us; we pray God will add His richest blessings for their labors of love on our behalf.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Robin Moser**

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

II Timothy 2:15

California experienced record rainfall this past month, highlighting the fragility of manmade structures. The tsunami tragedy in Asia and the local CA mudslides reminded us of where our spiritual house should be built - the Rock upon which we stand.

Our congregation appreciated ministering Bro. Jeff Luthi's efforts in leading our initial Wednesday evening Bible study. The topic was God's metaphysical attributes. We were reminded that His ways and His very being are so much higher than ours, and yet He has provided a way to relationship with Him. May the Lord direct this study, and may His Word be implanted in our hearts.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who were willing to serve us this month including: Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, Saint Louis, MO).

We praise God for Aaron Yaussi's (Ann) recovery after his emergency appendectomy this month. He seems to be in good spirits since the surgery.

Our prayers go out to Dorothy Vermillion in the loss of her sister, Marian Rieger, of Forrest, IL. May He comfort and strengthen Dorothy and her family in the ensuing months.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Peggy Jevremov

Greetings to all. We have been blessed with winter visitors this month. Among them were ministering Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). We appreciate their willingness to bring to us God's Holy Word by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless them for their service.

We rejoice with Brian Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian) as it was made known to our congregation that he has found peace with God and would like to be baptized. We know the angels are rejoicing over one more sinner who has come to the foot of the old rugged cross and surrendered to our Lord and Saviour. We look forward to provings and baptisms in the near future.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Julianna Topolchanyi and Sis. Joanne Varga as they have both recently undergone surgery. We are thankful they are able to reassemble with us.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We appreciate the three visiting ministers that shared with us this past month. They were Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH).

"Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

On New Year's day, Zoltan and Sis. Maria Toth welcomed the congregation to their home. Here we had a delicious dinner with wonderful singing to follow.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

Many people are drawn to the Rocky Mountains and we benefit by having visitors year round. A visiting minister this winter was Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan (Taylor, MO), who were here with their family on January 2. We are grateful for his service to us.

Also visiting us last month was Bro. Caleb Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) who moved to Illinois last fall and is fellowshiping with the Roanoke congregation. We were glad to see Bro. Caleb again and wish him well in his new life in Roanoke. "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." (Pro. 3:1-2)

Sam Moser (Rockville, CT) is back in Denver as his job has once again brought him here. We enjoy Sam's time with us and are glad to welcome him back.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Mary Berg (Bro. Bill, Bern, KS) and her family; who lived here until about a year-and-a-half ago. Sis. Mary and her daughter, Kerry, were in a serious car accident in early January and she sustained major injuries. Her brother, Bro. Rod Schmidt (Sis. Cindy), and his family assemble with us, so we've had regular updates on her condition and are thankful to hear how the Lord is healing her.

Bro. Brian Pfeiffer has moved to Arizona because of his job. His fam-

ily (Sis. Becky and son, Andrew) plans to follow him when their house sells. We'll miss them and our prayers are with them.

This month, no matter what our circumstances, let's remember that true happiness comes from the Lord.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

Ps. 16:11

CONNECTICUT

ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler

Amber Reutter

"Where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart." We were blessed to be witnesses to two weddings this past month. Bro. Brad Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Deanna Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen) were joined together in marriage. We wish them God's blessings and nearness as Deanna moves away from our congregation to Illinois. Also taking this step of faith were Bro. Jonathan Zahner (Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Amy Carlson (Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy). They, too, have our prayers and good wishes for a new life together. Visiting with us for the first wedding weekend was Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria) of Congerville, IL.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation, Heed the word of God today!" The angels in heaven have cause to rejoice as yet another soul turns to God in repentance. Sam Virkler (John and Sis. Maureen) certainly has our prayers and encouragement as he begins this new walk of life.

A family has been blessed by the safe arrival of a new baby. Bro. Kent

and Sis. Karen Zahner welcome a baby girl, Natalie Grace, into their family. She joins her older sister, Katrina, and a brother, Jeremy. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Lou Goric and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner.

Our prayers go out to those who have been in the hospital recently. They include Bro. Ed Luginbuhl (Sis. Alma), Sis. Elsie Lanz, Bro. Lester Heintz, Sis. Barbara Schneider and Chazz Lanz. We pray that God will heal each one and be with those who care for them.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

“Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”

Luke 2:19

The holiday of Christmas may be over, but may the meaning stay in our hearts all year. On December 19 the Sunday School presented their Christmas Program/Year End Review. It is a joy for me as teacher to see how much they remember.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle will long remember Christmas 2004. Madeline Eve arrived 4½ weeks early on December 24. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL) and Dr. George and Karen Merkle (Bluffton, IN).

We welcome Anna Skallefell from Sweden who is living with her cousins, the Phil Steffen family, for a semester.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda) from Philadelphia, PA.

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 and Sis. Jill Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 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**

The holiday season is always a time to reflect on the birth of Christ and the gift of life eternal in heaven. It is a time when loved ones join close together and rejoice in the Lord. We are grateful for these precious times.

We were thankful to have with us visiting on Christmas weekend Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). Also, visiting this month were our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou) from Gridley, IL. We pray that God would bless His servants.

Sis. Delores VanNorman was in the hospital, but is now in a rehab facility recovering. Sis. Barb Schneider is recovering in Connecticut and we hope that God will heal her completely and that she might once again join us in Ft. Lauderdale.

Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley) shared our Communion exhortation with us. We were blessed to hear words and prayers that convicted us

to examine our hearts and renew ourselves in spirit.

Congratulations to Sis. Elena Zurz on the birth of her great granddaughter. Our prayers will be that she will continue to be well and happy and that she will have Christ in her life.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edi, Elgin, IL). We want to thank each of these dear brothers for their untiring efforts in serving us in expounding the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Wayne Rocke, who winters with us here in Fort Myers, has had some health concerns. Let us pray for his quick recovery.

As we think of the many loved ones who winter with us in Fort Myers, we consider the benefits of retirement. However, there is always work to be done for the Lord. As long as we live, Christ can work in and through us to accomplish His will. Just as Christ was magnified in the apostle Paul's life, He can also be magnified in ours as long as we are submissive to the Holy Spirit's direction.

Growing old but not retiring,
For the battle still is on:
Going on without relenting
Till the final victory's won.
Retirement from our jobs — yes.
Retirement from serving Christ —
never!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA**Carol Koehl**

Work teams are arriving weekly for the months of January, February, and March. They are doing storm repairs and building new houses for some of the unfortunate people in Wauchula who suffered severe destruction during the hurricanes this past fall. We sincerely appreciate all their labors of love, and we also are enjoying our fellowship with these work teams.

January 14-16 found some of our families and young folks at Maggie Valley, North Carolina. They enjoyed a weekend together with families from the Atlanta congregation. Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) had services on Sunday.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA**Carol Kaufman**

We are so thankful that Bros. Gary Anliker and Chuck Kellenberger (both of Elgin, IL), and John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) were able to come and minister God's precious and holy Word to us this past month. Bros. Gary and Chuck filled in when Bro. Tom was gone. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

We have been so encouraged and blessed by those who have stopped by and worshipped with us. We truly appreciate the prayers that are offered on behalf of our little congregation. We look forward to the fellowship of the brethren. We know that there are many going to Florida to help rebuild and repair homes due to the hurricane damage. If you have

plans to go south this winter, remember to include us. Give us a call to help us plan 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. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-328-3266 or Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788.

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

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

As a new year lies before and the calendar pages are not yet all filled up, may we fill them with the things that are eternal.

It has been quite a month here in Belvidere. Many have traveled over the holidays and we are glad everyone is back home. Our Bible class volunteered at a local shelter to serve breakfast — certainly something that will bring eternal satisfaction.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL****Kara Martin****Ann Nussbaum**

Bros. Brad Bauer (Tucson, AZ) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) visited our congregation this month. We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

God has begun a new work in the life of Brad Horner (Albert and Sis. Janice). We are prayerful for him as He seeks to walk in God's ways.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Jami Kaeb welcomed Raegan Joy on December 19. Her sister is Paige. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley, IL).

Our Bro. Glen Hodel (Sis. Susan) had surgery, and we are praying for his recovery.

On December 19, our Sunday School students presented the Christmas story. It is always a special day for our church, and we pray God's blessings will be on the teachers and students for their efforts!

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**Steve Endress**

We always appreciate having visiting ministers with us. Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) willingly labored on our behalf.

A baby boy was born to Bro. Rob and Sis. Kelly Kieser. Daniel Ryan was born December 31 and is welcomed home by his siblings, Andy, Clayton, Samantha, and Landon. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Charles and the late Judy Geary (Wyoming, IL).

We once again offer our apprecia-

tion to the brethren who have served the church in the past, and our prayers to those who have been chosen to perform a church duty. Our new usher is Bro. Matt Elsasser (Sis. Becky), replacing Bro. Richard Slutz (Sis. Marilyn). Our new trustee is Bro. Rob Kieser (Sis. Kelly), replacing Bro. Fred Hausmann (Sis. Sue).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Brendan Endress (Bro. Bill and Sis. Renee) who spent time in the hospital. We hope that he will have a speedy recovery.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Kelly Kieser (Bro. Rob) at the loss of her mother, Judy Geary, of Wyoming, IL. We know that our Lord is the Master healer and we look to Him to provide His healing touch.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, and flowers they sent me for the holidays. May God bless you all.

Sis. Elizabeth Kimble

We want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, visits, and prayers during the surgery and recovery time of Bro. Rich. May God bless you.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Paula Gillespie and Family

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! It seems that these cold winter months can rally drag on but we remain hopeful for Spring!

We are glad to welcome another couple to our tiny congregation. Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny (Stahl) Schroeder were recently married in

Chicago and have made Champaign their home at this time. Bro. Peter has lived in the area for a few years working as a flight instructor. We are excited to have them!

Our prayers are with Bro. Rich Fischer as he recently spent some time in the hospital. He has now recovered well enough to join his wife, Sis. Dorothy, at the Champaign County Nursing Home.

We thank our ministering Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) for his service to our small congregation this past month.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings of love from Chicago. The phrase "winter wonderland" definitely applies to today's weather. It started snowing late last night, and we awoke to snow piled everywhere and snow plows out in full force! Wherever you are, and in whatever weather you find yourself – I pray you are feeling God's nearness and love.

On January 9 we rejoiced with Sis. Penny Stahl, (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria), and Bro. Peter Schroder as they became one in the Lord. It was a beautiful wedding day and many loved ones, family and friends gathered together to wish Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny the best as they start this new chapter in their lives. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted with the wedding service. Thanks also to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bros. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) and Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) for their visits and services. We appreciate the efforts each one made on our behalf.

The engagement of Sis. Bethany Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla) to Bro. Lucas Young (Bro. Morris and

Sis. Pat, Elgin, IL) was announced recently. We are thankful for God's leading in the lives of these two loved ones and wish them much grace and happiness as they prepare for their life together. They will be making their home in Champaign, IL, as Bro. Lucas finishes his schooling at the University of Illinois.

We wish Sis. Lucille Koehl our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery from pneumonia. We love her and hope she feels our support and prayers.

I have felt sobered this month as news and pictures of the Tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia have rolled in. I found myself struggling to comprehend the number of dead from the destruction. I knew the figures were approximately 100,000 persons deceased – many of them children – and now it appears that this has doubled. Lives lost, ruined or changed forever. It was reported that it is possible certain small people groups indigenous to the coastal areas have been totally wiped out. Here as I type, and as you read, those words may just seem like sterile statistics. But it occurs to me that knowing our life on earth is just a "passing through" of a miniscule moment of time is a great blessing. On December 26, 2004, eternity became reality to 200,000 people – without a warning or a last chance. The following phrase has stuck in my mind and I would like to share it with you – to keep a perspective on our day-to-day living. "If home is where the heart is, then I'm out of place." Perhaps it may be that feeling comfortable now will result in much discomfort in eternity. Wherever you are today in this 21st century, I pray that your heart longs to be home, whenever God should decide that will be. May God be with

each one of you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Andrea Walder

Susan Waldbeser

We have been blessed this month with joys and saddened with sorrows. The Christmas season brought many families together to rejoice in our Saviour's birth. We thank our Sunday school students for bringing us the beautiful Christmas story message on December 22. May God bless the students and teachers for all their efforts.

This past month we were thankful and encouraged to have the Word brought to us by three visiting ministers. May God bless Bros. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) for their labors on our behalf. It is truly a blessing in our precious faith to have those willing to visit and lend themselves for the true ministry of God's Word.

We rejoice with Bro. Nick and Sis. Andrea Walder over the birth of their son, Brett Samuel, who was born on January 12. Welcoming him home is big brother, Drew. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder. Brett also has two great-grandparents here in Cissna Park, Bro. Clarence Maul and Sis. Lucille Walder, who also were grateful for his safe arrival.

January 12 was the date of our annual business meeting and election. Bro. Eric Kaeb and Bro. Dan Walder, Sis. Jennifer Fehr and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann were chosen for Sunday School teachers, Bro. Roland Young as Trustee, Bro. Walt Laubscher for Fellowship Hall Committee, and Bro. Wes Kaufmann for church secretary. May God grant these Brothers and Sisters grace

and wisdom in their new assignments.

The angels in heaven rejoice over every sinner that repents. We are grateful that we have two new converts the last few months. Norman Maul has accepted God's loving call and has started repenting. He is the father of our Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul and Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul. Also answering that call is Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn). May God be with both of these dear souls as they strive to lay a solid foundation in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to remember in prayer Bro. Wayne Laubscher and Norman Maul who have had surgery or have been hospitalized this past month. We pray that God will restore good health and strength according to His will.

Our Sis. Maxine Hari was called very quickly into eternity this past month. We want to hold up her dear husband in prayer, Bro. Marvin E. Hari, and their children, Victor and Bonnie Hari and Melva and Bill Betka. We pray that God will comfort this dear family in their time of sorrow.

We also were mindful this past month of our dear friend, Cristella Martinez, on the loss of her infant daughter, Olivia. May God comfort her heart and we pray that she can feel the prayers of her church family.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us at this difficult time in our lives. May God bless you for your words of encouragement, money, cards and all the kind deeds shown unto us.

Love,

Cristella and Christopher

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

How shall it be when we at last returning
From weary wand'rings and from
toil and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our
heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?
Zion's Harp #146

Recently we were asked, "Do we have the hope that someday we shall reach this heavenly home? Do we have this peace in our life?"

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have taught us of the way to this heavenly home. Lately we have been blessed with the presence of Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN) and Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL). Our prayer is that they can be filled with the peace of God as they continue to work in His vineyard.

Two souls who are overflowing with the peace and love of God are our Bro. Brad and Sis. Deanna Wiegand. They were joined in holy matrimony on Sunday, January 2, in Rockville, CT. Their parents are John and Sis. Maureen Virkler (Rockville) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand. We lovingly welcomed them into our congregation here with a reception on Sunday, January 16.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Doris Williamson and Bro. Keith Roth. Our love and prayers are extended to these families.

Rejoicing in the answer of their prayers are Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice Ruegsegger as their daughter, Audrey, began her repentance. As she works out her peace on this earth, may she focus on the final goal, the

heavenly home that awaits all of the true and faithful servants of Christ.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

Elgin enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors within the past month. Among them were Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA) and ministering Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Ron Joos (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL). We are always thankful to hear the unchanging gospel message sounded by brothers near and far.

On the weekend of January 8 and 9, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner assisted Bro. Ron with three testimonies and baptisms. They were for Sis. Amanda Kellenberger (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Lynwood and Sis. Jamie Schambach, whose parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Leann Schambach and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss. It was also encouraging to hear of another soul who recently confessed her need of a Savior — Diana Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie). Our prayers are with these four, as they seek to establish and further their walk with the Lord.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Stephanie Cargill announced the birth of their second daughter on December 21. Devan and Trevor welcomed little Madison Brielle and so did her grandparents, Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kay Cargill.

On New Year's Day, an Elgin work team of senior students, couples and other singles returned

safely from a six-day mission trip to the Magdalena orphanage in Mexico. Those who traveled felt the congregation's prayers and believed the group's efforts and time together were blessed.

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. Along with the various reports of activities and contributions, there were two elections. Bro. Eric Humbracht was chosen to replace Bro. Dave Rinkenberger as church trustee, and Bro. Ken Kellenberger will assume Bro. Tom Schifferer's duties as trustee of the Fellowship Center. The evening renewed our appreciation for all who work willingly for the welfare of our church.

Bro. Kent Kloter, through Gateway Woods Family Services, presented the "Foundations of Faith" seminar at the Fellowship Center on January 14 and 15. The sessions were inspirational, and we thank him for giving of his time and effort.

The engagement of Bro. Luke Young (Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Bethany Rassi (Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla, Chicago) was made known on January 16. We believe the Lord's blessings will follow this dear couple, who sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Sis. Wava Steffen (Bro. John) was recently hospitalized for surgery on her hip. Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill) is temporarily residing at Rosewood Care Center, where she is receiving therapy.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Lisa Metzger

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Kelli Vierling, as they bring home their healthy baby boy, Nathan Andrew.

His happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman. Another baby boy, Preston Ryan, joined his sister, Hailey, in the family circle of Ryan and Kandi Carr. Their grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman.

As we welcome two souls to life, we bid farewell to two of our sisters who have gone to their eternal reward. We sympathize with Howard Moser (Imelda) in the loss of his mother, Sis. Caroline Moser. Also, Sis. Ruth Feucht passed from this life recently. We offer our condolences to her sister, Sis. Lyola Ringger (Bro. Jim). Let us pray for those sorrowing.

Hank Blunier (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Louise Rocke (Bro. Ray) and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid (Bro. Rod) have been hospitalized recently. We know God will be faithful through these times of trial.

We had a very blessed weekend of provings and baptisms this past month. We welcome the following into the family of God: Sis. Heidi Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris), Sis. Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Kary Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) and Bro. Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori). The Lord's work is marvelous to behold.

The baptism weekend and others brought several visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank the following for their willing service on our behalf: Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Brad Gudeman (Bradford), Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, On-

tario), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), John Bradle (Roanoke), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield).

We had two engagement announcements this month: Bro. Mark Dotterer (Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne) to Sis. Kate Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine) and Bro. Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) to Sis. Tiffany Eastman (Dave and Diane) of Goodfield. We wish both of these couples God's blessings as they plan their lives together.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Anna Schmidgall
Tammy Hinrichsen**

Christian greetings from Fairbury. Little Rudy Dawson was born December 28 to Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana Steidinger. He is welcomed home by big sisters, Naomi and Cloe. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. We are thankful that Rudy is safely here and that both he and mom are doing fine.

We ask for God's healing strength and mercies to several from our congregation who have been hospitalized within the last month. They are Dick Koehl, Sis. Natasha Knapp, Sis. Kati Meiss, Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Sis. Betty Wiegand and Bro. Dick Wiegand.

The Fairbury congregation would like to thank the following Brothers who visited us this past month and taught us from His Holy Word. They are Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bros. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL).

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

We are always thankful for ministering brothers who share the Word of Life with us. Visiting us were Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH). Also ministering Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), John Hartman and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) were God's mouth pieces.

Taking vows to be joined together as husband and wife on January 9 were Sis. Rachel Schlatter and Bro. Scott Hartzler of Rittman, OH. Their parents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Bro. Mark, dec.) and Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler (Rittman, OH). Also on January 9 in our Chicago, IL congregation Bro. Pete Schroder from Forrest was joined as one with Sis. Penny Stahl (Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria) in the Lord. May the Lord richly bless these two new marriages.

Putting their trust in the Lord, Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid (Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee) have announced their engagement. As they make wedding plans, may they look to Him for guidance.

We are happy to report a little girl named Katie Lynn has joined the family of Bro. Joel, Sis. Heidi and Loren Beard. Loving grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Sardis, OH).

Bro. Bill Aberle spent time in the hospital this month following a serious car accident. May he feel the

nearness of the Lord during this time.

We sympathize with Bros. Perry, Glen and Al Zimmerman and their families in the death of their brother, Ernie Zimmerman, of Indiana. Also we pray God's comforting Spirit be upon Bro. Richard Rieger as he recently lost his helpmate of many years, Sis. Marian. We extend our sympathies to Sis. Marian's children, Mary (Dan) Bradley, Sis. "Til" (Bro. Harry) Johnson, daughter-in-law, Diane Rieger, and sons, Dick, Andy and Tom, and their grandchildren.

Bro. Kevin (Sis. Denise) Kilgus has fulfilled his ten years teaching the youth in Sunday School. May the Lord bless him for the extra time and commitment he invested in the Church of tomorrow. Bro. Jeff Mueller (Sis. Sarah) was elected as our new Sunday School teacher. May he feel God's Holy Spirit working through him as he takes his turn teaching our children.

In the year 2004, our church recorded 16 births, 5 deaths, 11 baptisms and 6 weddings. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born and a time to die;" (Eccles. 3:1-2). May the year 2005 be one of holy service to Him.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all who remembered me with prayers, phone calls, notes and personal visits during the times of my surgery and recovery. It was so good to be able to come to church again and feel the warmth, love and friendship which I have always appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Sincerely,

Sis. Dorothy (Carl) Bachtold

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

It is so easy to get caught up in our day to day life and lose sight of the reason we are really here. We need to remember daily, hourly or even minute by minute, that we are in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. All we do and say is to glorify and lift Him up.

“Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain”

I Corinthians 15:58

How thankful we are to report two more healthy babies. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay, Taylor and Karly Wiegand welcomed Austin Dean to their family. Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynn, Cole, Kaitlyn, and Wade Wiegand welcomed Clay Douglas. May God be with each of these families.

Jodi Knepp and Brock Gerber were married on January 8. Parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp of Roanoke. May God be with this new couple as they begin life as one.

Bro. Tim Wiegand and Sis. Christa Kaeb are engaged to be married. Parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb of Bloomington. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for a wedding and a new life together.

We are thankful that Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill) was with us for our monthly Bible Study. He spoke on family “Table Talk”. We thank him for his service to us.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

I saw a placard the other day entitled, “Sin Will”. It cited three negatives of sin. Sin will cost you more than you want to pay. Sin will take you farther than you want to go. And sin will cause you to stay longer than you want to stay. Indeed, sin is a terrible transgression in God's sight. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Galatians 6:23). Thanks be to God that there is a solution to sin!

Our quest each day should be to be thankful to God. A saying indicates, “The seeds of discouragement will not grow in the thankful heart.” We have manifold reasons to be thankful. The hymn, “Count Your Many Blessings” is aptly titled and the phrase “many blessings” is indeed correct. When we are toiling under a load of discouragement, it surely helps to begin giving thanks, and helps us spiritually.

There is an old adage that reads “Health is Wealth”. How true this is as well. The world is rife with physical problems, poor health, disease and pain. There seems to be hardly anyone who (adults) is free from some kind of ailment, even minor ones. Hospital beds are occupied and nursing homes are full with elderly persons. People endure health problems at home. Good health is not necessarily constant, and many struggle with chronic ailments. So, those who do have good health and can stay off medications are wealthy — in a way that money cannot buy.

Declining health takes its toll among us. Sis. Martha Stoller is in the home at Roanoke and in declining health; and it appears her days here might be few according to her

doctors. May the Lord be with her. Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein was hospitalized and continues to struggle with Parkinson's disease.

The Detroit Choir was here on the weekend of January 15-16. Visiting ministers that weekend were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit) and Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI). We were appreciative of their preaching efforts, led by the Holy Spirit.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

We are very happy and thankful that our Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein and their son, Troy, have transferred back to Morton from Atlanta and once again joins our pulpit. May God bless them in their labors.

Bro. Rod and Sis. Teresa Blunier and their family have also transferred back to Morton and we welcome them also.

We had no Family worship this month due to church being cancelled due to inclement weather that Wednesday night.

Our annual business meeting was held January 12. We are grateful for all those who give of their time and funds in support of these committees.

We are happy to announce the birth of a baby boy, Riley Alan, born January 4 to Carrie Spangler (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn) and Joe Miller (Duane and Cynthia Miller, Tremont, IL). May God bless them and their little one.

Margaret Dockus passed away at Restmor, December 24, 2004. She is a sister to our Bro. Robert (Sis. Dorothy) Frank.

Marie Pfaffmann passed away January 13. She is a sister to our Bro. Sol (Sis. Sharilyn) Rassi and

Bro. Eli (Sis. Pearl) Rassi, Bob (Janet) Rassi and Leah Warren. Praise God for His infinite grace and mercy afforded unto her in repentance even in the 11th hour of her life.

May God continue to comfort these dear families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Lou and Marjean Lonteen**

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

II Corinthians 7:1

Thank you to our guest ministers: Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield - Pulaski, IA), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN).

On January 9, Bro. Rodney Menold was united in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Kristin Meister. Parents are: Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold (Bern, KS), and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard.

Engagement announcement: Jesse Getz has announced his engagement to Cara Tingley. Parents of the couple are Sis. Judy Getz and Rodney Getz of East Peoria, and Gordon and Cindy Tingley of Beardstown.

Thank you, “Kindred Spirit”, for your song service on January 9. We also appreciated the singing by the first and second grade Sunday school students.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for your kind deeds, memorials, cards and especially prayer at the time of my mother’s death, Sis. Martha Bahler. May God bless each one.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner

The Paul Meister family wants to thank everyone for their prayers and love shown to us during Paul’s hospital stay and at the time of his death. We appreciated your visits, food, flowers, memorials. May God bless you.

I am truly blessed by God, family and friends that I am able to be back home with my family after spending 14 weeks combined at the hospital and the Skyline Nursing Home. A special thanks to all our friends and family for your prayers, cards, flowers, gifts, letters of encouragement and visits. All was very much appreciated. May God bless each one of you!

Bro. Herman Schaefer

Bro. Dave (Sis. Rita) Sauder extends his special thanks to all for their prayers, cards, gifts of love and phone calls since his injury and return home. God bless you.

We extend sympathy to: Sis. Cindy (Bro. Brian) Wiegand in the death of her father, Bro. Louis Albrecht (Burlington, IA).

Our congregation extends sympathy to Sis. Freida Hoerr in the death of her son, Bill Hoerr. Our sympathy to Jerry and Marie Hoerr in the loss of their brother.

Those appreciating prayers are: Bro. Bob (Sis. Lorene) Joos, Sis. Kathleen (Bro. Cleve) Klopfenstein,

Sis. Judy (Bro. Dean) Martin, Bro. Bob (Sis. Marge) Rumbold, Bro. Dave (Sis. Rita) Sauder, Sis. Marsha (Chris) Stickling, and Bro. Ivan (May) Thomas.

God’s blessings were felt by the Jamaica Work Team as they recently returned safely home again. We trust the Lord’s work will continue even as our loved ones returned home.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

II Corinthians 9

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”

Titus 3:8

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions.”

John 14:1,2a

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Vera Baer** **Kara Blunier**

We have had a very busy, but blessed, month! On December 19, we were witness to the annual Sunday School Christmas Program. The children’s sweet telling of the Christmas story was an inspiring way to keep our minds focused on the true meaning of the season. Several ministers visited us and blessed us with God’s Word during this time as well. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and

Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) also visited us and we wish to thank all of these ministers and their wives for their willingness to serve us.

Sis. Ruth Feucht (Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home) passed away on December 28. Although she hadn't attended our congregation for several years, many of us can remember her Godly presence very well. We think of her family members at this time.

"...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;" (Isaiah 1:18). These comforting words were inspired many years ago, but we are thankful they are still true today and young souls are heeding them! We rejoice with David Ehnle (Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb) and Grant Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) as they have begun repenting.

We bid a sad farewell to Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann as they have relocated to the Alto, MI, congregation. We are thankful for God's direction in their lives, but will miss their presence in our congregation. We wish you God's blessings and come back to visit us often!

On January 2, by the Spirit's working among us, we prayerfully and thankfully welcomed Bro. Matt Steffen and his wife, Sis. Deanna, and family, into the ministry. Our prayers are with them as they undertake this high calling. Also on that day, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller were thankful to be able to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Rachael (Indianapo-

lis, IN) to Bro. Matt Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jerry Endress and Sisters Elsie Mueller, Edith Martin and Betty Herrmann, who have been hospitalized recently. We wish each of them a full recovery.

We wish to thank the Bradford congregation for hosting a singing for us on January 9. We were blessed with a wonderful evening of song and fellowship.

Since our annual business meeting, several of our brothers and sisters have accepted new positions in the church. We thank them for their willingness and especially share our appreciation for those whose terms are finished.

We wish to apologize to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner (Leo, IN) for inadvertently omitting their wedding that took place on October 17. Bro. Kirk's parents are Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner. May God's blessings be upon your marriage.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Doris Fischer

We praise God for His work of redemption in the lives of Ellie Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette), Shelli Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori) and Pam Bryan. We heard their testimonies and welcomed these three as our Sisters in early January. We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) and Bros. Erik Givens (Princeville) and Curt Rassi (Tremont) share our pulpit for this special occasion. Thanks, also, to Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) for ministering to us several weeks earlier.

Jodi Knepp (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) became the bride of Brock Gerber of Goodfield (Bro. Roger and

Sis. Trish). Numbers 6 puts into words our heartfelt prayer for this couple, "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

As their engagement period ends, another couple's begins. The engagement of Bro. Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) and Sis. Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Debbie, Taylor, MO) was announced.

Daniel James Moser was born into the family of Bro. Todd and Sis. Kathy on December 22. Little Daniel is welcomed by big brothers, Bradley and Curtis, big sisters, Elizabeth and Carolyn, and grandparents Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Barb Moser.

Bro. Harlow Blunier (Sis. Sally) has been released from the hospital, and continues his recuperation at home. Our prayers are with him for continued healing.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Emma Legel, who passed away on January 11. Sis. Emma had lived 103 years on earth before her eternal life began.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to everyone that remembered me on my 85th birthday and at Christmas. May God bless each one for the cards, gifts and visits.

In Christian Love,
Sis. Doris Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Heather Rassi LaVonne Wagenbach

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and

all that is within me, bless his holy name.”

Psalm 103:1

Out of thankful hearts, we rejoice in all the Lord has done for us in the past year.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) assisted in the reading of the Memorandum. Bro. James Kaeb (Bern, KS) also visited our congregation this month and labored in bringing forth the Word of God.

Our thoughts are with Sis. Vera (Bro. Walt) Aberle as she has spent time in the hospital this month. May God give her the strength and healing necessary for recovery.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart**

We enjoyed many visitors over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Among them were ministers, Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). They brought to us many kindly exhortations and were so much appreciated. May we redeem the time, as we were reminded, living "... the rest of our time ... to the will of God." (I Peter 4:2)

We are thankful to hear that Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan) of Magdalena, Mexico, is recovering after his recent illness.

Our Sis. Mildred Endress recently lost a sister close to her, Sis. Ruth Feucht, of Princeville. Our sympathy goes out to her and to Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Endress to whom Sis. Ruth was an aunt.

A new baby boy is a blessing in the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames. Thad Jeffrey was

born January 18. His welcoming committee is siblings, David, Katelyn, Joshua, Kara Lea, Hannah, Susanna, Caleb, Jonathan, Jesse, and Zachary.

"True teachers for Thy flock Thou dost provide, O Lord." (Zion's Harp #122). We surely appreciated the unexpected visit from Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) on a recent Wednesday evening. We were reminded of the goodness and mercy of the Lord to those who love Him and keep His commandments. We read that "He remembereth that we are dust" and were asked, "Do we remember that?"

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger**

Our congregation has been blessed this year. On New Year's Day, we had our annual business meeting. Our support and prayers are extended to the 16 new Sunday school teachers and 10 new office holders that were elected. Many thanks are extended to those who are retiring from their jobs. It takes so much effort from every individual to make a church body effective, and we are so thankful for each member, those who have a specific office and especially those who work and pray behind the scenes.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

This has been a busy year in Bluffton. We welcomed 28 new members into the fold. Sadly, we

said goodbye for now to 15 dear brothers and sisters who passed away in 2004. We celebrated 13 weddings and added 16 babies and 5 adopted children into our congregation. We are very thankful for the Lord's blessings this past year and pray for His nearness once again in 2005.

The call of the Lord continues as many more have come to call on His name. We are thankful for Jamin Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia), Alyssa Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudy), Travis Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie), Andrew Baumgartner (Bro. Craig and Sis. Beth) and Lance Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth) as they surrendered their lives to Christ in repentance.

We are very thankful for willing visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL) were in Bluffton this month.

Our prayers are extended to our Bro. Joey and Sis. Holly Kline as they have announced that they plan on moving to Leo, IN, to serve as alternate houseparents at Gateway Woods. We will miss this dear couple as they leave our congregation to serve where they feel called.

Wyatt James Maggart is the first-born son of Josh and Sis. Becky Maggart. Wyatt was born on December 30. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart and Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller.

Dalton Isaac Douglas is the newest grandson of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan Kaehr. Dalton's parents, Jason and Leanne, welcomed him into their family on January 7.

Bro. Dick Reinhard, Sis. Elaine

Kipfer and Sis. Ida (Bro. Roy, dec.) Aschliman all spent some time in the hospital this month. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon them.

December 31 was the final earthly day for our Sis. Nova Steffen. She was 76 years old. Our prayers go out to her dear husband, Bro. Bob; her daughters, Karen Boxell (Donald) and Ruth Allen (Curtis); her brother, Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary); and her sisters, Sis. Eileen Furrer (Bro. Glenn, Prescott, AZ), Sis. June Lehman (Bro. Harold, Wolcott, IN), Sis. Violet Meyer (Bro. Harold) and Sis. Rosina Baumgartner. Also mourning her loss are five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Doug Dailey (Sis. Susan) as his father, Don Dailey, passed away this month.

We rejoice with Bro. Andy Stoller (Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Jenna Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary, Bluffton North) as they announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them as they plan their upcoming May wedding and their life together.

January 2 was the wedding day of Bro. Matt Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois, Bluffton North) and Sis. Tiffany Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy). We wish them the Lord's blessings in their marriage.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

Matthew 3:13

Following Christ's example, Kristina Warren, Lance Aschliman (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa) and Rob Jolloff (Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev) gave their testimonies and were baptized on January 16. We pray that they will continue to grow in Christ. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen) with these testimonies and baptisms.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn, Junction, OH) come and share the Word with us this month.

We rejoiced with our Bro. Matt Drayer (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois) as he was united in marriage with Sis. Tiffany Aschliman (Bluffton, IN), daughter of Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy. We want to welcome Sis. Tiffany into our congregation and wish the couple God's blessing in their new life together.

Another wedding that will be approaching is that of Bro. Matt Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra) and Sis. Rachel Stoller (Indianapolis, IN), daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary (Princeville, IL), as their engagement was announced this month. We pray that as they develop their relationship, they will continue to keep Christ in the center of it all.

We are rejoicing with first time parents, Sis. Becky and Josh Maggart, as they enjoy their son, Wyatt James, born on December 30. Wyatt James' grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart and Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller (Rio Bravo, MX).

Our prayers go with Bro. Seth Drayer as he will be spending this semester of college in France. We pray

the Lord will watch over Bro. Seth and will keep him close.

Ken Cook passed away on January 8. Our prayers are with his wife, Eileen (Steffen). Ken had been worshipping with us for several years and has appreciated the Word and the love of Christian fellowship.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Herman Baumgartner (Sis. Mary) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Nova Kipfer (Bro. Robert, Bluffton, IN). We also grieved with Sis. Ruth Ifer (Bro. Frank) in the loss of her father, John Bender.

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Sis. Marguerite Kipfer, Bro. Junior Lantz (Sis. Charlene), Bro. Everett Schladenhauffen (Sis. Luella), and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry). We lift each one of them up in prayer.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." (Psalms 31:24)

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

Greetings in Jesus' name! As the custom of the world is to celebrate love this month, may we be especially joyful and thankful that we know the real love that is God's gift to mankind. May we put that love in action in ways that make a difference in our own lives and those near and dear to us. I John 4:7-8 tells us of the love that should radiate from the life of a believer.

Love through me, Love of God,
Make me like Thy clear air
Through which unhindered,
colours pass
As though it were not there.

The holy season of the celebration of Jesus' birth brought many visitors into our church and also vis-

iting ministers. Sharing the Gospel with us during the special season were Bros. James (Sis. Gina) Emch and Jim (Sis. Candy) Meiss (Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN). We count it a privilege and blessing that these dear brothers serve us by submitting themselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit to bring forth the Word of Life. May we remember them all in our prayers and give glory to God for their dedication.

We share the joy of Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene (Leman) Metzger as we happily welcome our newlywed friends, Austin and Stacy Metzger, to Francesville. After their summer wedding they had resided in Indianapolis but have now found employment locally. Families are precious and it is heartwarming to see love ties strengthened when our grown children return to their roots to go on with their lives. Welcome, dear ones!

Another facet of love of God and family has been evidenced in our fellowship as we have the pleasure of announcing the arrival of newborns fresh from the arms of God to cherish and love.

Our first arrival, Linsey Dawn, was born to Kevin and Heather (Gutwein) Cox on December 9. Happily welcoming her is big brother, Seth. Thankful grandparents are our Bro. Harvey Jr. and Sis. Ellen (Koebecke) Gutwein and Don and Lydia Cox. Linsey is their third grandchild to arrive this year and we are very happy for their family circle.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri (Beer) Huber are very thankful for the birth of their fifth son, Quinn Allen, who was born on December 27. Big brothers Eric, Kirk, Brock, and Ross are excited to have another brother

to follow in their footsteps also. Quinn's grandparents are Bro. Gene Sr. and Sis. Barb Huber of Francesville and Bro. Bob Beer (Sis. Linda, deceased) of the Milford church.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber also welcomed a granddaughter, Bethany Joy Baumgartner, on December 13. Baby Bethany was born in Indianapolis and is the daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Melissa (Huber) Baumgartner and joins siblings, Zachary, Leah and Barbara.

Then, on January 7, Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana (Overmyer) Cook were blessed with the arrival of Zachary Dean. Ready to receive him with open arms were sisters, Michaela, Megan, and big brother, Isaiah. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet (Vogt) Overmyer and Sis. Debbie Cook of our home congregation. "Children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3)

The above precious little ones all have one very special gift in common. They have grandparents near them to also rejoice at their arrival. As I write these announcements and think of the generational gifts of love and guidance these little ones will enjoy, I looked up "generation" in the concordance and found the word mentioned several times throughout the Bible. We can all be so thankful for the plan God has had from the beginning of time to ensure that the gift of salvation would be ongoing until His return.

"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness until children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."

Psalm 103:17-18

May God grant bountiful grace to raise these precious little children to His Glory and to be covenant keepers.

Also blessing our congregation and ministering to us were Bro. Nelson (Sis. Shelby) Beer of Milford and Elder Bro. Marvin (Sis. Jane) Leman of the Bradford, IL, congregation. It was such a blessing as these two brothers served on the same Sunday. Bro. Nelson had the morning service while Bro. Marvin served at Parkview Haven. The Holy Spirit united their two messages into one theme which was faithfulness: God's and ours. May we never take for granted the gift of the awesome Holy Spirit which enables them to stand before us and share the bread of life and remember to consecrate them and our worship in continuous prayer.

Our congregate prayers are with our friend, Nicholas Leman, who has enlisted in the United States Marines. Nick is the son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman and is in training at San Diego, California. We pray the Lord's nearness as he serves our country in these perplexing times.

Helen Metz, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam (Bachtold) Metz, has announced her engagement and upcoming marriage on March 12 to Michael Barngrover of Peoria, IL. Michael is the son of Scott and Barbara Barngrover of Aurora, IL. We wish them our love and prayers and God's guidance in their married life.

We are privileged to have many converts at this time in our congregation. We hold them up in prayer before Almighty God for the "finishing of their faith" and also for the sanctification of all of us as believers

that we can truly show the joy of walking in the light of God and the love of our fellowship. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13).

Note of Thanks:

We praise God for His mercy and grace, and extend our heartfelt thanks to the many who supported us with prayers, cards and gifts throughout the months of Lana's treatments. Her central line was removed on January 18. Lord willing, she will not have to undergo further treatments. We love you all!

Les, Christine, Leah, Ryan, Evan, Alan and Lana Kaeb

I wish to sincerely thank everyone who so graciously remembered me during the holidays and this past year with cards, prayers and gifts. God bless one and all!

Humbly in Him,
Minerva B. Wuethrich

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Debbie Anliker**

Warm greetings from Indianapolis on this cold winter day. It was such a pretty morning, cold and quiet, with fresh snow covering the earth making everything clean and white. In our worship service this morning we were reminded that the blood of Jesus Christ in the only way we can be made clean and white as new snow.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe (Milford) spent a Sunday sharing God's Word with us. We enjoy their

visits and pray the Lord will bless them for their labors on our behalf.

Kent Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) has answered the Lord's call and is seeking Him in repentance. We are so happy for Kent and are thankful for answered prayer.

Two couples announced their engagements recently. Sis. Rachel Stoller is engaged to Bro. Matt Ringger. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller (Princeville) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North). Sean Wuethrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn) and Julie Willen are also engaged. We pray these dear couples will continue to seek the Lord's guidance as they plan for their lives together.

Bro. Matt, Sis. Andrea, and Avery Pfister recently moved to Indianapolis from Bluffton. We warmly welcome them and pray they will quickly feel at home here.

Sis. Emily Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) is leaving for Magdalena soon. Lord willing, she will spend several months there. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless her labors and then return her safely home.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalms 19:14

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

Faith of our fathers! Living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and
sword,
O how our hearts beat high with
joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious
word!

Our fathers, chained in prisons
dark,
Were still in heart and conscience
free:
How sweet would be their children's
fate,
If they, like them, could die for
thee!

Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe in all our
strife:
And preach thee, too, as love
knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life:

Chorus:

Faith of our fathers! holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!
Hymns of Zion #85

On January 15, we were able to come together as a congregation and hear the reading of the Memorandum. It is always a special time to hear the loving exhortation of the Elder brothers and the concerns and recommendations they have for us. We are so blessed to have so many "faithful fathers" that care so deeply for the spiritual well-being of each of us. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol; Cissna Park, IL) for assisting in this effort.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon; Cissna Park, IL) share the gospel with our congregation this past month. We are always thankful to have visitors.

An 80th birthday celebration was held in honor of Eugene Stoller on Sunday, January 16 in the Activity Room at Parkview Haven Retirement Home. There were many friends and family who were able to help him celebrate his special event.

We pray that God will bless him richly throughout the coming year.

On January 18, we gathered as a congregation, once again, to discuss the business matters of the church at our Annual Meeting. We are very thankful to those who have served in various capacities in the church these past years and pray that God will bless you richly for your efforts. Our prayers are also with those newly elected to positions within the church and trust that each one will joyfully fulfill their duties.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Carol Haab

The wonderful story of the birth of Jesus was once again brought to us through recitation and song during our Christmas program on December 19. We are thankful for everyone who took part in it. This is a story that never grows old. Each year it reminds us of God's amazing love for us because it is the beginning of our Saviour's journey to the cruel cross of Calvary where He shed His blood for our sins. There is no greater gift than this.

On January 6, we held our annual business meeting. Newly elected were Bro. Phil Price, trustee; Bro. John Hurd, usher; Bro. Bob Bowerman, Bible class teacher; Bro. Dean Lehman and Bro. Bill Longcor, Sunday school teachers; Sis. Sonya Beer, Sis. Briana Wuthrich and Sis. Sue Bowerman, primary Sunday school teachers; Sis. Carol Hurd, food committee; Sis. Tessa Schlatter, World Relief sewing committee; and Sis. Carol Haab, Silver Lining reporter. We appreciate the love and efforts of those completing their terms of service. A special thanks to Elder Bro. Bill

Schlatter for taking the time to assemble with us for the meeting.

We rejoiced with Sis. Tricia Wuthrich (Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Ed Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline), Valparaiso, as they were united as one in the Lord on January 9. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new life together.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the visiting ministers who gathered with us recently. They were Elder Bros. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bros. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Andy Moser (Sis. Diana, Valparaiso, IN), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God bless them for traveling to be with us and sharing God's Word.

Recent hospital patients were Bro. Alan Wuthrich and Bro. Maurice Beer. We are thankful they are again able to assemble with us. Sis. Eleanor Beer is in the hospital at this time. We pray she can feel God's nearness and our love for her.

As 2005 begins, may we all draw closer to our Lord and strive to follow in His footsteps each and every day.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Tammy Waibel
Beth Virkler

Greetings from Remington! It has been very busy since you have last heard from us.

We would like to thank all of the visiting ministers and their families for taking the time out of their busy lives to come and worship with us. Visiting ministers this past month

were:

Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL).

One of the visiting ministers had a very enjoyable story to share with us and we thought, Lord willing, the Spirit would be able to move in everyone's hearts here as well. It happened in my home just this morning. A little ritual I guess you could say. I get up and make biscuits and gravy a lot of times on Sunday mornings. It's been interesting to watch my children progress through this because they always want to help when they are little. But when they get a little older and they can be more help, they stay in bed. But this morning, bright and cheery, the two year old came downstairs just about the time I was taking the Pillsbury biscuits out of the can. You know how they have the paper wrapping on them. I know I have been through this scenario with him a few times and I know where he's a help and where he's not. And so I just peeled back just a little corner of the paper and I started handing him the cans to peel the paper off. And then he likes to pound them and bust them open at which point I take over and grab it real quick and get the biscuits out and get them spread out on the pan because if I don't, they're not separable. They kind of get smashed together. And so we're going along and about the third can he says, "I HELP" and I said, "YOU ARE HELPING." "NO" he said. "I PUT THE BISCUITS ON THE PAN." And I said, "YOU'RE HELPING DAD BY GETTING THE BIS-

CUITS OUT OF THE CAN.” This can tie into our lives today. I just think about how many times is it with God that He gives us an assignment and He chooses what He wants us to do.

But we perceive that we're ready for something bigger or something different. And so we protest and say, "I wanta help." And He's saying, "Just go back and do what I ask you to do; what you are capable of doing." The biggest help is simple childlike obedience. God is in full control and He will remain there. And we can mess up the biscuits when we get our hands in there and start squeezing and pushing and doing things that God did not ask us to do. And as we read this Word of God this morning and He says "Count the cost," the cost is this: "Do what I ask you to do. And what I ask you to do was let go of the things that you own, the things you do and the relationships you have. Sell out and become my disciple and don't worry about all the other details. Don't worry about the mountains. Don't worry about the trials. Don't worry about the tests. I'm going to take care of that. I will never leave you comfortless. I will be there till the end." God is not nowhere. He's now here and He is here for you. Is He in your heart? Can He dwell there? Is it sold out? Is it in the condition and the position where the Holy Spirit will abide?

These verses were read at the annual meeting this year by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus:

Ephesians 4:1-3 and 16, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness, and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love. Endeavoring to

keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

We also want to express our love and prayers for those who have been called into service. For Sunday school teachers starting in July, Sis. Jill Hartter (Bro. Chris) will be teaching the beginners' class, Bro. Jeremy Scheitlin (Sis. Amanda) for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, and Bro. Tim Bahler (Sis. Lynette) for the Bible class. Bro. Mark Bahler and Bro. Phil Isabell will be our new Trustees.

Sis. Amelia Schini was in the hospital recently. We would like to extend our prayers to her and her family.

We had the pleasure of having Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) come here to present us with information regarding Timber Ridge (Home for the Handicapped). They discussed with us how they started and how many people benefit from their services. Thank you, Brothers, for coming and sharing with us.

Also, we received two thank you's and have been asked to share them with you.

"Words will never be able to express our appreciation and gratitude to our dear beloved family and the loved ones of the church during this past year. As the year progressed, Loretta has become much weaker and is now not able to attend church as in the past. We therefore want to 'Thank All' for your prayers, your encouraging cards,

the special gifts and personal visits to help us through this time in our life. May God richly bless each one of you for your acts of 'Love in Christ'. I want to apologize to all for not sending a thank you or any Christmas Cards as my dear wife did in past years."

Our love through Christ,
Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider

The Herb Schieler family would like to thank everyone for the cards of encouragement during our time of loss. Your kindness and prayers are appreciated. We are grateful Dad was able to spend Christmas in the Father's arms. May the Lord richly bless each of you.

Sis. Jayne Price and family
Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Joyce) Rowland and family
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schieler and family
John Schieler and family

We cannot help but mention the tragedy in Southeast Asia, resulting from the tsunami on December 26, 2004. I know our continued thoughts, prayer and relief efforts make a difference.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Melissa Gerst Stacey Feller

We thank Bro. Joe Gerst and his wife, Sis. Connie (Iowa City, IA), for being with us over the Christmas weekend and sharing the Word with us. We recently heard the Conference Memorandum and appreciated Elder Bro. Curt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lila (Lacrosse, IN), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and his wife, Sis. Leonda (Leo, IN), taking the time to travel here mid-week to share in this responsibility.

Bro. Marty Langhofer has recently undergone medical treatment and we are thankful he is feeling well.

Just as Sis. Ernastine Meister was well on the road to recovery after being house-bound from surgery, she had to bid farewell to her brother, Bill Meister, who lived with her. Sis. Ernastine has been a faithful prayer warrior in our congregation, and may she feel our support in prayer and deepest sympathy.

May we be encouraged as we go through these winter months, with anticipation of spring, that so in our spiritual lives, if we are experiencing wintertime, spring will surely follow. "He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me..." (Psalm 55:18).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Edward Lester

Greetings of Love and Joy to everyone.

There is a beauty of snow that is abundant this time of year. But, there is a small complication with snow. Sometimes it stops or slows us down when we want to go somewhere. Jesus uses the Holy Spirit to control us in the same manner. When all our planning and fore thought comes crashing down, maybe God is trying to tell us something? I recently heard a really good saying:

Lord, open those doors that should be open.

Close those doors that should be closed.

And, give me the wisdom to know the difference.

Applying this simple adage could surely make our lives a lot easier.

Everlasting life is now upon Bro.

Roy Frieden. Bro. Roy joined our Saviour on January 8. Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene were one of the original couples that started the Valparaiso congregation. Surviving is his wife, Sis. Aldene, of Parkview Haven (Francesville); son, Bro. Byron Frieden, Sis. Sue and family (Valparaiso); and daughter, Gail Frieden and family (Valparaiso). Our prayers are with Sis. Aldene as she continues on life's journey. Bro. Roy will be missed by all.

"My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

Psalms 73:26

Bro. Edward Lester Jr. and Sis. Tricia Wuthrich were united in holy matrimony on January 9. The ceremony was held in Milford, IN. The parents of the bride are Bro. Stan Wuthrich, Sis. Linda (Milford). Bro. Ed Lester and Sis. Caroline (Valparaiso) are the parents of the groom. We are all praying that God's mighty hand continues to bless and guide this couple along their spiritual path together.

The Valparaiso congregation would like to welcome Bro. Derek Regier. Bro. Derek will be worshipping with us while he attends Valparaiso University.

We would like to thank Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) for worshipping with us during New Year's Eve service.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Diana Houston Nettie Haab

"With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not unto men:"

Eph. 6:7

We would like to thank our former officers for their dedication in their responsibilities. Our new Trustee will be Bro. Ed Bahler replacing Bro. Gerry Waibel. New on the Hospitality committee is Sis. Peg Hoerr replacing Sis. Sharon Meister. New Ushers are Bro. Bill Minick, Bro. Brian Furrer, and Bro. John Widmer, all replacing Bro. Kevin Gutwein and Bro. Luke Schafer.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord:"

Acts 3:19

Purdue student Kent Levy has surrendered his life to the Lord. What a joy to hear! His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy from Indianapolis. Purdue student Ky Choi has surrendered her life, too.

We pray that blessings were felt as several traveled to Mexico over Christmas break and spent time helping with the needs there and enjoyed precious fellowship.

Sis. Betsy Gutwein graduated from Purdue this past December. We wish her God's guidance as she moves on in her life.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Elaine Bahler Lisa Furrer

Another year is dawning:
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee...

Hymns of Zion #150

As the hymnist expressed her feelings about the new year in 1874, so we also pray for another year with God's blessing.

Our annual meeting proved there are many opportunities to work in the Lord's service. Sincere thanks to all who have fulfilled their duties and may those who have been newly elected go forth with renewed strength to serve humbly in their calling.

As we have said goodbye to the past year, so has our dear June (Harold) Lehman said goodbye to her sister, Sis. Nova Steffen (Bluffton), who passed from this life into eternity. We extend our sympathy to the family and pray for God's comforting hand upon them.

We were blessed to have Bro. Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso) minister unto us. We thank Bro. Andy for sharing the Word and trust that God will richly reward his labor of love.

Don't Blame the Children

We read in the papers and hear on the air
Of killing and stealing and crime everywhere
We sigh and say, as we notice the trend,
"This young generation, where will it end?"

But can we be sure that it's their fault alone,
That maybe a part of it isn't our own?
Are we any less guilty, who place in their way
Too many things that lead them astray?

Too much money to spend, too much idle time,
Too many movies of passion and crime.

Too many books not fit to be read,
Too much evil in what they hear said.

Too many children encouraged to roam
By too many parents who won't stay at home.
Now kids don't make movies, they don't write the books
That paint a gay picture of gangsters and crooks.

They don't make the liquor, they don't run the bars.
They don't make the laws and they don't sell the cars.
They don't peddle drugs that rattle the brain,
That's all done by older folks, greedy for gain.

Delinquent teenagers – oh, how we condemn
The sins of the nation and blame it on them.
By the rule of the blameless the Saviour made known,
Who is there among us to cast the first stone?

For in too many cases, it's sad but it's true
That the title "delinquent" fits older folks, too!

IOWA, BURLINGTON **Brenda Schulz** **Laurie Schulz**

At our annual business meeting, we elected Bro. Dick Taeger (Sis. Dorothy) as our new church trustee and Sis. Mary Massner (Bro. Lloyd) onto our kitchen committee. We supported Bro. Lloyd Massner (Sis. Mary) to take Bro. Milo (Sis. Arlene) Weissinger's position on the duplex committee. In addition, taking over the duties of World Relief, Bible Fund and Mission Fund is Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy). We thank

Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda) for his previous endeavors in this area and Bro. Milo and Sis. Arlene for their twelve years of dedicated service.

We appreciate the willingness of Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) to share the Word with us this past month. May God richly bless them.

IOWA, ELGIN **Gloria Frieden** **Heidi Butikofer**

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls."

Hebrews 13:17

What a blessing to have the "letter" from the last Brotherhood Conference shared unto us. Thanks be to God that He still provides faithful Elders who are concerned for our souls and the preservation of our Apostolic Christian Faith.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN).

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

I Cor. 15:58

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Marcy) was elected as our new Home for the Handicapped representative and Bro. Tim Butikofer (Sis. Kathy) was elected as trustee.

Clayton Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) recently spent a cou-

ple nights in the hospital. We are thankful for his quick recovery.

Trent Eli arrived December 30 to bless the home of Brian and Susie Frieden. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden and Bert and Marge Ostert.

Notice: Silver Lining collections are due for Elgin, IA, in the month of February. Thank you.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

During this month when the celebration of "love" is everywhere, let us remember the source of true love, and keep the love of our Saviour always in our hearts. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends," (John 15:13) and "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us," (Romans 5:8).

Again we have been blessed with visits from brothers who shared God's Word and love with us. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) have been recent visitors.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We appreciate Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) being willing to visit and fill in for our home brothers on the pulpit. May he be blessed for his service to our congregation.

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

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in

spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

We are always thankful to have visitors worship with us. Throughout the past month we had many visitors including ministering Bros. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and James Knapp (Congerville, IL).

With thankful hearts we report that Andrea Knobloch has answered her call to repentance. Our prayer is God will bless and direct her each day in her new walk of life. Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn Knobloch are Andrea's parents.

Our prayers are with the loved ones who have required hospitalization this past month. They were Bro. Larry Leuthold (Sis. Mardi) and Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann). We trust they both will experience God's healing power. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) as he remains hospitalized.

We express our sympathy to Bro. Harv and Sis. Mary Metzger and family in the loss of Sis. Mary's father, Bud Bush.

Two couples have announced their engagements and are making plans for their upcoming weddings. We congratulate Melinda Steen and Josh Moser on their engagement. Best wishes also to Brent Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam) and Priscilla Wips.

Jeff Knobloch has moved and now assembles with the Taylor, MO, congregation. We bid him farewell and pray God's grace and direction will always be with him.

During the year of 2004, our congregation experienced two deaths, twenty births and six baptisms.

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

We were blessed with the visit of ministering Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) this month. May God richly bless him for his labors.

Our annual business meeting was held and the following were elected: Church Trustee - Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary); Cemetery Trustee - Bro. Troy Massner (Sis. Joni); Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Monte Lanz (Sis. Kelly) and Bro. Brian Schmidgall (Sis. Heidi); Kitchen Committee - Sis. June Schulz (Bro. Roger) and Sis. Monti Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff); World Relief - Sis. Nola Gerst (Bro. Walt). May they feel the support of the church as they fulfill their duties.

Grieving the loss of their mother, Frances Grimm (the late Bro. Clyde Grimm), are Keith and Carla Grimm (Wapello, IA); Dick and Cindy Grimm (Letts, IA); Sandie Hook (Donnellson, IA) and Cheyrel and Mike McConahay (Corydon, IA).

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy.

Sis. Lee Siegle, Bro. Bob and Sis. LeAnn Siegle and family

IOWA **BLOOMFIELD-PULASKI** **Barbara Schock**

On January 2, Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) was here for the day. We especially thank him for coming and sharing the Word with us as he was the only one on the pulpit. May God bless him for his willingness.

Our thoughts and prayers are

with Joe Dean Wells (Georgia) as he struggles with his health. May God be near him with his comforting Hand.

We welcome Bro. Robert Wuthrich back as he spent several weeks in Texas visiting his family. Recently, I read a fairy tale called "It's Perfectly True". It's about a hen who made a comment about one little feather that she had lost. The hen next to her told another hen. An owl up in the tree beside the hen house heard the comment. The owl told another owl, who was overheard by the pigeons who told it to another hen house. The rooster there told the bats who told it to someone else and eventually the story came back to the original hen house as five hens had pulled out their feathers for the sake of impressing the rooster.

It just reminded me on how gossip gets started and how distorted the truth can get. All that happened was one hen lost one feather, not five hens pulling out all their feathers. As the title says, it's perfectly true how one little feather can become five hens very easily.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider

Lori Skoglund

As the year 2004 has come and gone, we reminisce about some of the events we record in our church family. Eight families have been blessed with infants (7 boys and 1 girl); we have rejoiced in 3 baptisms and 4 weddings; and there were 3 souls who have gone to their reward.

He Holds the Key

He holds the key of all unknown,
and I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if He trusted it to me, I might

be sad.

What if tomorrow's cares were
here without its rest?
I'd rather He unlocked the day,
And as the hours swing open say,
"My will is best."

I cannot read His future plans, but
this I know;
I have the smiling of His face,
And all the refuge of His grace,
While here below.

Gospel Hymns, vs. 1,3,4

Sis. Betty Wirtz and her family are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, cards, gifts and most of all for the prayers on behalf of Sis. Mary (Bro. Bill) Berg and family of Omaha, NE. Sis. Mary, daughter of Sis. Betty, was involved in a car accident on December 28. She suffers from multiple fractures and injuries and it is not known at this time how long she will require care in a rehabilitation center.

Little Julia Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) has been hospitalized for pneumonia. May God's presence be felt by the families involved in these times when they have deep concern for their loved ones well-being.

What blessings we have received again this past month through the many visiting ministers who have visited our congregation and been willing to speak as inspired: Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), and Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). We hope they could feel our appreciation, love and

support while they were here.

Mildred Scuffham (daughter of the late Bro. John and Sis. Emma Gerber) died December 31, 2004, at the Good Samaritan Communities in Algona at the age of 97. She had faithfully attended services here for years prior to her residency in the care facility. She leaves behind many nieces and nephews in our congregation.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Rev. 22:12

JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

New Year's greetings to you all from Shioda!

At the end of last year, Sis. Lois Ehnle spent 5 days in a hospital. She came home late afternoon of December 31, and has been recuperating at home since. Their daughter, Mrs. Jewel Maeda, came for a week to help them out. Her little son, Hien, quickly became friends with little Koshin-kun (Mrs. Biren Furuya's younger son). They had a good time together on Sunday. Sis. Lois' quick recovery is our prayer.

Intruders again! But we did not call the police this time. No broken windows! No broken locks! No one knows where they entered. Some of us saw a few of them on Sunday. Brave Mr. Fukasawa, in an emergency situation, caught a baby one with his own hand. His statement was: "He was as weak as a dead one." Bro. Ehnle put some treats for them here and there, hoping that will bring a peaceful settlement. But so far, no good! These church rats don't seem like going away soon. Your useful suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

That horrible earthquake shook a part of Asia. And the news following that has been shaking the whole world. We are so sorry so many people lost their lives and injured. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in sorrow and suffering. God is sure telling us so many things through this. Let's listen to Him.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings to all in the new year! We wonder what this year will hold. There were so many disasters last year around the world. It makes one wonder just how God is working and unfolding His master plan in all of this. May we, who trust in His almighty hand, be always ready to share as we are given opportunity, with those around us, the reason why we must not have the spirit of fear in the wrong way.

Our congregation had no baptisms or births last year, but we did have one death, that being dear elderly Sis. Tamino Inoue. We did have several newcomers, for whom we are very thankful, including a young couple, the Suzurikawa's and their two girls, Chikako (7) and Yukako (1.) It is especially nice to have more young children in church. We are also thankful for each brother, sister and friend who faithfully attend the whole year around. We just found out last Sunday that a dear couple, the Nakazawa's, who have been attending for 10 years now, have been transferred to Osaka with his business for at least two years. We will greatly miss them, and our prayers go with them, but we hope it will not be long before they join us again.

We had our usual special "ozoni" soup prepared by Sis. Marie on the first Sunday of the year. It is a tradi-

tional new year's dish and what you put in it depends on what part of the country you live in, but it all has the main ingredient called "mochi" (pounded rice squares). It can be a very strange texture to those who have not grown up eating it, but I can testify that one can get used to it and even enjoy it.

We heartily welcome Bro. Steven Sauder (son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) back to our congregation. I say "back" because he was born in and lived in Yamanashi (our country church area) until he was three and often came in to Tokyo Church with his family. He is here for 3 months, staying with the Klauses, being a "big brother" to the children and experiencing life in Japan again. We pray for a blessed stay for him.

I will close with a part of a hymn that has good advice for starting out the new year.

Take the name of Jesus with you,
Child of sorrow and of woe;
It will joy and comfort give you,
Take it, then, whene'er you go.

Take the name of Jesus with you,
As a shield from every snare;
If temptations round you gather,
Breathe that holy name in prayer.

Chorus:

Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n;
Precious name, O how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n.

*Hymns of Zion #152,
Verses 1 and 2*

KANSAS, BERN

Sally Strahm

Sheri Edelman

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Rokey are thankful their baby son, Davis

Marvin, arrived safely on January 7. Amy, Blaine and Cheyenne welcome him as a sibling. Davis's grandparents are Bro. Joseph Rokey (late Sis. Lila Rokey) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr of West Bend, IA.

Bro. Rodney and Sis. Kristen Menold were united in marriage on January 9. We pray God will bless this union. Their parents are Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard of Peoria, IL.

We are thankful for God's servants who speak the Word over the pulpit from Sunday to Sunday. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester), Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville) were with us this past month. Thank you for your labors of love.

Our Sis. Mary Berg (Bro. Bill) and daughter, Kary Berg, were in an automobile accident. At the time of this writing, Kary was free of injuries but Sis. Mary is being hospitalized. Sis. Mary and her family are still in need of our prayers. Bro. Reuben Moser (Sis. Stella) has been hospitalized this month. We also lift him up in our prayers.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Harlan Stoller who passed away and went to his eternal reward. His children are Bro. Darrel (Sis. Gloria), Bro. Arden (Sis. Darlene) and Meryl (Diana) of Texas. May God give them strength to face the days that lie ahead as they will miss their father and grandfather very much. We also extend our sympathy to Leon Stoller who is a brother to Bro. Harlan.

Sis. Tamra Kaeb (Bro. Paul and

Sis. Joan) will be moving to the Illinois area for employment. We pray God will continue to be with her as she begins a new phase in her life.

We look forward to listening to the Memorandum that will be brought forth in the near future. As we are exhorted, admonished and encouraged, may we strive to sincerely obey our Father's commands as we live on earth below. What a blessing we will receive.

A Christian Home

(can be sung to the tune of

"Be Still, My Soul")

O give us homes built firm upon
the Saviour,
Where Christ is Head and Counselor
and Guide;
Where ev'ry child is taught His
love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ, the
Crucified.
How sweet to know that tho' his
footsteps waver,
His faithful Lord is walking by his
side!

O give us homes with godly fathers,
mothers,
Who always place their hope and
trust in Him;
Whose tender patience turmoil
never bothers;
Whose calm and courage trouble
cannot dim.
A home where each finds joy in
serving others,
And love still shines, tho' days be
dark and grim!

O give us homes where Christ is
Lord and Master,
The Bible read, the precious
hymns still sung;
Where pray'r comes first in peace
and disaster,
And praise is natural speech to
ev'ry tongue;

Where mountains move before a
faith that's vaster,
And Christ sufficient is for old and
young.

O Lord, our God, our homes are
Thine forever!
We trust to Thee our problems,
toil, and care.
Their bonds of love no enemy can
sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master
there.
Be Thou the Center of our least
endeavor.
Be Thou our Guest, our heart and
homes to share.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ethel Smith**

God's grace and peace to all. January came in with a very cold blast. We had been enjoying such a mild winter season but we all know that when you live in Kansas, you can just expect a wide variation in types of weather. It is an old saying here, "If you don't like our weather now, just wait 10 minutes." That might be a bit exaggerated, but we do have a lot of changes.

We will probably not experience a tsunami in the Midwest. What a terrible devastating disaster. I had never heard of a tsunami before this, but the word is in the dictionary. It is difficult to even imagine the grief, sorrow, losses of loved ones and everything they own. It brings to mind Revelations 16:18 "...and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great." Surely we should be watching for the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Will we be ready?

Our visiting ministers this past month were December 26, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kan-

sas City, MO); December 2, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO); January 16, Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) was here along with Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall and their family accompanied them. The church had a potluck and singing on Saturday evening. Bro. Trent's message and text for both morning and afternoon referred the gospels' warning of being lukewarm, the dangers of having "things" that we idolize, and not prioritizing our time in spending time in the Word. He reminded us that we should spend time anticipating our heavenly home and eternity. Very timely warnings in view of what is happening in the world around us. We should heed the warning to watch and pray.

It is never a question with any of us of faith or no faith; the question always is, "In what or in whom do we put our faith?" (Anonymous)

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Eileen Bahr**

Yesterday we had our annual church election. I was disappointed that this reporter job wasn't given to someone younger. As I was driving home discouraged, up popped the thought - ministers don't just serve a four year term! I'm reminded to appreciate more the service our ministers give of themselves Sunday after Sunday. Thank You! This makes me think of our "local minister sons" coming home for the holidays: Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) was here for Christmas services, Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) the Sunday after Christmas, and Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) on January 2.

The 50 mile icy road trip to keep his cancer patients' appointments

left the doctor upset and the nurse warned Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger he wasn't in a good mood. Bro. Eldon's hair has grown back, he looks good and the doctor gave him an excellent report. Dorene told the doctor that they would pray for his safe return to Topeka. "Oh, that's what was wrong - I forgot to pray this morning!" replied the doctor. The doctor believes in prayer for his patients. Between his partner's patients and his patients, records show a bigger percentage of his patients have responded to treatment.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Dawn Strahm

Jeanelle Plattner

This past month the Word of God was shared with us through several visiting ministers. Bro. Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI), Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), and Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) were all willing to be used on our behalf. We were thankful for their presence.

Bro. Harlan Stoller (Bern, KS) was recently laid to rest in the Lord. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Belinda Stoller (Bro. Gale) and Sis. Marla Beyer (Bro. Korbin), granddaughters of Bro. Harlan. How wonderful it is to feel a joy and peace when a Christian dies!

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Derek Funk, recently recalled to active duty in Iraq, was granted an unexpected two week leave. His surprised family welcomed the short time he could spend with them. May the Lord continue to bless Derek and all those who trust in Him as they serve our country.

Winter unleashed its fury on our part of Kansas as we fell victim to freezing rain the first week in January. Trees and power lines sagged under the weight of the ice. I watched my willow tree bow until its top branches touched the ground. The trunk made a perfect inverted U. I am happy to tell you that it is standing erect again. I am reminded of the need we humans have to be flexible, to wait on God's perfect timing, and to respond to His love. My proud oak branches also sagged until they touched the ground. After being in that position four days they began to thaw in the late afternoon and continued to do so through the night. When I opened the curtains the next morning, I could hardly believe what I saw. The trees were erect. I thought of the song, "Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary". God warmed the trees and they responded. We should do the same.

I found the following poem by Grace E. Easley in POEMS OF FAITH and am moved to share it with you.

Keep in Touch

It's always good to keep in touch,
With those who are away,
To let them know they're thought
about,
And loved, from day to day.
It only takes a moment,
For a letter or a call,
To be remembered is a thing
That's precious to us all.

And the dear Lord is no different,
How much He loves to hear
The on-the-run "Dear Lord",
Or the chatty type of prayer.
It's never hard to reach Him,
Whatever may befall,
We've only but to think of Him,
And He can hear us all.

There are times we all need com-

fort,
...Someone to really care,
However late the hour,
The Lord is always there.
So bring the little heartaches,
For which you sometimes weep,
Dear child, you won't disturb Him,
...For God is not asleep.

For you God's always waiting
Lift not the knocker twice,
You are the pearl He ransomed,
At such an awful price.
And there's nothing more impor-
tant,
Nor thing that means so much,
As to love Him and to trust Him.
...And to always keep in touch.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Betty Baltic

Barb Huber

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Ephesians 1:3

Truly, as we reflect back over the past month, we have experienced the "spiritual blessings in heavenly places" here at Lexington. The Lord has provided the "manna from heaven" as God's Word has been expounded by willing servants who have come to share in the ministry. We want to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and family; Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) and family; and, also, retired Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Sis. Maxine, Bay City, MI) who was a welcomed "spiritual blessing" surprise on a Sunday morning!

On Wednesday evening, January 19, our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) came to minister the "Wonderful Words of

Life" and conducted the annual business meeting. We are grateful for Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta's untiring efforts to shepherd our small flock.

Other visitors who blessed our fellowship were from Bluffton, Indianapolis, IN; Chicago, and Eureka, IL. May the Lord bless all those who travel to worship with us.

We wish to congratulate Emil Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Angela Mitchell (Mike and Teri Mitchell, Clearwater, FL) as they have announced their engagement and are making plans for a June 11 wedding. May God bless and guide these dear ones as they begin to plan for their future.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
to Thee we sing:

Long may our land be bright,
with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

—*Samuel F. Smith*

When we sing "America", we're praying for our country, let us also continue to uphold in prayer all those who are in the service of our country. Jonathan Huber (Ben and June) has again been given an assignment to Iraq in March to further his duties as a Marine. We pray for the Lord's protection to keep Jonathan under the shadow of His almighty wings. (Psalm 91)

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859-224-8710), Bro. Lester Huber (859-745-2541), or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859-273-8574).

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Once again, the angels rejoice with our congregation as Luke Rumbold (Holland, MI) has expressed the desire to follow the Lord, Jesus Christ. We are all praying for you, Luke, as your journey begins.

Also, we would like to welcome back Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann as they have felt moved to return here to join our congregation in Alto. They will be residing in Kentwood, MI. Again, we are excited to have them back.

We had our annual business meeting on January 7 and the following offices were voted in: Trustee – Bro. Ed Sanders; Treasurer – Bro. Terry Steffen; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Kristen Plattner and Sis. Susan Steffen; World Relief – Sis. Heidi Stoller; Usher – Bro. Matt Oesch; Woodhaven Rep. – Bro. Ron Erisman. We pray the Lord will watch over and guide you all as you serve in your given areas.

As you read this, Lord willing, we will have had our new Fellowship Hall dedication singing. This is planned for January 23. We pray the Lord will bless this as well as all future events. Thanks to all involved to help make this fellowship hall happen; we are all very excited about having it. Thanks again.

Our prayers and rejoicing go out to Austin Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim) who is home from a two week hospital stay. We are so thankful for the Lord's healing hand in his recovery. Our prayers are with Penny Erisman (Bro. Ron) as her mother, Helen Julien, was hit by a car and broke many bones. Penny is in California where she resides to help her in her time of healing.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

December's article was omitted from the Silver Lining. Here is December's article.

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 136:1

Several in our congregation are thanking the Lord for His great blessings in the form of new babies. We rejoice with Gordon and Sis. Lynn Kimmerly at the birth of their grandson. Marshall Case was born to Russell and Lanae Chambers in September. Bro. Rod and Sis. Evelyn Wieland are the proud grandparents of Ashlin Bernice. Ashlin's parents are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Krista Wieland (Detroit, MI). Also, Wade and Amanda Meylan welcomed Paige Lee into their home. Big brother Devin and grandmother, Sis. Marilyn Meylan, are thankful for her safe arrival. We wish all of these families the Lord's blessings as they strive to bring their children up to love the Lord and to become servants of Him.

Funeral services were held November 15 for Bro. Henry Meylan. He passed away Thursday, November 11, attaining the age of 90 years. May God be with his family in the coming days. They include his children: Eileen Groeschen, Sis. Shirley (Bro. Gary) Wright, Henry, Jr. (Billie), Bro. Gene (Sis. Carol), Dale (Suzanne), Sis. Cindy (James) Sochacki and two daughters-in-law, Sis. Marilyn Meylan and Donaley Meylan. Bro. Henry also had

twenty-seven grandchildren and forty-one great grandchildren who are sharing in the memory of their grandfather.

Sis. Kim (Bro. Tom) Wackerle, Sis. Esther Waibel, Sis. Lena Wieland, Bro. Merle (Sis. Elaine) Wieland, and Brenda (Jim) Wrzesinski have all needed to rely on the Great Physician through doctors and surgeons within the past few weeks. May God be with each one as they would call upon His name.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

May the grace and goodness of our Heavenly Father be with each one during this Christmas season and that we may continue to feel the Lord's blessings in the coming new year.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. David Schlatter extends a sincere thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all who expressed deeds of love and kindness to our loved one in his days of failing health and in his passing.

Whether it was visits, cards, gifts, flowers, phone calls, food, or other gestures of love, our hearts were touched by your support and caring and deeply appreciated.

Sis. Margaret and Family

January's News

We enjoy the Christmas season as it usually brings many visitors

back to Bay City. We were very pleased to have ministering Bros. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and Nathan Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) with us to celebrate the season. May the Lord bless these brothers for their services towards us.

Wednesday, January 5, was our annual business meeting. We pray a special blessing those who were placed in the various offices within the church. Sis. Sue (Bro. Derrell) Steffen has been elected for the cook position and Bro. Dale (Sis. Carol) Wieland was elected trustee. We are thankful for the sisters and brothers who have served in these positions in the past.

The new year brought seven individuals realizing their need for a Savior and each have found the grace to repent. We are thankful for each one: Faleasha Knochel (Norm and Sis. Linda Andrzejewski), Jamie Knochel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay), Caitlin Long (Rick and Joan), Joan Long, (Rick), Rebekah Ruegsegger (Bro. Glen, Jr. and Sis. Maria), Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherri), and Britney Wackerle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim).

We have had loved ones from our congregation who have been hospitalized in the past month. Our prayers are with Sis. Hermine (Bro. Alf) Kaeb and Sis. Helen Wieland. We pray that if it is the Lord's will that He will restore them to health.

Our congregation said sad good-byes to some dear friends this past month. Clinton Meier passed away on January 17. He leaves behind his wife, Sis. Lula Meier, two daughters, Sis. Diana (Girard) Jacobs and Sis. Janet Kober, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and his brother, Gerald (Sis. Edith) Meier. Our thoughts and prayers are with

the family as they mourn his loss. We pray that the Lord will continue to heal their broken hearts.

We also grieve with Sis. Alice Eisenman and her daughter, Sis. Marlene (Lyle) McNally, at the passing of their daughter and sister, Betty Lou Bauer. May the Lord continue to be with them and comfort them in their time of sorrow.

“Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Luke 10:2

We are thankful for the safe return of many labourers in our congregation this past month who have been working on foreign soil. Many from our Sunday School were able to spend a blessed week laboring in Mexico. Another team spent a week in Haiti. May the Lord richly reward all involved for their labors of love.

Special prayers go out to Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak as they are spending several months working in Haiti. We pray that the Lord will protect and watch over them and bring them safely home in His time.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Jamie Bahr

Krista Wieland

We rejoice with Jason Allen as he has recently answered the calling to serve Jesus Christ as his Savior. His parents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanie Allen. We continue to pray for Kristi Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat) as she has found peace and awaits baptism. It is a wonderful blessing to see young souls hear and answer to Jesus.

Thank you to Bro. John Jackson

(Sis. Peggy, Bay City) for sharing the Word with the Woodhaven Retirement Community this month. We appreciate all who serve in the various facets of Woodhaven's ministry. Thank you to Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) for sharing with us over the Christmas season.

We failed to include Laura Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) in our list of graduates last year. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. We pray that God will bless her in whatever responsibilities she may have as a teacher. We want to welcome Sis. Michelle Bahr back to Detroit as she has completed her college education at Kansas State University and is now making this her home.

Several of our loved ones were treated for various illnesses or injuries this month. Our prayers of healing are with Sis. Suzanne Sabados, Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz, Navy Shrock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer), Cody Baran (Craig and Sis. Pat) and Kirk Maibach (Bro. Doug and Carole).

Finally, a big Thank You to all who welcomed us into their church and homes as the choir journeyed to Gridley, IL, recently. We were richly blessed throughout the weekend and extremely grateful for those who helped fix our bus so that we could return safely home to Detroit.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller (Rockville, CT) over New Year's. Bro. Dan's ministry is always appreciated, and we enjoyed their presence both at our New Year's eve service and the

following Sunday.

The following note was submitted by Sis. Ethel Bednarski. We're glad to see Sis. Ethel is still able to attend church, even though her chemo treatments bring about some hard days.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for all the cards, prayers, and visits during my stay at the hospital, and I feel your prayers now as I go through chemotherapy. May God bless you all. I thank the Lord for my church family – they are precious to me.

Sis. Ethel Bednarski

God's blessings are wished to Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler as they have recently moved to a new home. While they are still living in the same community, there are still adjustments. Their new address is:

Perry and Carol Virkler
1100 Esther Ln.
Owatonna, MN 55060

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

We were blessed to have visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO).

We rejoice that our friend, Lane Koehl (Beth), has begun his repentance. We trust God will provide for him.

On December 29, Lane and Beth Koehl were blessed with a baby boy. Kenton Lee was welcomed home by Bridget and Kate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl and John and Dorothy Plummer.

The engagement of Mike Wulf

(Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) to Corey Hart was made known. A March wedding is being planned. Bro. Keith Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl, Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley) were engaged on January 16. We trust God will bless them now and in the days ahead.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ila Gramm (Bro. Harold), Bro. Kenny Zeltwanger (Sis. Edna), Bro. Edward Koehl (Sis. Lois), Bro. Brian Moser and Bro. Richard Schmidgall (Sis. Corrine).

We welcome Tim Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) from Smithville, who has sought employment in our area.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Heather Steiner (Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel) has answered the call and has found peace. We are so thankful that God is still calling souls and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

As we reflect on the Christmas and New Year season, may we never forget God's most precious Gift to us. Another year is upon us – counting our days reminds us of the swift passage of time. The hours, days and years are here and gone – let us be sure to make them count – for Christ.

From Washington, IL, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) share precious words of truth with our congregation. What a blessing it is to have willing servants bring forth God's message to us.

Malakai Ebling (Adrian and Beckie) is back in the hospital. We

offer our continued prayers and support for this precious baby.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all as I went through the physical trial of getting sick and spending time in the hospital. I really appreciate the thoughts and prayers, cards, phone calls, and gifts. I am so thankful for my church family.

Sis. Jan Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

Proverbs 3:5-7

Yet another dear soul has taken these words to heart and turned to the Lord. We rejoice with Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle Meyer as their daughter, Lauren, has begun her repentance.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Scott Aberle was voted in as trustee, Sis. Michelle Meyer was elected to the food committee, and Sis. Jamie Marti as Sunday School teacher. Our prayers are with these brothers and sisters in faith, as they take up their responsibilities in the body of Christ.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Krista Banwart

With the holidays behind us and the New Year underway, we look back only to say thank you to the

many visitors we've had the past few months, including ministering brothers, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL). We look at today, and praise God for His love for us ... praying that we could be vessels pouring out this love to others as He continually replenishes our need. We look to the future with peace, for though the Tsunami has shown us the circumstances of life are uncertain, we can hold with certainty the goodness, love and care of a Heavenly Father.

“The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him:”

Psalms 103a

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Sally Haerr

There is no better way to start a new year than to totally surrender our life to Jesus Christ. Shane Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kris) has made the choice to do just that. What an encouragement this is to all of us, his church family.

We felt thankful and blessed to have ministering Bro. Ron Joos and his wife, Sis. Chris (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), choose to meet with their family here in Taylor. Their daughter, Tami, and husband, Chuck Lucci, live fairly close (Basco, IL) and we hope they will come to be with us often.

We had two hospital patients this month: Bro. Arnie Gerst and Bro. James Sutter. It is nice seeing them back in church, enjoying reasonably good health.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We were glad to usher in the new year with a potluck and singing in the church basement.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

A potluck and singing were also held on Saturday, January 15. With us for the weekend were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). We were thankful for the many other visitors that assembled with us throughout the weekend and were glad to have mild winter weather for traveling!

We were all overjoyed with the birth of Eric Trey on December 26. Welcoming him home were happy parents, Daniel and Tracie Getman, and excited big sister, Kierstin. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney and George and Theresa Getman.

We pray that the Lord will grant speedy recoveries to Betty Jean Rauhe and Alice Farney who have both sustained broken bones.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

Dear Sis. Kathy Graf, age 69, passed away December 21 at the Apostolic Christian Home. Her husband, Bro. Carl, survives; and sons, Bro. Edward (Sis. Debra) of Grabill, IN, Gary (Tammy) of Wooster, Tom of Charlotte, NC, and Tim of New York, NY; daughter, Sandy (Pete) Reed of Wadsworth; two sisters, and six grandchildren.

Three of our Brothers joined a

work team and helped in Haiti. They were: Bro. Ron Palitto, Bro. Dan Relgin, and Bro. Greg Henico. Their work was much appreciated.

Bro. Joe Grossenbacher and Bro. Todd Graf have been hospitalized. We hope for their speedy recoveries.

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

Sunday School teachers retiring are Bro. Wayne Klotzle and Sis. Diane Jarrett, and coming in are Bro. Eric Graf and Sis. Amy Relgin.

Retiring from the Kitchen Committee is Sis. Rosanne Graf, and coming in is Sis. Carol Indermuhle.

Retiring from Trustee is Bro. Todd Graf, and coming in is Bro. Bryon Palitto.

Retiring from the World Relief Center local Board is Bro. Mike Palitto, and coming in is Bro. Andy Demrovsky.

Retiring from Gatewood Woods Representative is Bro. Mike Palitto, and coming in is Bro. Carl Graf.

Bro. Al Weigele is coming in for Usher replacing Bro. Rudy Wiegand, who moved to Illinois.

Retiring from the World Relief Activities Committee is Sis. Joyce Schamback, and coming in is Sis. Sarah Henico.

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

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Sharing the pulpit with Bro. John this month were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Sis.

Barbara, Akron, OH) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI). May God's blessings be with the visiting ministers who so willingly share the Word with our small congregation.

We pray for strength and guidance for those who have been voted into positions of responsibilities in our church this year. May they feel the prayers and love of those they will be serving. Our gratitude goes to all who have served in those positions last year. We also had the reading of the Memorandum and were thankful for the words of exhortation, love and concern of our Elder brethren as we approach a new year in faith.

Many were on hand for World Relief night to package soup mix for disaster stricken areas.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

I place myself in Jesus hands
And there abide for ever:
No griefs, no joys, shall loose the
bands,

Nor yet our union sever!
In these dread days
When earth decays,
Who stays in Him and thus obeys
Shall be preserved forever.

Zion's Harp #177

Three dear souls put much rejoicing in our hearts as they have turned their backs to Satan and turned to the Lord in repentance: Melinda and Christa Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Brenda Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen). We will continue to pray that these dear ones will allow themselves to stay "placed in Jesus hands and will stay there forever" as the song writer has

penned.

Ministering Bro. Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH) spent a weekend with us. We would like to thank him for his labors and trust our Heavenly Father to richly bless him.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Sheila Schlatter (Bro. Ralph) in the passing of her father, Bro. Alvin Steiner (Rittman, OH).

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen

Bonny Wenninger

Love of all gifts is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.
Though I had a voice like angels,
Lacking love I truly know
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
Or a wretched sounding brass;
For although the sound were present,
Lifeless through this world I'd
pass.

Zion's Harp #37, vs. 1

As Valentine's Day is nearing, may we all reflect not only on love for each other, but most of all, the love that our Heavenly Father bestows on us.

We rejoiced to hear of two souls turning their lives over to God. Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Mandy Whitman (Jeremy), also daughter-in-law to Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman, have begun their paths of repentance.

We were thankful to have many visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton North, IN), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) brought forth God's Word to

us this month.

Bro. Jim Stoller (Sis. Tam) was a surgical patient this past month. It is good to see him back in church, as well.

The first of the year brings our annual business meeting once again. Newly elected officers include Bro. Randy Wenninger and Sisters Jane Linder and Amy Rosswurm for Sunday School, Sis. Denise Rager for Kitchen Committee, Bro. Ross Stoller for Fellowship Hall Trustee and Bro. Keith Krzsenski for Church Trustee. A special thank you to all for their labors this past year as well as for the new ones coming in. Our prayers are with you. A tally of the year 2004 numbers are as indicated: 11 births, 7 deaths, 5 weddings, 10 baptisms and there were 12 converts at the end of 2004.

Addendum: Regarding the building construction update, a main support beam for the balcony has been installed, and interior demolition is completed. Roof trusses should be delivered in late January and exterior brick work will continue as weather permits.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **Esther Baumann**

Forsake this world of vanity
And all its lewd deception!
Invite the Prince of Peace to thee,
Give Him a true reception...

Zion's Harp #107, vs. 1

We rejoice with Maria Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) as she begins her repentance. Pray that she will completely submit her will to the Prince of Peace.

Sis. Sieda Hill (Bro. Chip) has been voted onto our Kitchen Committee. We thank her in advance for

her service.

Tim Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) has enlisted in the Army and Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) is in Brazil as part of his studies. Please pray for these two young men while they are absent from us.

Sis. Lucille Groh has moved to Junction, OH, for assistance with her care. A note of encouragement can reach her at: 17062 Rd. 146, Paulding, OH 45879.

OHIO, RITTMAN **Anne Widmer** **Hannah Beery**

"O let us exalt our dear Lord and proclaim, In songs of true gratitude, praise to His name!" (Zion's Harp #165). As the precious Christmas season is behind us and the new year unfolds, surely we realize there are many reasons wherein to rejoice. Our annual Christmas program was held on December 19 and we welcomed in the new year by gathering in the Lord's house.

Visiting our congregation to share in the ministry recently were Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

"His love shone upon us before we believed..." (Zion's Harp #165). What a blessing to be able to report that Jami Calame has begun a new walk with the Lord. Rejoicing in her repentance are parents, Bro. John and Sis. Jody Calame.

Bro. Scott Hartzler (Richard and Sis. Karen) was united in marriage to Sis. Rachel Schlatter (Sis. Sherri and the late Bro. Mark Schlatter) on January 9 in Forrest, IL. We also rejoice with Bro. Joshua Riggensch and Sis. Megan Steiner (Smithville) on their recent engagement. Parents of the engaged couple are Bro.

Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggensch and Bro. Mark R. and Sis. Sue Steiner (Smithville). May each of these dear ones feel the direction of God as they plan their lives together.

"Our parents He gives who provide in each day..." (Zion's Harp #165). Several new additions have made their way into our congregation in the births of five little ones. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee Rufener, along with their children, Sis. Lynn, Sis. Lisa, Troy, Treg and Lora, welcomed Leah Jo on December 27. Grandparents of Leah are Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar and Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Rufener. Ashley Gail was born on December 30 to Bro. Joel and Sis. Katrina Steiner, now joining their daughter, Allison. Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser are the grandparents. Bro. Ben and Sis. Susan Rufener are first-time parents with the arrival of Karson James on January 5. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener and Bro. John W. and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville). We also rejoice with Bro. Brent and Sis. Andrea Steiner in the arrival of Sadie Rose on January 9. Jacob, Isabel and Jonah complete the family. Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner along with Robert Maag are the grandparents. Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Steiner have another bundle in the birth of their daughter, Tierra Dawn, on January 11. Siblings of Tierra are Claire, Elijah, Jordan and Noelle, and grandparents are Bro. Ronald and Sis. Ruth Steiner and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty).

Jenae Suzanne, daughter of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kim Stoller (Smithville), was born on December 29 and is now home after spending several extra days in the hospital.

She is greeted at home by Lydia, Roseanna, Wayne, Karleen and Chad. Sis. Lucille Blough will enjoy another grandchild. May we ever be prayerful that each child can be raised to the honor and glory of our Almighty God.

Several members of our assembly have had hospital stays lately. We trust God is continuing to provide for Sis. Aldine Ramsier (Bro. Nelson), Sis. Ruth E. Beery, Bro. Reinhart Keiper (Sis. Betty) and Bro. John Calame I (Sis. Margaret). May they feel His nearness through these difficult times.

"O blessed is he, when the summer is gone, Who harvests the fruit from good seed he has sown!" (Zion's Harp #165). Bro. Melvin Beery (Sis. Elizabeth) was laid to rest this past month. Children are Sis. Joyce Schamback (Bro. John, Akron), Bro. Stanley (Sis. Karen), Bro. Walt (Sis. Lynda) and Bro. Earl (Sis. Suzanne).

Bro. Alvin Steiner (Sis. Eldora) has also finished his fight of faith. We extend our sympathy to children, Michael (Kathy), Sharon Romich, Bro. Mark (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Bro. Matthew (Sis. Gail), Sis. Sheila Schlatter (Bro. Ralph, Junction), and Sis. Mary Maibach (Bro. Tim, Smithville). In times like these, we can all be so thankful for the support of the brethren and the comfort of our Saviour.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

"...but by love serve one another."

Galatians 5:13

At our annual business meeting,

Bro. Ed Beard was voted to serve as trustee and Bro. Bob Indermuhle as usher. May the Lord grant grace and strength to these Brothers to carry out their duties. May they feel the congregation's prayers and support.

"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."

Luke 21:11

The Ohio River has experienced some severe flooding these past few months. Our prayers are for the flood victims in our area and also for those who have been affected by disasters throughout the world. Surely, these disasters are signs of the times. May we each one be ready for the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Rachel Maibach
Alyssa Miller

"Send Lord, Thy holy teaching, to us in humble preaching, yet in the Spirit's power..." (Zion's Harp #207). We were blessed with three visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis).

"Now thank we all our God ... Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way..." (Zion's Harp #236). Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener are giving thanks for the safe arrival of a grandson, Carson James, born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Susie Rufener (Rittman). Mark and Michelle Zollinger are enjoying the addition of their son, Colt Aiden. He is also being enjoyed by siblings,

Alissa, Ella, Jock and Boaz. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Marjorie Zollinger. Also joyful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier with the birth of their grandson, Brady Matthew, to Matthew and Carla Beaumont and big sister, Lauren. Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman are thankful for another granddaughter, Lydia, received into the home of Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea and Cade (Remington, IN). Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim, along with Lydia, Roseanna, Wayne, Karleen and Chad, welcomed a daughter and sister, Jenee, into their family circle. Little Jenee spent some time in the hospital for monitoring after her birth, but we are thankful that she is now home. Sis. Luzelda Stoller and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman) are the grateful grandmas.

"In sorrow and pain, thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour..." (Zion's Harp #46). Also hospitalized this month was our Bro. Jon Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Laura Opplinger. Bro. Roger Saurer (Sis. Sue) suffered a heart attack. Thankfully, all these patients have recovered enough to return home.

"Our love shall not diminish..." (Zion's Harp #137). This is our prayer for each couple who is making plans for marriage. Bro. Josh Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lori, Rittman) and Sis. Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) believe that God has led them to walk through this life together. Also, Jenny Hofacre (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene) and Shawn Frazier announce their engagement, along with Jeff Beery (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl) and Michelle Wolgamott. We wish all these happy couples God's blessings.

"Two ways, O man, are there for there..." (Zion's Harp # 106). Humbly, we give thanks for two souls who have chosen to begin the pathway to life eternal. Our converts are: Paul Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) and Aaron Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda).

"My lifetime doth pass away..." (Zion's Harp # 253). Suffering the loss of his father, Forrest, is Dale Uhler (Sis. Marilyn). We trust that the family will find comfort in the Heavenly Father. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark (Sis. Sue) Steiner on the passing away of his father, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Eldora, Rittman) Steiner.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

We spent an enjoyable evening together as our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program. What a joy to hear from our little ones to our young adults the story of Christ's birth.

Sharing the pulpit with our home ministers were Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27

Hearing the call of the Lord, Bob and Dorothy Stevens have answered the call and begun their walk with Him.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Greetings of love in our Lord's name from the west coast. We trust this finds each of you well and enjoying the bountiful blessings of a new year.

We would like to warmly welcome our dear Sis. Barb Dragon (Alan) to our congregation this month. She had been attending Silverton, but decided to begin assembling with us as the Portland congregation is located considerably closer to her home.

We were very thankful to have our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) from Silverton with us this month, among other visiting brethren and friends. Truly is it a blessing and an encouragement when loved ones come and lend their support to our small flock. May the Lord richly bless each one that has made the effort to come and visit our way.

Our prayers are with our Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth) as she has spent some time in the hospital recently due to some heart problems. We wish them both God's strength and comfort during this difficult time. Our prayers continue to be with them as Sis. Connie recov-

ers at home.

We were also saddened to hear that Sis. Mary Berg (Bro. Bill) was involved in a serious car accident recently. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary formerly attended our Portland congregation for a number of years. Currently they assemble with the Bern, KS, congregation. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family as they wait on the Lord for healing as would be according to His will.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Kelsey Walder

Greetings of love in our Lord and Savior's name from the Silverton congregation.

Wednesday evening, January 12, a World Relief meeting was held following services. Local activities from the past year were discussed and ideas talked about for the coming year. Sis. Teresa Knecht has completed her term as coordinator of the sewing group, Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Bro. Terry) will now be the coordinator. Sis. Karen Walter (Bro. Chuck) will be taking Sis. Ann's place as assistant coordinator. We wish to extend our thanks to Sis. Teresa for her labors in the past four years.

This month, our Bro. Elmer Bolliger was in the hospital with pneumonia. When he came home, he was moved from assisted living into a local nursing home. Our Bro. Cliff Kuenzi (Violet) also spent some time in the emergency room this month. We're thankful he is doing better and was able to return to the care home where he resides. Our thoughts and prayers have been with both of these dear older brothers.

We were thankful to have visiting with us ministering Bro. Ron

Jones (Sis. Liz) from our Portland, OR, congregation. May God bless him for his labors to share the Word with us.

A reminder to the Silverton congregation: February is Silver Lining month for Silverton (a collection time for donations will be announced). This is also a good time to talk with your correspondent if there are any address changes or additions. Thank you!

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Nathan and

MaryElizabeth Gasser

This month we held our annual business meeting and welcomed the participation of a number of brethren in new and old church positions. It's always a delight to see the willingness of each person as they accept these responsibilities. It's also an opportunity to thank those who have served our congregation in the past year. Whether in appointed church positions or in activities of our daily lives, let us all seek opportunities to serve our Lord, to serve His children, and to serve all those He places us in contact with.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

Although we will miss him in our gathering in Nashville, we are thankful for Chris Stoller that he is now returning to the Latty, OH, area, near his family, to pursue other employment opportunities. The Lord has blessed us richly already in the new year, and we are thankful for the ministering brothers who so willingly bring us the Living Word. This past month our visitors have been Bros. Dan Stoller

(Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford and Tremont, IL; LaCrosse, Remington, and Wolcott, IN; West Bend, IA; 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: Detroit, MI (2/20), and Bloomington-Normal, IL (2/27), Rockville, CT (3/6), Washington, IL (3/13), Milford, IN (3/20). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter (3/27). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS **DALLAS/FORT WORTH** **Carrie Beyer**

Many thanks to Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury) for serving as a minister to us as part of January's minister rotation. We also appreciated having Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata) stop through on January 16. We look forward to hosting ministers from Minneapolis and Wichita in March.

Our church would like to invite anyone living near or traveling through the area to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the DFW 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**

"Praise ye in His sanctuary, Him who does such wondrous deeds!" (Hymns of Zion #235). We in the San Marcos congregation have new voices helping us praise God in our sanctuary. Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer (Bluffton North) and Sis. Tricia Hodel (Gridley, IL) are each spending a few months worshipping with us due to work assignments in San Antonio. We've already enjoyed some precious fellowship and singing time with them and look forward to sharing more together.

Wintertime Southern travelers mean more visitors for us. It's a privilege to greet each one. Visitors have been from Mansfield, Nashville, Bloomington, Pharr-TX, Morris, Gridley, Rittman, and Princeville.

We appreciate those who have preached the Word; Bros. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Vic Baumann (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), and Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita).

The following churches are on the minister rotation for March: (6) Bradford, (13) San Diego, (20) Gridley. No services are scheduled for Easter Sunday on March 27.

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone 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 local contact information.

Our congregation continues to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Sandy Leman

We welcome our returning and already-returned Winter Texans. What a blessing to have our church building full again! The pleasure of renewing friendships with those who have been absent from our presence for a while is a little foretaste of Heaven. The blessing of

that reunion is that it will go on forever, beyond our comprehension but something we can anticipate with the assurance that God always keeps His word.

We appreciated a visit from Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville). We thank him for his willingness to serve.

Bro. Wayne Rufner was hospitalized in the past month. We pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matt. 5:16

Greetings to all the children of our beloved Lord Jesus! We are always thankful for those who visit us. We were blessed to have minister-

ing Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT) on January 9. This was our first worship service of the new year. Thanks to all for your loving support, whether in big ways or small ways.

We so look forward to the fellowship of the brethren. If you have plans to go north this winter, remember to include us. Give us a call to help us plan for the second Sunday of the month at 10:15 AM. For more information or directions, please contact Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981 or Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 295-1869. The church is located off Interstate 91. Just take exit 13 to 344 Main Street, Norwich, VT 05055.

Another year is dawning;
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150



Sermon continued from page 2

he has?" (Job 1:10). God didn't deny that He had done that. So I believe we can take from that that there are times when God maybe does put a little protection around us. Maybe a hedge around. "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?..." (Job 1:10).

Sometimes I think, when we are going through a - isn't that the way we feel as parents for our children? Isn't that what we want for our family? The Lord said how that He would have just loved, as He looked over Jerusalem, as a hen just brought them in under His wings and protected them (St. Matthew 23:37). Sometimes as parents, don't we feel that way about our children? We just would like to carry them through the hard times. We would just like to somehow or other protect them. Have a little hedge about them.

I believe that God will do that. We can pray for it. It doesn't mean that they will always be spared any kind of a heartache or test. This is life. There is learning to be had through the tough things of life, which is what Job is all about. But I believe there are times when God does put His arm of protection around. Evidently Satan didn't feel like he could touch Job at that point. Not to the point that he wanted. Aren't we thankful for a God that loves us that much?

Something that puzzles me sometimes when I read this, I don't know if it does you too or not. Verse six says, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." (Job 1:6). Do you ever wonder what that scene was like? Ever just try and picture what heaven must be like? Where God is and how that is and who are these sons of men that came? I don't know who they are, I guess. When we really think about it, you think they could be the helpers of God. But it says, it doesn't say

the sons of men. The sons of God, so maybe it would be the angels or God's help. Somehow or other those that no doubt are part of the working of His kingdom. But there is a day, evidently, they have a meeting. How is it going? How are you getting along on your part and your part? Maybe, is that what is going on? I don't know but it sounds like they had a time to consider how things were.

I don't understand why Satan was allowed to come. Yet, maybe it was a - we don't understand things as God does. The fact that God allows Satan to come and He pointed out Job and they had a talk about Job. God said, "Have you considered Job, my faithful servant?" (Job 1:8). And Satan knew all about him. He knew all about Job. God didn't have to tell him anything that Satan wasn't aware of, it seems like.

I kind of wonder if that isn't, if that kind of thing isn't still going on. That there is times when whatever is going on with God and the sons of God and that Satan, the accuser of the brethren comes. He is there and he is accusing us before God. He is wanting a chance to kind of have at us and try to prove that if he just has a chance, that we won't be faithful. That is what he told God about Job. If you take that hedge away, he will curse you to your face. If you weren't blessing him so much, he would just curse you to your face (Job 1:11).

So then, it makes me wonder, and don't you wonder the same thing, when we have things come, sometimes we think we are having a bad day. Have you ever had those days when it seems like you should just go back and get back in bed and maybe try rolling out a little different. Pray a little longer and maybe I could start the day all over and it would go better because everything is going wrong today. Sometimes we have those kind of days, don't we? It seems like it sometimes.

If there is ever a bad day, this was the day, the day Job had. One thing after another. You know, when we

have those kind of times, don't we kind of wonder, have you ever kind of wondered, it is unusual when it goes that bad. This day was so unusual, Job had to realize this is not a normal day. He didn't know about the conversation God had had with Satan.

But when we have those especially tough days, can we pause just a moment and say, why is it going so hard? Is it possible God is allowing Satan to test me especially today? I believe it is possible. I have had some of those days. Sometimes we just have to step back a little bit. If we take a little time to think about the message of this book, the message of this chapter, if it is really a challenge between God and Satan to see whether we will be faithful through the test that he can bring, then we would really want to try all the harder to not let those things we are going through that day just get us down, get us upset, wouldn't we? Because we want to prove to Satan that we love God. Not because life goes so smooth and everything is just the way we choose for it to be. But we love God because He loved us first.

Because of that, how did Job end that? "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). When we read that it almost sounds like - maybe this isn't right to say but - we might say, well he must have been in shock. It wasn't all sinking in. He just had a reaction. He just said something that came to his mind off the top of his mind. Maybe that is true. His heart was so fixed on God and trusting in God that that is what he said.

We know sometimes when we lose someone close to us, the hardest time isn't that first day a lot of times. It comes a little later on. When we think about it, all of his children gone in a day. Some of you have lost a child or more than one. You never forget that. Those special days that come around and all of

that, there is a heartache and a loneliness that you feel that those of us that haven't been through that never know. Job knew it and his wife knew it because they lost all of them.

If we had a flood, if we had a drought, we lost part of this or that, would be one thing. But he lost it all. Yet, it says, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job 1:22). Really, that probably sums it up. I can't help but just sum it up with those two thoughts. That where our treasure is, there will our heart be (St. Matthew 6:21). If his heart was set on these things, these treasures of life, all the blessings that God had given him, then he would have had to have been so distraught and not be able to bless God and trust God through it. Because we know what it is like when we lose something that we really care about. But obviously his heart was fixed on God and serving Him so he didn't charge God foolishly. We trust that we never will either, in the cares that we have.

As we turn to the New Testament, we want the Word to be what applies to our lives.

How can we take these familiar chapters that we have, this familiar parable, the parable of the sower? We don't need to go down through it verse by verse. We understand what it says. But where are we in the parable?

How did it say it? "And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude..." (St. Mark 4:1). So in that multitude, there were no doubt those that were believers. It doesn't say that His disciples were off somewhere else. It doesn't say that there were only those that had never heard Him teach before. We can assume that it was the crowds that followed Him day by day. So there were some, no doubt, following that had already started walking and trusting and believing Him and some that were just there maybe to hear it for the first time.

He taught many things by para-

bles and He told this parable. We know the parable is about the Word of God that is going forth. I had to wonder as we read through there, now where are we? Is this just a parable to try and get the attention of the friends on a Sunday morning? It opened tonight. Where are we in the parable?

There are several, we might say, different types of soil. It says the first is sown. "...when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts." (St. Mark 4:15). As the Word goes out and it is like the birds, the fowls of the air I believe it says, come and as soon as that seed is scattered, as soon as it hits the ground, the birds are swooping down and they are picking it up and carrying it away (St. Mark 4:4). Never really gets a chance to settle in. That is one of the conditions it talks about. That, I don't believe is us, is it? Because we are those where it has sprouted and it is growing and we are willing to bring forth fruit.

Likewise, those on the stony ground. "...when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time..." (St. Mark 4:16,17).

Those among the thorns hear the Word and the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word (St. Mark 4:18,19).

So we have the hard ground where it never gets a chance to sink in. Then we have the ground where it is stony. The seed maybe sinks in. That ground is warm because it is shallow. It will sprout but it doesn't have the ability to weather the hot, sunny, dry times and it withers (St. Mark 4:5,6).

The seed that gets choked out and then the seed that brings forth fruit (St. Mark 4:19,20). Probably there we are. Probably if we are honest with ourselves, we are somewhere in between. Sometimes we are bringing forth fruit and sometimes we are allowing cares to choke us

out a little bit, aren't we?

Is that something we can take from the Word tonight? Are there any thorns and thistles in your life and mine? I know there are things that come in my life from time to time. Satan tries to bring those things in. He tries to bring to us, just as he did to Job, something to discourage or something to make it hard. It is not just like what Job went through. Sometimes the things that Satan brings to us no one else ever sees. But there is a test. There is a thing that Satan tries to rob us of being fruitful for the Lord as He would have us be.

As we look out across the church and we see those that love the Lord and that is evident and we see fruit in your life and that is a blessing. It is a glory to God. We just want to encourage each other to, as the Apostles wrote in the New Testament, more and more, that you would abound more and more (Philippians 1:9). Because we are on the right track. We are doing what God wants us to do.

It seems like as we read this, it is like, what is the message tonight? It seems like it has to be, don't let the thorns and don't let the weeds start taking over.

We got a different combine this year. In this combine we have a yield monitor. So as we are going through the field, it is pretty obvious what it is intended to do is show you what the yield was as you are going along. On this yield monitor, there is a sixteen second delay. So you are going along and sometimes I am looking and I think, well that corn is doing pretty good. I look up and it doesn't say it is doing pretty good. But then a little while later, yes, it really is picking up. You kind of smile when you go through a real good spot where it is really yielding. But there are times when you go through a thin spot. In the thin spots, there are usually weeds. There are the grasses that came up, maybe the broad leaves. It is amazing what a

few weeds and a little bit of a thin stand does for the yield. It just drops way off.

So what do we do that can help us to bring forth abundantly the fruit that God would have in our lives? The seed has to be able to get into the ground. We don't have time to go into it too deep right now, but the soil needs to be prepared. In farming today we notill and there are special mechanisms to try and penetrate that harder soil and get that seed in the ground. One of the biggest problems we have with a no-till situation is getting good seed-to-soil contact. So that seed is in good contact with the soil. It can get started. It can germinate. It can grow. Once it is up and growing then you have a good chance. But the problem that leads to a poor, thin stand so often is poor seed-to-soil contact. So that is always the struggle.

Now how can we relate that to our lives? We know the seed, it said here, is the good Word that is being spread (St. Mark 4:14). What can we do to help it to sink in and get into contact with the soil where it can get the moisture out of the soil and it can be warmed by the soil around it and it can sprout and grow and bring forth fruit? We have to have something, some mechanism to make that contact. I believe it is a

preparation. Whether it is a prepared field that is just all ready for the soil or whether it is a no-till situation, it takes some effort. It takes some preparation so that that soil and that seed can make the contact.

In our lives, do we really come and do we really take the time to be prepared, that God's Word can sink into our heart and really make contact? I believe it takes time before we ever get to church. Sometimes, we have all heard it said, "Well, I don't feel fed at church. I am just not getting anything out of it. Or I go to church and I just wonder, I am just not getting anything there." But when we are really prepared properly for that Word to sink in is when we come to see what we can do to share the love of God.

Part of the fruit is not coming to church for what we can receive. But coming to church to worship God. Coming to be thankful to God. Coming to be thankful for the love that we feel and the love that we can show to one another. Coming to church maybe to see someone that has been through something that we are aware of. We can give a little word of encouragement. To help that seed to sink in, our heart has to be right and it takes some preparation ahead of time.

We are so thankful when we come

and we have a praying church. But the greatest blessing is when we have prayed at home and then we come and pray in church and we trust God. When our hearts are prepared, we will never go home without having been blessed. Not because the ministers are so great. But because God is faithful. When you pour out your heart and you prepare your heart before God, the Word is going to fall in there and it is going to bring forth fruit.

What kind of fruit? Well the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is not a fruit of the Spirit but the fruit of the Spirit. The various attributes of the fruit of the Spirit that should be overflowing in each of our lives.

I take a little time, and I am sure you feel the same way, to look into our lives and in our days and we realize some days that fruit is not so evident. But in our heart, our desire is there, isn't it? God knows that desire and as we just take a little time to humble ourself before Him and ask Him to bring it out and bless us and help us worship Him. God will hear that prayer and bring us to this place where we will yield the - what did it say? thirty, some sixty, some hundred (St. Mark 4:20). That we will yield fruit to Him, to His glory and abundance.



2005 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

Mark your calendar to attend this year's annual Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled for Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29. This year's weekend theme will be "Godly Attentiveness" with included speaking topics of "Commitment to the Doctrine and Traditions of the Apostolic Christian Church", "The Sabbath Day and its Holiness," and "Obedience and Submission (Are we our Brother's Keeper?)." The actual speakers on these topics will be announced soon. 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. Church services on Sunday will be held at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church.

Athens/Tennessee MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2005 Event Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 28 *(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
- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Singing *(Congregational & Special Numbers)*
- 7:30 p.m. Speaker on "Commitment to the Doctrine and Traditions of the Apostolic Christian Church"
- 8:00 p.m. Singing resumes

SUNDAY, MAY 29

- 10:00 a.m. Church Services at Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, AL
 - Speaker on "The Sabbath Day and its Holiness"
 - 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 "Obedience and Submission (Are we our Brother's Keeper?)"
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Singing Resumes

We look forward to having you (and your family) join us for this weekend. If you plan to attend, please call or e-mail one of the contacts listed below by **Monday, May 2** to assist us with planning. The contacts will also be able to give you additional information on the **Auction, Overnight Accommodations, and Directions.**

Contacts:

- Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615)356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com
- Bro. Don Sauder, (615)351-7734 or don.sauder@juno.com
- Bro. Mike Moore, (256)729-0620 or alm38@aol.com



ALTERNATE HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

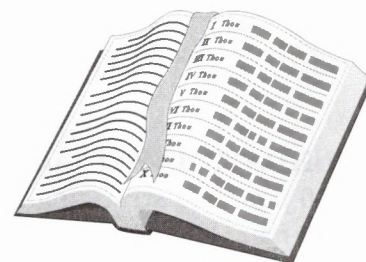
Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner are planning to leave Gateway Woods in the near future. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

If anyone is serving in our Armed Forces that would appreciate receiving a printed sermon, please send their name and address or email address to:

Printed Sermons
6082 N. 2800 East Rd.
Forrest, IL 61741
or phone (815) 657-8798



ASSISTANT HOUSEPARENT NEEDED

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. Sis. Julie Zimmerman (Congerville, IL) will be leaving Gateway Woods in 2005 so we will have an opening for a single sister, led of the Lord, to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed above in the "Alternate Houseparents Needed" ad.

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2005

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 309-263-4036 or E-mail kjs@a5.com.

| HAITI | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| ORG. | DATE | AREA | COORDINATOR | PROJECT | CAPACITY |
| SEED | Mar. 10-18, '04 | Les Cayes | Bob Beebe | Agriculture Aid | 11 |
| MEBSH | Mar. 17-25, '05 | Les Cayes | Rich Bertschi | Grade School | 9 |
| AWA-FRW | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-T | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | Troy Stuber | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-B | May 5-13, '05 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |
| JAMAICA | | | | | |
| CCCD | March 19-26, 2005 | Kingston | Gridley BC - Roger Stoller | Deaf School | 50 |
| CCCD | May 20-28, 2005 | Deaf Village | Warren Kloter | Work Place | 40 |
| CCCD | July 2-9, 2005 | Deaf Village | Dean Ramsier | Work Place | 40 |

| COORDINATOR | PHONE | FAX | E-MAIL |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Jon Zeller | 309-266-9009 | | |
| Ron Palitto | 330-336-5373 | | |
| 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 | |
| Dean Pashak | 989-662-7685 | 989-662-7685 | dwpashak@charter.net |
| Bill Rager | 419-263-2989 | | |
| Kevin Sauder | 309-263-4036 | 309-263-4036 | kjs@a5.com |
| Rich Bertschi | 309-467-6110 | | lemangm@mtco.com |
| Ted Habegger | 260-694-6765 | | th@parlorcity.com |
| Mike Reinhard | 248-477-2287 | 248-427-0396 | mlreinhard@msn.com |
| Troy Stuber | 309-925-2603 | | tstuber@highstream.net |
| Rick Wuethrich | 219-567-9488 | 219-567-2542 | topnotch@home.ffni.com |
| Greg (Beth) Herman | 309-243-5610 | | gbherman@juno.com |
| Warren Kloter | 309-208-2785 | | wkloter@myexcel.com |
| Roger Stoller | 309-747-3228 | 309-747-2566 | rstoller@dtnspeed.net |
| Dean Ramsier | 330-334-2561 | | ramsier@neo.rr.com |

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

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

- NOTICE -**Repair and Distribution of
Worn Bibles &
Bible Story Books**

Presently we are not taking Hymns of Zion due to our large inventory and not enough requests for hymnals. 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

FLORIDA DISASTER PROJECT

The work project began on January 3, 2005, at Wauchula, FL. The Disaster Work Project Committee made a survey trip in late October. After visiting six to eight areas of need, Wauchula was selected. The current plan is to build three new homes, and to repair as many as the number of volunteers will allow us to complete. All the basic building skills and the desire to help those in need, are needed. If you have the desire to help, you can escape the cold winter of the north and share in His love and compassion, on the project, in a warmer climate. Please phone Bro. Jerome Witzig and reserve a time to serve. His phone number is (309) 744-2347.

**Apostolic Christian
Counseling Services**

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

Counseling for depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...

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

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@parlorcity.com

Mexico Work Teams 2005

| Location | Date | Project | Coordinator | Phone | E-mail |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Juarez | March 5-12, 2005 | Construction | Bryan Meyer | 260-565-3738 | bkmeyer@insightbb.com |
| Agua Prieta | March 12-19, 2005 | Construction | Bob Meyer | 260-824-3236 | bobmeyer@adamswells.com |
| Magdalena | March 12-19, 2005 | Construction | Arlan Miller | 309-747-2683 | seek_truth@yahoo.com |
| Rio Bravo | March 12-19, 2005 | Construction | Jim Barth | 309-367-2098 | barthlings6@juno.com |
| Magdalena | March 19-26, 2005 | Construction | Bruce Aschliman | 260-824-5160 | aschlimanb@yahoo.com |
| Agua Prieta | March 19-26, 2005 | Construction | Denis Fry | 260-824-3055 | fry.d@mchsi.com |
| Rio Bravo | March 19-26, 2005 | Construction | Nic Rassi | 217-367-1427 | rassi@uiuc.edu |
| Magdalena | March 26-April 2, 2005 | Construction | Pete Aberle | 309-925-5969 | dpabfrms@hotmail.com |
| Rio Bravo | March 26-April 2, 2005 | Construction | Marv Hodel | 309-263-0050 | dove@dpc.net |
| Copper Canyon | March 17-24, 2005 | Medical/Dental | Cheryl Herrmann | 309-385-1082 | cherylh@mtco.com |
| Magdalena | June 4-11, 2005 | Construction | Scott Klopfenstein | 602-721-7409 | scottklop@yahoo.com |
| Magdalena | June 11-18, 2005 | Construction | Andy Bauman | 309-965-2174 | arbauman@juno.com |
| Magdalena | June 18-25, 2005 | Construction | Joe Sprunger | 317-770-7351 | joes@sullivan-corp.com |
| Magdalena | June 25-July 2, 2005 | Construction | Tim Lehman | 765-474-1168 | TLehman@ICONTrans.com |
| Rio Bravo | June 18-25, 2005 | Construction | Dean Fiechter | 260-565-3439 | dafiechter@parlorcity.com |
| Magdalena | July 23-30, 2005 | Construction | Brian Ricketts | 815-657-8308 | brickett24@hotmail.com |
| Juarez | September 14-21, 2005 | Medical/Dental | Cheryl Herrmann | 309-385-1082 | cherylh@mtco.com |

If anyone is interested in teaching health/first aid/medical/fire/EMT/dental skills in Magdalena, Imuris, or Ixtlan, contact Sis. Cheryl Herrmann.





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following is part of a continuing series of beliefs and practices of the church with the Scriptural basis shown. These are included in a booklet entitled *Reference Guide to Scriptural Themes* distributed by Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, IL.

By: Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

MANNER OF LIFE

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Moderate Apparel | Romans 12:2 I Timothy 2:9 Philippians 4:5 |
| Women To Be Chaste | I Timothy 2:9 Titus 2:5 I Peter 3:3,4 |
| Long Hair On Women | I Corinthians 11:15 |
| Short Hair On Men | I Corinthians 11:14 |

EVERYDAY LIVING

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Non-Conformity To World | Romans 12:2 |
| Separation From World | John 17:15-17 Romans 8:6,7,8,12,13 II Corinthians 6:14-18 Galatians 6:14 Colossians 3:1-3 Ephesians 5:11 Colossians 3:1-3 Hebrews 7:26, 12:1, 13:13-14 James 1:27, 4:4 I John 2:15 |
| Self-Denial | Matthew 16:24 Mark 8:34 Luke 9:23, 14:33 Acts 20:24 Romans 6:12 I Corinthians 9:27 Titus 2:12 Hebrews 12:1 |
| Equally Yoked | I Corinthians 7:39 II Corinthians 6:14-18 |
| No Swearing Of Oaths | Matthew 5:34-37 James 5-12 |

... continued next issue

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Life At Its Best”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

There is a danger that we will become discouraged and discouragement is one of the devil's tools. We have to keep thinking, “Living for Christ is life at its best.” What we think is very important. Proverbs 23:7 reads, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” This is stated about someone who has wrong thoughts, but I believe it is equally true that if we have good thoughts, so will we be. It is good to think that we have life at its best.

If we wait to rejoice until we have no problems, we will never rejoice. In spite of problems and concerns, the life in Christ is still, life at its best. You may be terminally ill and suffering greatly, in which case your present condition is not life at its best. You would enjoy it more if you were healthy and felt fine. But the fact that you have Christ makes your present life the best possible under such painful conditions. Perhaps you can say that your life as a whole has been life at its

best. Even life at its best has its ups and downs. In the book of Habakkuk 3:17, the prophet lists many calamities and then writes in verse 18, “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation.” He tried to think about his life as whole.

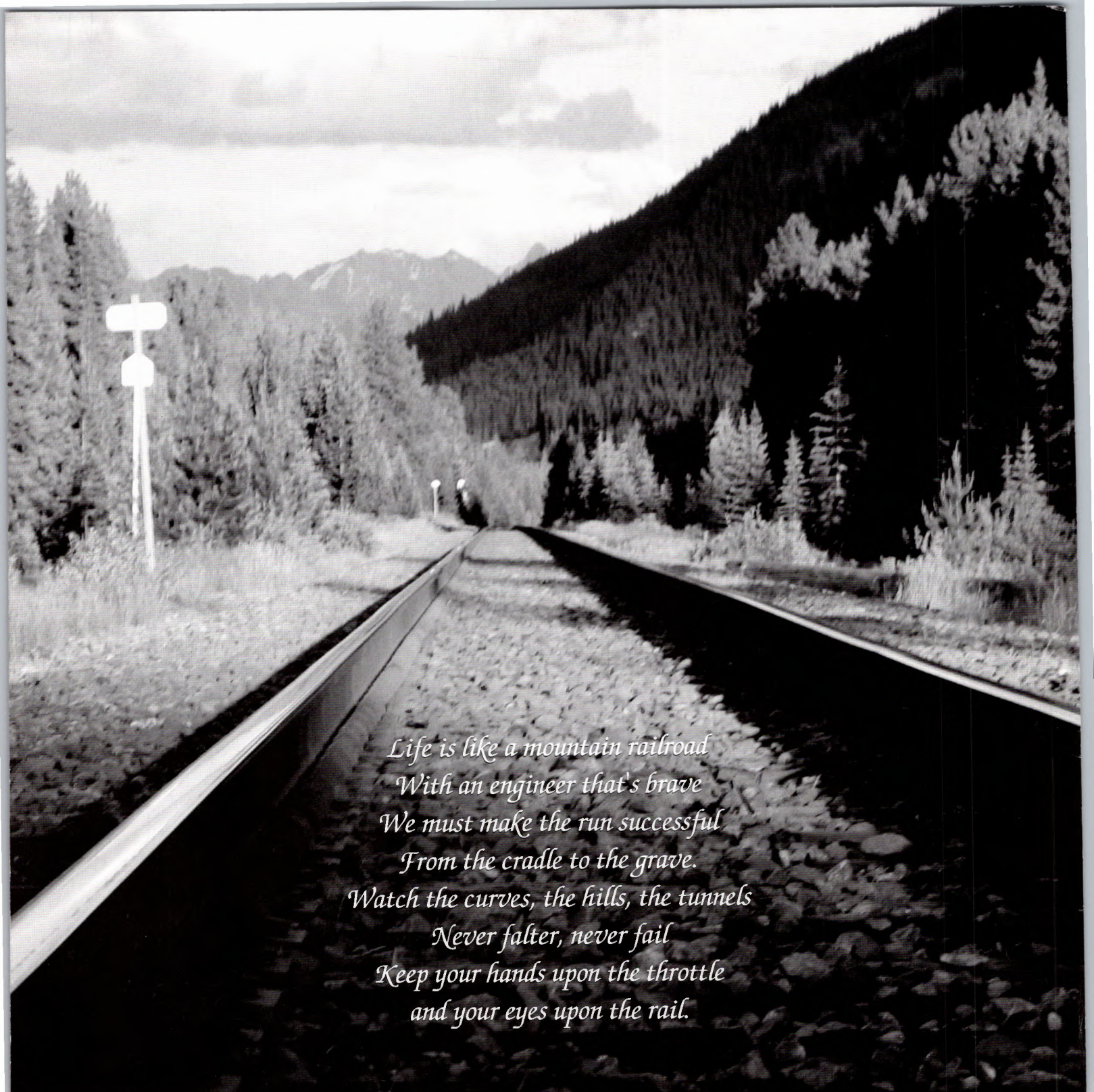
Would you rather have been living in the early days of American history when men took their families in covered wagons from Illinois to the west coast? That was not easy and many did not make it. They hoped for a better life and if they didn't make it, at least they would die trying. We haven't died yet but until we do, let's give it all we have by way of love, hope and faith. Actually, everything considered, we now have life at its best, if we are in Christ.

An active life in Christ keeps the slate clean. We will never be more ready to meet Christ than we are today. In Matthew 5:23, Christ teaches us that if we bring a gift to the altar, evidently making a donation of

money to the Lord's work, we should, verse 24, “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” If someone has something against us, all we can do is apologize, ask for forgiveness, and determine not to make the same mistake again. We shouldn't be down in the doldrums the rest of our lives. There is also the possibility that someone may be mistaken in having something against us. Many people also had something against Christ, mistakenly so.

The New Testament teaches us that Christ is the Son of the Living God, that He died for us, and that He arose again, so that we can be reconciled with God, the Father. Can you think of any better plan of salvation than that? How is it possible that God could love us so much? I John 4:11 reads, “Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” Let's do it and enjoy, Life at Its Best.

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*Life is like a mountain railroad
With an engineer that's brave
We must make the run successful
From the cradle to the grave.
Watch the curves, the hills, the tunnels
Never falter, never fail
Keep your hands upon the throttle
and your eyes upon the rail.*

THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561



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