

The Silver Lining

*This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,
shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

March 2005

Sermon by Bro. Randy Kellenberger, Kansas City, MO

Jeremiah 36:1-8 and St. John 18:1-27

We have read twenty-seven verses of some of the events of Christ being brought before the authority in a portion of His final trial, as we would call it today. Many thoughts could be contained therein concerning this matter.

One thought we could ask is, when they came and took Jesus with Judas and the soldiers with Judas, when He answered them and said, "...I am he..." St. John 18:5, it says, "...they went backward, and fell to the ground." St. John 18:6. I often wondered about that. I think, obviously, we may not have a full understanding of how that would happen. Christ would say, I am He and a number of men standing there would fall backwards. One must certainly believe there was a power that emanated forth from Him that drove them to the ground. Because they were intent on capturing Him. Their minds were focused. It wasn't as though they were retreating or would retreat. So it must have been the power of God or a form thereof that is not described in the scripture, that they would fall backward to the ground.

One wonders, spiritually - Christ said I am He - spiritually, if in our world and time today, if the Word of Christ should not strike us and should not take us to the ground, to the bottom, ground level, so to speak, spiritually. Because we were reminded this morning of the pride of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4). The pride that each one of us has. When we are in the presence of Christ, we are deserving of being on the ground in total obeisance to Him. It may be that this is a foretaste of the judgment day, when we read that all men will kneel before the throne of God and will acknowledge our Lord and our Savior (Romans 14:11). There will be no choice in the matter.

I don't know. Those are some of the thoughts that come to me. But they were driven to the ground. And all mankind eventually will be driven to the ground by our Lord and Savior. It will either be in the peace and gentleness we were reminded of

this morning and which is available today. The peace and the gentleness in the surrender of our hearts to Him. It will either be that or will be at judgment day. But every knee will be brought to the ground before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And everyone will acknowledge His might and His power. Now is the time to go to the foot of the cross to a gentle, loving, kind Saviour and Redeemer. So that we don't have to face the judgment day and being told that He never knew us (St. Matthew 7:23).

"...Whom seek ye?..." St. John 18:7. That is a question that in this day and time, that we must answer. Again this morning, we were reminded of the world and that which is contained therein. Do we seek the things of this world or do we seek Jesus? We need to seek Him with our hearts spiritually today as He asks that question. We need to seek Him as these men pursued Him for evil purposes.

Today it has all been reversed. Christ gave His life. He acquiesced to the wickedness. He gave His life. He could have called legions of angels and no harm would have come to Him (St. Matthew 26:53). But He chose not to.

So today, we need to seek Him as a Savior. Not for the evil purpose of these men, but as a Savior and Redeemer. We need to want that. We need to have the wisdom and understanding from God of eternity. Of our soul salvation. Of the consequences of following this loving, gentle Savior and the consequences of not following Him. Of choosing our own way. We need to understand those truths. May we have the wisdom to understand that.

Then we have the teaching of the sword and how it was used and how Christ said, "...Put up thy sword into the sheath..." St. John 18:11. Again pointing out that our Lord and Savior went to the cross voluntarily for us. The ways of this world, the ways of the wars of mankind do not count with God.

We recall that in olden times of the children of Israel, whole armies were delivered into the hands of the children of Israel and destroyed by the hand and the will of God. The weapons of warfare of man are nothing in the sight of God. This should give us encouragement when we look at a world today that is armed to

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2005

Who Shall Be Able to Stand?

In the book of Revelation we read of a time when the moon will become as blood, the stars in heaven shall fall to the earth, and the kings, great men, rich men, chief captains, mighty men, bondmen, and free men will hide themselves in the dens and the rocks of the mountains so they will not have to face the wrath of the Lamb. "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:17).

All of the things that the world trusts for security - government power, greatness, wealth, military might and physical strength shall fail. What will cause them to fail? A Lamb! One generally thinks of a lamb as gentle, meek and mild. These are hardly the characteristics that are thought of to stand up to the forces of strength in this world.

The scripture gives us direction about who shall be able to stand. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus told a story of two men who built a house. One house fell and one stood firmly against the flood and the wind that beat upon that house (Mt. 7:24-25). Why did one house stand and one house fall? The difference is the foundation. The house that fell was built on a foundation of sand. The house that stood was built upon a foundation of rock.

Each of us is building a spiritual house. If we want our house to stand, we would do well to build our house on a foundation of Rock. The Word of God gives us plenty of material to use in building, not only the foundation but the entire house. We know that in building a house there are materials we should not use and materials we should use. So it is in building a house of faith. There are things to avoid and things to hold fast.

The Lord hates evil. Throughout the scriptures we are encouraged to "...follow not that which is evil..." (III Jn II). So much does God hate evil that we are to "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I

Thess. 5:22). Evil is everything contrary to God's Word. Therefore, we should avoid all that is contrary to His Word.

We are also cautioned to avoid placing our trust in men, even if they seem like great men. "Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:" (Pr. 25:6). We might wonder about placing our trust in those who have faithfully followed God. Are they not great men and can they not be followed? Those who were men of God knew that it was really God who was to be followed, not themselves. Solomon, when he was very faithful, realized that he could not rule by his own wisdom. When asked by God what he wanted he said "...I know not how to go out or come in ...Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart ...for who is able to judge this thy so great a people" (I Ki. 3:7-9)?

We are also taught not to trust in "...uncertain riches..." (I Tim. 6:17), to "...keep ourselves from idols..." (I Jn. 5:21) and "...we should not trust in ourselves..." (II Cor. 1:9). There are many other cautions in the Word of God of those things we must not place our trust in that space does not permit to list.

There are many very encouraging statements in the Bible that tell us where to place our trust so we can stand in the day of judgment. The most obvious, of course, is to "...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength... and thy neighbor as thyself..." (Mk. 12:30-31).

Such thoroughness may be difficult for us to comprehend, but we are encouraged that God will not ask more of us than what He will give strength to do. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee..." (De. 33:27). God's promise of help continues to the end of our life. "And even to your old age I am he: and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Is. 46:4).

The first requirement for us to be able to stand is to have faith in God. We know that "...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,..." (Heb. 11:6). We can read of many examples of men who felt they could not do what God wanted them to do. They feared they could not stand in the face of trials. But, when they put their trust in God, they were able to stand faithful against great obstacles (See Heb. 11).

If we allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us, He will help us to stand fast. "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ez. 36:27). We cannot stand fast if we trust in the flesh "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you..." (Ro. 8:9).

Not only must we have faith in God and allow His Spirit to dwell in us, but we must also rely upon His grace to see us through trials and temptations. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). We must strive to grow in grace throughout our lives: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (II Pet. 3:18). When we feel weak and believe we do not have sufficient grace, we can take comfort in the words of our Savior: "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." (II Cor. 12:9).

There are many characteristics that help us to stand firm in God's service. Faith, the Spirit of God dwelling in us, grace and many others could not be expounded upon because of space limitation.

Who shall be able to stand? Perhaps David summed it up for us very well. "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully" (Ps. 24:4).



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

Committee Meetings

The Mission Committee meetings held in November 2004 and January 2005 are reported in this article. The Mission Committee continues to be encouraged by the generous contributions coming forth from the Brotherhood in support of our various mission projects. May God give much grace and wisdom in providing good stewardship of these funds and add His abundant increase to each of the mission projects supported by our Church.

Communication

The Technology Committee was charged by the Elder Body last year to develop an official web site for the Apostolic Christian Church of America. The purpose of establishing this site is to communicate the Gospel message to mankind and to extend a welcome to all seeking souls to worship in our assemblies. Initially, the web site will provide a description of our basic doctrine, nature and history and will enable inquirers to obtain the locations of our individual congregations as well as other relevant information.

The web site can be accessed at www.apostolicchristian.org. As the site is further developed, it will enable convenient communication of additional information via connections with authorized sites for various church programs.

New Mission Committee brochures have been printed and are being distributed to all of the churches. These brochures provide information on the purpose of our mission program and the guidelines for participation by interested brethren as well as implementation of approved projects. Brethren are encouraged to obtain copies of the brochure and familiarize themselves

with the mission efforts of our Church. Greater awareness should motivate increased prayer on behalf of these efforts along with a deeper understanding and appreciation of this important component of the overall mission of our Church.

It was decided that an updated and revised version of the 'Welcome' booklet will be published later this year. This booklet serves the important purpose of providing an overview of information about our Church for new visitors to our local churches. The text of this booklet makes up a substantial portion of the information currently included in the official church web site.

Financial Reports

Financial reports of contributions and expenditures were reviewed. After prayerful consideration of many opportunities to serve, allocations were approved for a variety of projects including: Loving Shepherd International, Apostolic Christian Good Will Fund, Gideon's International (for Bibles), Braile Bible International and two other smaller Braile Bible organizations, RGMMI and Berean Prison Ministry.

The European Board reported on several church building and repair projects in Hungary and Serbia as well as additional work being done at the Antioch distribution building in Romania. It was noted that an observation trip to several of the Eastern European countries should be planned for this fall.

Mexico and Jamaica

Property adjacent to the church in Ixtlan has been purchased. The good news that several converts are awaiting baptism was shared.

The orphanage at Magdalena has been approved to begin operation in

February. Operations will begin with a maximum of 20 children. The orphanage board met recently to establish a mission, vision, governing values and a master plan, which is broken down into phases. Guidelines for volunteers and employees are being prepared, as it is very important that there is adequate sensitivity to cultural differences. It was noted that there is a need for brethren from our church to serve as house parents at the orphanage. Spanish language skills will be a requirement for these positions.

The people of Jamaica are English-speaking, poor and in need of the Gospel. The predominant efforts there have been World Relief projects, but as conditions arise, there will be opportunities for mission assistance and input.

Small Churches Study Committee

Bro. Matthew Rassi shared a progress report at the November meeting. A summary of information from a survey of elders was presented. A survey of brethren and friends of our small churches (fifty or fewer members) is underway. The study committee will continue to communicate with the Mission Committee, and ultimately a report will be presented to the Elder Body. Appreciation was expressed for the thoughtful and thorough approach, which is being followed by this committee.

The Mission Committee will appreciate the continued prayers and generous support of the Brotherhood in fulfilling our mission to spread the Gospel message of salvation to the lost and to provide spiritual support to others, both at home and throughout the world.



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

Tsunami Aid for Southeast Asia

On Sunday, December 26, 2004 the earth shook under the ocean near Northwest Indonesia. Huge waves swept across the ocean and crashed into coastlines in 12 countries. More than 225,000 persons died and more than 1 million were left homeless.

The initial response

On Monday the 27th, the chairman of the World Relief, International Grants committee made contact with four International Christian relief organizations, (International Aid, MAP International, Northwest Medical Teams, and Global Operations and Development), to offer our assistance. These are organizations that we have worked with in the past and have learned to trust. An inquiry was also sent to the Rural Gospel Medical Mission in India to determine their ability to help in that country.

Their response was immediate and the need was for funds to assist with the transportation expenses of sending medical teams and emergency supplies to the affected area. By Friday, December 31st, money from the World Relief Disaster Fund was sent to these organizations. Teams of doctors, nurses, and support staff were quickly assembled, and along with the necessary medical supplies, they headed for the devastated area.

What they found

The following is a quote from Miles Fish, the president of International Aid as he wrote about what he saw while standing in the destroyed city of Band Aceh, Indonesia.

î The physical destruction was

breathtaking. Everything in sight in every direction was completely leveled. Trees and homes were gone. How, I asked, could a wave cause all of this destruction? More troubling was the damage that had been done to peoples' lives. December 26 started out to be a beautiful sunny day. Then within moments, families, homes, memories, dreams, and the sense of security were washed away.î

What has been done by our international partners

In India, **Rural Gospel Medical Mission** is teaming with Christian Medical College Vellore in the tsunami affected areas of South India. They initially sent four medical teams to the area, providing medical care and distributing clothing, blankets, towels, etc. The focus for the future will be upon rehabilitation of the lives of the affected families with trauma counseling being one of the priority issues.

Northwest Medical Teams (NWMT) dispatched medical teams within a week to Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Each team took with them sufficient supplies and medicines to treat 10,000 people. In Sri Lanka, NWMT has been asked by the government to manage the medical care of 150,000 persons living in a tent camp. They are also providing funding to assist with the construction of shelter for 2,500 families. In Indonesia two medical teams are working with local authorities to provide primary health services and are participating in vaccination programs.

The following is a quote from **Global Operations and Development**. î We want to acknowledge the wonderful contributions made by Apostolic Christian World Relief

based in the Midwest. Bottles of water purification tablets will be purchased in bulk as well as medical supplies and specialized equipment. These will go out in 4 additional container shipments.î Global Operations and Development is presently working in the countries of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India.

Since December 26, **MAP International** has airlifted nearly \$14 million in essential medicines and medical supplies to the region. MAP expects its supplies will support over 270,000 people whose health has been affected by the tsunami. These supplies have been sent to Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

International Aid has shipped nearly \$9 million in disaster relief to Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. The supplies include six medical clinics, each capable of meeting the basic health and hygiene needs of a population of 10,000 people, water purification systems, over-the-counter medicines, prescription medicines and hygiene products.

What will be required in the future

There will be a continuing requirement for assistance in medical care, trauma counseling, and reconstruction. Our international relief partners will keep the World Relief committee informed about needs for the future. These needs will be carefully evaluated by the World Relief Committee and additional allocations may be made to provide support to those affected by this disaster.

Donations to assist with this disaster can be given to your local World Relief representative for forwarding to the National World Relief treasurer.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Most of us live in a fast paced world. It seems that change sometimes is the norm, and not the exception. We do know that change can be good if it is from the Lord. Acts 2:38 tells us to "repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Many have discovered that the change in lives through repentance toward a living God is life giving. Jesus also reassures us that "He is the same yesterday, and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). This gives us direction and comfort as well.

We experience change in our homes here at Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped services, too. We are thankful for God's hand and direction in these changes. In the past year we have noticed some residents have moved to other settings, such as a nursing home or another one of our homes where medical or other needs can be better met for these individuals. We have also welcomed new residents in our homes, and are glad we can be an option to meet needs for new residents. There have been a few residents that have gone to their new Home to be with Jesus, too, this year.

We have a relatively large number of full and part-time staff on our payroll in all of our homes. By nature of our industry and life, this means some periodic changes will occur. Some staff move to other careers and occupations, while new staff are led to work in

our facilities in a variety of positions. In the past year some staff have retired or gone to their eternal reward. At these times of change, it is always interesting to see how God will provide. For example, we have felt His blessings as He provided a willing sister from a local church to assume the Assistant Director of Nursing position recently at Timber Ridge.

Due to the changing needs of our Timber Ridge population, we have recently changed some of the places at Timber Ridge where services and activities are offered. You might notice some changes if you come with a visiting local church to Timber Ridge for a monthly Friday evening song service. The Multi Purpose Room, where the Hymn Sings occurs, is now used as a Day Program room Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and an Activity Room for all residents at other times. There has been some minor remodeling done in that room, and additional equipment and materials are there to accommodate these changes. We hope to use the former Activity room as a small Multi purpose room. In that room we are planning to have additional dining space for residents, a place for some people to be positioned out of their wheelchairs, and a smaller area for small group activities.

Through all these changes, we are thankful for God's hand in our lives. Without His direction and help, we would wander confused and anxious in this life. Our changes have helped us look to Him from whence all our help comes.

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

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

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

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Sis. Christa Kaeb

"...And let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1c

We run to exercise. We race to achieve. What is a race? It is a course. There is a distinct start and a distinct finish. A prize awaits the winner at the end. But what about the Christian race? Our start is our start in Christ. What are we striving for? We are striving to finish and attain our prize: Eternity with Christ.

This isn't just an ordinary race. There are different obstacles and detours. That is why we have a personal trainer running with us ... the Holy Spirit. He tells us when we have gone too far, where we need to turn, and sometimes He convicts us to change course. When we want to give up, He is

there convicting us to persevere.

Why run? We run to glorify God ... to exercise. God calls us to exercise ourselves in Him. We can do this by spending time with Him daily. Pray and read His word. Apply it to your heart, and when you want to give up, remember to persevere.

News

On February 19, 2005, Gateway Woods hosted an Ohio Representatives Meeting at the Rittman/Smithville Fellowship Hall. In the evening, there was a presentation for the Rittman, Smithville, and Akron churches. We were so delighted with the turnout and positive feedback. We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the day's events!

For the second time in the past year, two of our staff members have been led together by God toward marriage. Sis. Christa Kaeb (Assistant House Parent) and Bro. Tim Wiegand (Teacher) recently announced their engagement. We rejoice with them! Their example of a marriage by faith is a testimony to our residents.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sis. Natalie Lehman (Bloomington, IL) as a new Assistant Houseparent. She will be working with Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) in one of our group homes. Please pray for a smooth transition.

In February, we welcomed Bro. Joey and Sis. Holly Kline (Bluffton, IN) to our campus as new Alternant Houseparents. We also said farewell to Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner, who faithfully served at Gateway Woods for four and a half years. They returned to Princeville, IL. We wish

them God's blessings in the future.

After much prayerful consideration, the Gateway Woods Board of Directors has felt lead to move forward with plans to build a fourth house on our campus. This fourth house will allow us to continue serving our present population in addition to providing us with room to serve a new population – teenage girls in need of our residential services but who also are pregnant or have a small child. The need for services for these troubled young ladies was evident after conducting extensive research. Please be looking for more information in the near future as we raise funds and design the new building.

This month on March 12, we will conduct our annual Representatives Meeting in Indiana. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share how God is using and growing Gateway Woods. We would appreciate your prayers for a successful day.

Finally, please accept our thanks for your continued prayers and financial support. In recent years, God has truly given Gateway Woods the opportunity to serve both nationally and internationally. Our Gateway Woods Family Services seminars have been presented from the East Coast to the West Coast. Our adoption program has assisted with adoptions from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. We have taken residents onto our campus from California to Maryland. As Gateway Woods grows and expands, please know that your support makes all the difference. May

we "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12) together!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, AL Melissa Slagel

It is so exciting to begin seeing the first signs of spring at the end of February. You can see green blades of grass coming up and the days are getting longer and warmer. We are so thankful to begin spending part of our days outside.

This month we have worked on letters s-v and created lots of things with the color red. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a party and exchanging valentines. We played games and ate treats and by naptime they were totally exhausted, and so were we! Also this month we learned about our 5 senses and how each one is so important. We figured out that it's very hard to color your picture with your eyes closed. We spent time learning about our feeling and emotions too. We love the fact that feelings come and feelings go; and if a three year old says they are mad at you? What a relief to know that in the next 2 minutes you will be their best friend.

Children are so inquisitive and sometimes the questions they ask are too hard for even adults to answer. In class the other day one of little boys, as he was working on his cutting, says out of the blue, "Appllestolic Preschool, I go to Appllestolic Preschool ... Appllestolic, Appllestolic ... hmm HOW do you make apples stolic?" Yes, that was definitely one of

those questions.

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall

“What made us friends in the long ago when we first met?
Well, I think I know.
The best in me and the best in you
Found each other because they
knew,
That always and always since life
began
Our being friends was part of
God’s plan.”

We said goodbye to Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) as they went back to their home in Ohio. We loved having you here and may God bless you for being such good friends to all of us here at Athens.

Thank you to ministering Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) who were willing to bring God’s Word to us. Other visitors this month were from Goodfield and Washington IL, and Latty, OH.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32

What a welcome for the Mortonaires the weekend of February 13. Their singing was beautiful despite winter rains and flooding. The love and warmth of

Christian fellowship was great and plentiful. Many old friendships were renewed. What joy hearing our Lord praised in song!

Visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver), Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), and Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL). The Lord truly blessed our congregation through His servants.

The Sunday School Bible class traveled to Tucson for youth fellowship time. We thank our teachers and the Tucson Church for their efforts.

Sis. Cathy Emch (Bro. Jerry), and Sis. Connie Frautschi are in need of our prayers for their health.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Last month I wrote that it was 80 degrees (January 17) and bright sunshine and that I was ordering some more winter weather. Well, that order has been filled. Right now I am looking out the window at gray skies and rain, and we’ve had a lot of rain. Our desert is looking especially green and beautiful and we are thankful for the rain, but I think our winter visitors have had enough!

We are looking forward to our ACYF Sunday School weekend tomorrow with the Phoenix and Altadena Bible Classes. We anticipate a lot of good fellowship and memory making, Lord willing.

We enjoyed a visit from our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his family this month. We thank him for his efforts of love toward us and his service on the pulpit.

We also enjoyed having Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) minister to us over the pulpit. We want to thank him for his labor of love to serve us.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held on February 13. God spared the pancake flippers and mixers from the rain and the men served up pancakes, sausage, applesauce and ice cream bars. The women enjoy being served and waited on, if only once a year!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

II Cor 5:1

Our Altadena church mourns with Sis. Margaret in the loss of retired Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger, who went to be with the Lord on February 14. Bro. Carl expressed a deep love for God, and we are thankful for his gentle demeanor and years of service. In addition to Sis. Margaret, he is survived by his son, Douglas (and Lori) Kinsinger, and daughter, LaVonne McCarthy.

Our little congregation had joyful times this month as well. We are praying with Bob Jackson and his daughter, Jazmyn, as they begin their repentance and new walk with Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Cor. 5:17)

We celebrated the wedding of

Sis. Carol Graf (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn) to Bro. Doug Blunier (Bro. Dale, dec. and Sis. Joyce, Princeville, IL) on February 13. Visiting ministers for the wedding included: Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO).

We were also grateful for Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) for sharing the Word with us earlier in the month.

We continue to remember Sis. Mary (Bro. Bill) Witzig and Sis. Kay (Bro. Glenn) Hackenjos in prayer as they rest on His grace for healing with their respective health concerns. Sis. Mary is recuperating well from her heart surgery and Sis. Kay is making plans for surgery in the near future.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

We truly have been blessed this past month as we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new brother and sister in faith, Bro. Brian Wagenbach and Sis. Breana Wagenbach. We rejoice with their parents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian. We wish to express our thanks to Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Tom Klotzle (Altadena) for coming to assist Bro. Peter with this work. May the Lord be their rich Rewarder.

We want to heartily welcome Bro. Philip Rassi to our congregation. We are thankful he was

transferred here from Kansas City. His parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL).

Among our many winter visitors this month have been the following ministering brethren: Bros. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL) and John Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL). We pray the Lord will bless them for their willing service to us. We were also blessed as the Mortonaires shared with us in song and praises to our Heavenly Father.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Johanna Fortenbacher

We are so happy and thankful that God has led the way for a beautiful family to relocate here from Forrest, Illinois. Bro. Chad, Sis. Kim and their children, Milan, Paul and Maria Leman, are now part of us. This is such a blessing for our small church and we pray they will soon feel at home.

Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher's new retirement apartment has a banquet room that can be booked for any type of gathering. A potluck supper was planned for a Saturday night with all the residents invited. We really didn't know how this was going to turn out. Everyone stayed for singing afterward. One sweet lady asked me when we will do this again. A nice evening was had by all.

We were thankful also to have three visiting ministers here to share the Word. They were Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton),

Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI).

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

We have truly been blessed by God's goodness and the love that we share as His children.

February 19-20 was a blessed weekend as we heard the testimony of Austin Huber (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel) and witnessed his baptism. We thank Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) for coming and serving us that weekend, as well as all who attended.

O Lord, how wondrous is Thy
strength and kindness
Which Thou to mortal man dost
yet reveal!
Thy love is shown to us in all its
fullness,
For through Thy grace our guilt
no more we feel.
True innocence is still Thy adora-
tion,
And children have Thy special in-
vitation.
Zion's Harp, #118, v. 3

A dinner and special program were held on February 6, to celebrate our dear Bro. Verne Lehman's (Sis. Leona) 10-year-anniversary after heart transplant surgery. We had a wonderful evening celebrating Bro. Verne's life. Shortly after Bro. Verne received his new heart, he wrote this poem, which many who have had the blessing of meeting Bro. Verne have read.

The Great Physician is always
near,
He knows our cry, He knows our

fear.

He knows our need before we ask,
it's easy for Him to provide for
each task.

Trust the One that can heal and
guide,
so you can be happy deep inside.
Believe on the Great Physician -
never cease,
and you will go forth with joy and
peace.

—*Verne Lehman (1995)*

On the weekend of January 21-23, Bro. Gary Maibach and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann (Smithville, OH), were with us. On Friday evening, Bro. Gary presented a talk to our young group about his time in Vietnam as a noncombatant. He also ministered to us on Sunday and we appreciate his service to us.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

Although every season has a beauty of its own, it's always refreshing to experience hints of spring. As the seeds will soon need tender care, we must be reminded that it is no different in our spiritual walk of life. God can send us such simple messages if we would just pause and view the beautiful creation that He has created for us. We have much to be thankful for. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6).

We are especially thankful for our Elder brethren. We were blessed to hear that the mid-winter Conference went well, and that

our prayers were felt, and were a support and strength to each one through the proceedings. Words cannot express how grateful we are for all that they do for our congregations. May the Lord richly bless each one, and their families.

We are also thankful for Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl (Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Barb Schneider and Sis. Joyce Hunt (Bro. Harry), as the Lord has mercifully visited them throughout this past month as they have recovered from recent hospital visits. The Lord has also blessed Sis. Helen Gottier as she continues to gain strength from her recent health issues. Our prayers extend to Chazz Lanz as he battles the fatal blows of cancer. May the Lord grant him much grace and cover him with peace through this difficult time. Oftentimes we take for granted all the blessings that the Lord has given us. Sometimes it's humbling to step back, pray, and visit those in great need. It reminds us of how fragile life is, and how dependent we are on His love and mercy.

Our church facility experienced some damage as a pipe burst in our assembly. We are thankful that no one was hurt and grateful that such an experience could bring us all together. This bonding experience was a blessing for all that labored together in the cleanup process.

Several from our Young Group have had the opportunity to travel to the Princeville/Bradford area over Presidents' Day weekend. We thank each one for all the love and effort extended on our behalf. We are so thankful for these blessed times of fellowship. May the Lord richly bless each one through yet

another month, and may we never grow weary of thanking Him for His many blessings.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We have had enough snow and ice to cancel services (but not as much as it takes to do the same in the North and Midwest), and then a few days later the temperature is in the 50s.

Several in our congregation are in need of prayers. Phil Steffen is in the Sudan for work; may the Lord be with him and his family while he is gone. Ken Belsley fell and broke his thighbone; our prayers are with him and Roberta as he recovers. Suzi Subra is headed to Florida for a medical school rotation; Renaud and the boys will be able to spend some of the time with her.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Bro. Floyd Graves, Jr. (Sis. Linda, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors were from Smithville and Rittman, OH; Francesville, IN; Lexington, KY; Chicago and Eureka, IL; and Croghan-Naumburg, NY. What a blessing to fellowship with loved ones, some we haven't seen in many years.

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; af-

ternoon 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

We have been blessed to have God's Word brought to us by several visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL), Bro. Jim Kaeb (Sis. Diane, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL). We pray that God would bless His servants and that they will continue to be renewed in spirit, as we are, by God's Word.

Saturday evening, the Memorandum was shared with us by Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Gridley) and John Lehman (Bern). We appreciate the efforts of our Elders in their efforts to divine God's will for the church. The next day we had our Communion service followed by a church dinner. It was a blessed time of reflection and fellowship.

Our prayers are with the sister of Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder, Sis. Judy Martin, of Peoria, who is battling cancer. We pray that God would lay His healing hands upon her.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber in the passing of her brother, Bro. Wayne Nussbaum, Fairbury, IL.

We welcome Karen Dotterer to our area, coming from Smithville, OH.

Our monthly potluck was held on the 20th of February. Our numbers have grown substantially with the return of the winter residents and visitors here for a warm vacation. Our potluck is a good chance to visit with one another of like faith and there is always a blessing to be had.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Mary Masters

We've been abundantly blessed with visiting ministers this month. They include Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), and Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL). Please forgive me if I've left anyone out. If it is brought to my attention, it could be corrected next writing.

We are looking forward to Communion on March 6, Lord willing. Let us all look into the mirror of

God's Word to examine our lives before we partake of this solemn feast.

Recently, John 15 was expounded to us, and we were asked "How does 'I am' define who God is?" In Exodus 3 we find Moses trying to be excused from the work God had called him to do. Moses did not feel he was equipped to go to the great Pharaoh of the land and plead for the people. He also didn't feel like the people would accept him as their leader. God said to Moses, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" In the new testament Jesus said, "I AM the bread of life" (John 6:48). "I AM the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51). "I AM the light of the world" (John 8:12). "I AM the one I claim to be" (John 8:28). "I AM the gate for the sheep" (John 10:7). "I AM the good shepherd" (John 10:11;14). "I AM the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). "I AM the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). "I AM the true vine" (John 15:1). All of these descriptions give us a good picture of who God is. He also is described as the Husbandman who prunes the vine so it will bring forth much fruit. We were reminded that pruning is not pleasant in our lives and can be quite painful, but without it our lives would be filled with empty foliage and shade that would hide the reflection of our Savior's light. The encumberments of life add foliage of carnality and so the pruning becomes necessary from time to time. Our great God can take scrawny, weak "trees" or "vines" and use us so that He can be ex-

alted in all the earth. Let us all be obedient to God's will for our lives, so that He can be made known.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Bro. Roland Keller received his eternal reward from the Lord and funeral services were held on February 2 in Sarasota by Bros. Vic Beer and Marvin Steffen (North Fort Myers, FL), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and our local ministers. Bro. Roland was instrumental in the building and growth of the North Fort Myers Church.

A farewell dinner was held for Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann at our January potluck gathering. Bro. Dave was also involved in establishing the Fort Myers Church where he served as a minister. In addition, he helped with construction projects for our Sarasota church, where he and Sis. Kay have been a blessing for many years. We wish them God's blessings as they move to West Bend, Iowa, to be closer to family in that area.

The Memorandum was read by Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Dale Eisenmann on February 2. We appreciated these exhortations as well as many blessings from the ministry of additional visiting ministers and Elders in recent weeks. These include Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan), Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Dennis Warner (Lester, IA),

Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

The Sarasota congregation had the opportunity and special blessing to serve the Elders and their wives during the mid-winter Elder Conference February 9-11. Our prayers for God's blessing and the power of the Spirit were answered. Although we are many members in one body having different gifts, we were each able to serve and exercise those gifts given from the Lord.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Carol Kaufman

God richly blessed us with faithful brothers to minister His precious and Holy Word this past month. They were Bros. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS), Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN). We truly appreciate their willingness to come and bring others with them.

The weekend that Bro. Paul was here we had an ice storm on Friday night and Saturday. A group from Junction, OH, was on their way to Florida to help with the rebuilding and had to stop in Atlanta due to the ice. We were very thankful to meet with them Sunday morning at their motel for services as the power had gone off at church. After morning services, power was back on at church and we were able to go there for lunch and for afternoon services. God is truly good to us and we pray that His blessings would rest on all who

come and share His Word with us.

Visiting ministers scheduled this next month are from Washington, IL (March 20) and Congerville, IL (April 17).

We would love to continue having visitors fill our sanctuary and encourage us on the straight and narrow way. Please let us know of your plans to help us prepare for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, or Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

We don't change God's message - His message changes us.

We are grateful for the messages brought to us from several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT).

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

We are looking forward to the

testimonies and baptisms of Melissa Waibel (Jeff) and Naomi Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) the weekend of April 30/May 1. They have the hope of salvation that is from our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Shannon Stahl continues to lead our monthly Old Testament study of the Bible.

Our congregation went to Elgin's church for the reading of the Memorandum on a recent Saturday evening. We were able to listen to the concerns and burdens of our Elders and to receive encouragement to face our lives in a Godly fashion.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Kara Martin
Ann Nussbaum**

Our church family has been blessed with two evenings of witnessing training. We are grateful to Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL) who each led one of the Friday evening sessions. We pray that we will all become stronger witnesses, more compassionate and open to those around us who don't know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Our congregation started the month of February with a Wednesday evening Bible study of the first book of Philippians. We enjoyed the music of our Men's Quartet, Let There Be Praise, who helped with our monthly hymn sing on February 13.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Tim Hohulin, both of Roanoke, who shared in our January 23 services.

We were privileged to witness

the joining of two souls, Sis. Melinda Metz of Bloomington and Bro. Jeremy Knepp of Roanoke, as they exchanged wedding vows on January 23. Parents of the newly married couple are Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp, all of Roanoke. We wish Melinda and Jeremy God's blessings as they begin their new lives together.

We look forward to another wedding with the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Christa Kaeb to Bro. Tim Wiegand. Parents of the couple are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb of Bloomington and Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand of Goodfield. We wish this new couple well as they plan their wedding day and their new home established in Christ.

We welcome Mike and Sis. Janet Ellis of Normal to our church family.

We said farewell to Sis. Natalie Lehman recently as she moves to Leo, IN, to work as an assistant houseparent at the Children's Home. We will miss her presence and her smile, but we wish her well in this God-directed move.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We received many blessings from having visiting ministers with us in the past month. Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) all gave of themselves in the ministry of the Word.

We appreciate the many labors of our Elder Bros. Jim Plattner

(Princeville, IL), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), and Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) who were also with us during the past month.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane) as he announced his retirement from his position as Elder. We are thankful that he will continue to serve us in the ministry. Only the Lord can be a just Rewarder for his many years of untiring service to our congregation, and we trust that he will feel the Lord's blessings. We also extend our appreciation and prayerful support to Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) who will act as our counseling Elder.

On January 23, we were thankful to welcome Sis. Elizabeth Conzo as a new Sister in the Lord. Our congregation has felt blessed to have her in our midst. Even as our Elder Brother mentioned, we hope she will always feel the love and care of our congregation.

Bro. Philip and Sis. Donna Nenadov became first-time parents on February 20. Larissa Sue is certainly blest to have been born into a Godly family. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov of Eureka, IL.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

Greetings to everyone! This month started off with the annual Sunday School Winter Potluck at the end of January. That weekend we had lots of snow and the Sunday School kids had fun sledding at Bro. Dennie and Sis.

Cheryl Mangers place after church. After the sledding, the tired kids and the even more tired Sunday School teachers came back to church for an all church potluck. On that same day the Gridley choir visited and sang a few songs for us after the second service. We thank them for their beautiful singing as we really enjoyed it!

It is with great joy that we are able to welcome a new convert. Michelle Cornell has been attending for several months and has answered the call to repentance. We welcome her and her daughter Katie to our small church.

We grieve with our Bro. Dave Bauer in the passing of his mother, Sis. Arcelia Bauer. She was from Cissna Park and passed away at Carle hospital on February 16 at the age of 82. She was also Sis. Rebekah Martin's grandmother. We pray that they feel the presence of our Great Comforter during this time.

February 19-20 was a weekend for baptisms here in Champaign! We welcome our new brother and sister in Christ, Alan and Theresa (Boian) Miller. They have been attending for several years during the time that they both attended the University and their small family has been a real blessing to our church. They have one young daughter (Amelia) and are expecting another child in June! We are glad they decided to stay with Champaign church after they finished school and we rejoice with them and their families during this wonderful time! I know that our Elder Bro. Wayne was very appreciative to Elder Bro. Earl

Ringger for his help that weekend.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers for the month. We were blessed to hear from Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington), and Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley), Curt Rassi (Tremont), and David Zehr (Gridley).

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings of love from Chicago. It's hard to believe we are heading toward Spring, but we welcome it with anticipation here!

Our church was blessed by a visit by the Peoria choir and Bro. Ken Hoerr. The singing was beautiful and seemed to ring throughout the church and we enjoyed fellowshiping with those who came. A special thank you goes to Bro. Ken for ministering to us.

Also ministering to us this month were Bro. Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN). Bro. Dan assisted our Bro. Dale in the reading of the Memorandum and we thank him for that. It is a blessing to have "watchmen on the wall" who care so much for us.

Our Chicago Church is hosting Single Focus Weekend (SFW) again this year on July 9-10. We would like to invite any singles in the workforce or pursuing graduate/advanced degrees. The purpose is to promote spiritual growth and to encourage fellowship within our Brotherhood. There will be morning work projects, lunch and an afternoon/evening program of speakers including an evening meal on Saturday. Following church services on Sunday, there will be an afternoon picnic.

Anyone with questions may contact Bro. Doug Stoller at dstoller@uchicago.edu or 773-947-8329.

A few weeks ago, I was looking for a parking space on campus as I had a meeting with the chair of my college department. I tried the usual places and couldn't find a spot. Time was wasting and I would be late if I didn't find something soon—one just does not show up late to an appointment with a department chair! Suddenly it hit me. I remembered that out-of-the-way, obscure parking lot that "no one" uses. I knew I didn't have the authorization for the space, but I figured it was so out of the way that the parking pass monitors would not catch me. Wrong. A bright pink ticket greeted me when I got back from my meeting. Isn't that how it can be with our hearts? Do you ever try to tuck something away thinking God won't notice? I know I have been guilty of that. While sometimes one can get out of a ticket, it is not so with God. He sees and knows all. I thank Him for His loving patience with me when I make wrong choices. I pray you can feel God's presence in every nook and cranny of your heart, to keep it pure and clean.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Pam Walder Andrea Walder

Our congregation is thankful to be able to welcome Anthony and Megan Kaufmann into our brotherhood as we had the blessed opportunity to listen to their provings and witness their baptisms on the weekend of January

29-30. We want to thank Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) who were with us to share in the labors of the weekend.

We also want to thank Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) for visiting us this past month and allowing himself to be used in the Lord's service. We are so thankful for those who stand and minister the true Word to us, and pray that God's blessing would rest upon them.

The engagement of Bro. Zach Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee, Congerville, IL) to Sis. Karla Kaisner of Fairbury (Robert and Cheryl) was announced on January 30. We want to wish this dear couple God's blessings as well as His guidance and direction as they look forward to their upcoming marriage.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder are rejoicing over the birth of another grandson, Stephen Jesse Walder. Bro. Jess and Sis. Kelsey Walder (Silverton, OR) are his thankful parents.

Our prayers are with Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb in the passing of his sister, Sis. Joan Leman, of Roanoke. We were also saddened this month as our Sis. Arcelia Bauer has passed from this life into eternity. We want to hold up in prayer her husband, Bro. Herman, as well as their children, Bro. Randy and Sis. Patti Martin and family, Bro. Dave Bauer, and Ann Bauer. We also want to remember her sister, Sis. Laurine Kaufmann, and sister-in-laws, Sis. Aldean Kaufmann, Sis. Helen Janssen, Sis. Mary Bauer, and Sis. Loretta Bauer, from our congrega-

tion. We pray that our Comforter might be with these families who are grieving the loss of loved ones and would provide the grace to sustain them in their time of sorrow.

Those in our congregation who have been hospitalized or had surgery in this past month were Sis. Helen Janssen and Sis. Shirley Krumwiede. We also think of Sis. Marg Kupferschmid and Sis. Lorine Rocke, now residing at Fairview Haven, who have been hospitalized recently. We pray that God's hand of mercy could be upon each of these dear sisters and that good health could be restored if He sees fit.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Rachel Schrock

One Sunday recently we were instructed that true charity is love in action. Are our lives showing forth the love of Christ to those around us?

Love is being put into action in the home of Tony and Rachel (Wettstein) Nohl. Rachel recently underwent surgery. We are thankful that she is recuperating well at home. We continue to extend our love to the family of Bro. Keith (Sis. Pauline) Roth as he continues to battle pancreatic cancer. May God's peace rest upon all those affected by trials of this physical life.

Wishing to proclaim how God's charity has touched their lives are Chris and Michelle (Gastman) Miller. We look forward in prayerful anticipation to hearing this young couple's testimonies in April.

A new work of love has begun in the life of Bro. Zachary Anderson

(Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) as his engagement was recently announced to Sis. Karla Kaisner of Sabetha. Sis. Karla's parents are Robert and Cheryl Kaisner of Fairbury. They look forward to a May 22 wedding.

Another family that is drawing closer together as they face the challenges of life is the family of our Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion). Sis. Esther passed on from this life to the next the morning of February 14. Our prayers are extended to Bro. Merion and his family, especially to his daughters, Sis. Norma (Bro. Ernie) Stahl and Sis. Joyce (Bro. Rusty) Zobrist.

Our prayers were also extended this past month for our dear Elder brothers as they met in Sarasota for the winter Elder Conference. We appreciate all they do for the preservation of our beloved church. Our appreciation is also extended to those ministers who visited us this past month, including Bros. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Wolcott, IN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

On January 21, Bro. Darren and Sis. Krystin Schambach became first-time parents of a little boy, Tobin Blake. Pleased to have a new grandchild are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach.

The Elgin group that worked at the Magdalena orphanage in late December gave a slide presenta-

tion at the Fellowship Center on January 23. It was interesting to learn about the work team's various challenges and accomplishments during its stay in Mexico.

Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Ron with the reading of the Memorandum on February 5. We appreciated their kind and clear exhortations, which encouraged us to abide in the faith of our fathers and to stand firm against distracting influences. Other visitors who brought us a blessing by their ministry were Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

We are thankful that Sis. Marge Wewetzer (Bro. Bill) was recently able to return home from the Rosewood Care Center.

ILLINIOS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger**

We are so thankful that Tarla Gibbs (Steve) has begun her repentance. Her parents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin. May the Lord grant abundant grace and blessings to her in this new stage of life.

Two of our congregation have been hospitalized for medical attention recently. Our prayers are with Sis. Judy Knecht (Bro. Ernie) and Sis. Edna Leman. May the Lord provide for both of them.

Ed Schmidgall, brother of Bro. Marvin (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Harold (Sis. Ethel), passed away recently. Also, Sharon Grubb, mother of Sis. Sheri (Bro. Bruce) Martin; and Ralph Fritz, brother of Sis. Sylvia Banwart, have departed this life. We weep with

those that weep, and pray the Lord be near and comfort the sorrowing in this time of loss.

We warmly welcome Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger to our congregation. They have relocated from West Bend, IA. We trust they will feel at home as they assemble with us.

First-time parents, Bro. Lowell and Sis. Molly Stoller, happily welcome home little Isaac James. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Stoller and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall. We hope all continues to go well for them.

We also hope little Dwight Ryan will continue to grow and develop into a strong, healthy little boy. He is the new son of Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy Kupferschmid. He was born very early with his twin brother, Derek Ryan. Sweet little Derek lived just a few hours and then was taken Home to the arms of Jesus. Our prayers are with this dear family during this time of mixed joy and sorrow. Rebecca, Sarah, Jed, Naomi, Luke, and Mahlon greatly anticipate the homecoming of their new brother. Grandparents of these baby boys are Bro. Rich and Sis. Marybeth Kupferschmid and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL). Also, as Sis. Cindy has undergone surgery, we hope the very best for her in a quick recovery. "The Lord bless thee and keep thee: the Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee... and give thee peace."

Note of Thanks:

With sincere appreciation, we want to thank all our loved ones for their many acts of kindness,

flowers, cards and especially prayers during the illness and passing of our dear sister and aunt Ruth. We are grateful, and may God bless you all.

The family of Ruth Feucht

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Tammy Hinrichsen
Anna Schmidgall**

The past month has brought several visiting ministers to our congregation. We thank Bros. Fred Funk (Morton, IL), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and James Knapp (Congerville, IL) for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

We rejoice along with the angels in heaven that Dallas Neel has felt the mercy of God leading him to repentance. He and his family have just recently begun assembling with us. We continue to pray that God will grant him wisdom and grace.

Sis. Viola Moser passed out of this life into eternity after living many years on this earth. She will be fondly remembered for her joy in the Lord. May God extend His comfort to her sister, Sis. Lavina Moser, and her brother, Silas Moser, and many nieces and nephews.

Our prayers are with the Liz Bartlett family following her death. She resided at Fairview Haven with her husband, Bill. She was the grandmother of Troy and Sis. Annette Hale.

We are always thankful when God leads two souls to be one in Him. Sis. Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cheri) and Bro. Zach Anderson (Bro. John and Sis. Cyndee, Congerville, IL) were announced

to be married. We pray for showers of blessings in their lives.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

Our hearts are filled with joyful thanksgiving as another soul has turned to God in repentance. May God be with Ben Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn) and grant him grace to build on the firm foundation.

God has blessed two of our homes this month with little baby girls. Bro. Shawn, Sis. Tami, Aaron and Abigail Aberle welcome home Laurel Jean. Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle are thankful for another granddaughter. Paige Lynette is the firstborn to Mark and JaNae Steidinger. Her grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Drayer and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

The engagement of our Bro. Tim Mueller (Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida) and Sis. Myra Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly) was announced. May they look to God for guidance in this period of their lives.

We said farewell to our Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim Leman and their family as they felt God's leading to move to the Kitchener, ON, congregation. We also neglected to mention two of our other families who have recently moved. Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider and family moved to Junction, OH, and Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft and family relocated to Congerville, IL, both because of job changes. May all of these cou-

ples continue to feel God's guidance and come "home" to visit us often!

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Donna Bachman (Bro. Larry), Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid, and Bro. Wilbur Wiegand (Sis. Ruth). May God grant them healing strength.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) for lending himself in the work of the Lord for us this month. May he, as well as all of our ministering brothers, continue to sound forth the true Word of God.

Our sympathy and prayers are with several in our congregation who have laid a loved one to rest this month. May God comfort Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Harlan) and Bro. Eldon Kaeb (Sis. Stephanie) in the passing of their sister, Sis. Joan Leman (Roanoke, IL). We also remember the family of Sis. Leona Tanner (Bro. Ben, Goodfield, IL) who passed away. Her sisters in our congregation are Sis. Donna Leman (the late Bro. Robert) and Sis. Ruth Roth (Bro. Les).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Heather Hohulin
Rita Bauman**

Many witnesses gathered in January to hear the testimony and observe the baptism of a new brother in Christ, Bro. Russell Wiegand (Bro. Art and Sis. Pam). We wish him much grace to live faithfully, and we rejoice with Bro. Russell and his family.

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

Joshua 24:15

Sis. Tiffany Eastman (Dave and Diane) and Bro. Tyler Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori, Eureka, IL) announced their engagement. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it with God at the center of your lives and plans.

At our annual business meeting, the following were elected to join others already serving the congregation in important ways: Bro. Dave Kuntz - trustee, Bro. Dennis Blunier - Eureka Home Board, Sis. Dort Leman - kitchen committee, and Bro. Ross Herrmann, Bro. Derek Roth, Sis. Heather Hohulin, and Sis. Amy Knobloch - Sunday School teachers. Our prayers are with you as you continue your work for the Lord.

Our Sis. Leona Tanner heard the Master calling her Home at the age of 81, on February 6. We will miss her and pray for our Father's comfort to her husband, Bro. Ben, and their children and grandchildren. Our sympathies go out to Bro. Ben, and their children, Bro. Ben (Sis. Mary) Tanner Jr., Joe Tanner, Mark (Diana) Tanner, Mike (Cheryl) Tanner, Jim (Elaine) Tanner, Lynn (Milt) Hinnen, Judy (Mike) Sauder, and Carol (Bob) Radtke.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They are Sis. Carolyn Rokey, and Sis. Minnie Grusy. May God grant them healing and strength and may they feel the prayers of their church family.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers last month, including Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis.

Sue, Champaign, IL), Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). May they be blessed for their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the loving support and the many acts of kindness shown to our dear wife and mother during her illness and at the time of passing away. May God bless you.

Bro. Ben Tanner Sr. & family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our church was very saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Bro. Michael Butikofer, 47, who passed away on Sunday, February 13, at his home. He had health struggles, but was not in apparent bad health.

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Donna French Butikofer; and three daughters, Jacqui, Kristen and Kayla, all at home; his parents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Butikofer, Gridley; two brothers, Bro. Mark Butikofer and Bro. John Butikofer, Gridley; and two sisters, Julie Krugger, El Paso, and Joni Loftsgard, Clermont, Iowa.

Bro. Mike will be missed at church. Tall and reserved, he always displayed a respectful and gentle disposition. His sudden passing underscores the need for all of us to note we have no promise of tomorrow, and should take care to make our calling and election sure. We truly pray for his wife and family at this time.

Our dear sister in faith, Sis. Martha E. Stoller, 90, passed away on February 17, at the Roanoke home. Originally from Forrest, she had lived with her sister, Sis. Lola Schlipf, at Sunrise Manor (in Gridley, next to our church). She is survived by Sis. Lola, and one brother, Bro. Elmer Stoller, Forrest; and one sister-in-law, Sis. Marie Stoller, Eureka. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Sis. Martha was a nice presence in our church. Her godly, sincere manner was an encouragement to all who knew her. Her quietness and friendliness were qualities providing a wonderful Christian light.

The wedding engagement of Sis. Kate Ringger to Bro. Scott Levy of Indianapolis was announced recently. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger. He is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy, Indianapolis. We wish this couple well in their upcoming plans.

Bro. Wayne Banwart, Champaign, was here for reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated hearing the contents of this well-written document. The test of one's faith is in keeping the commandments. Applying the Scriptures to everyday life remains a foremost goal of the believer, and as we follow the Bible a wonderful tradition results that is twofold: (1) it reflects a living witness to the world and (2) it helps to protect the believer from a host of temptations that swirl about him/her. We thank Bro. Wayne and Bro. Earl Ringger for their efforts.

Sisters Barb Kiefer and Shirley

Kilgus were in the hospital for surgery. Also, Carter Schieler, 15-month old son of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Charity Schieler, was hospitalized for a broken leg (femur) sustained after an accidental fall. Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein was hospitalized and is now in a nursing home with Parkinson's disease. May God care for and heal those with illnesses according to His perfect will.

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Lucille Stoller on the passing of her sister, Sis. Arcelia Baurer, Cissna Park.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Julie Bahr

Christie Zeller

We welcome Bro. Kent and Sis. Jane Miller and their daughters, Mykayla and Whitney, who have made Morton their home church. May God bless them.

Our topical Bible presentation was held February 2 by Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). His topic was "Table Time and Teachable Moments", as is given to us in God's Word in Deuteronomy 11:18-21. May we all strive to teach our children God's Word and promises. Many thanks to Bro. John for his labors.

Our Young Group pork chop supper and singing was held on February 5 at the Fellowship Hall. Many enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Bro. Victor Banwart (Sis. Marilyn, West Bend, IA) passed away January 24. He is the father to our Sis. Jayne (Bro. Andy) Sauder.

Sis. Leona Tanner (Bro. Ben, Goodfield, IL) passed away. She is a sister to our Sis. Oleta (Bro.

Herman) Menold. May God comfort these dear families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Lou and Marjean Lonteen

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

John 1:5

We were blessed by guest ministers: Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington), Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Leona Ivie has found peace with the Lord and will share her testimony-of-faith with the congregation on February 23.

The Washington choir shared hymns of praise at the hymn sing on February 6. The third, fourth, and fifth grade Sunday School students also sang praises. We were inspired by this special service.

The Peoria choir recently visited Chicago and San Marcos, Texas. They are thankful for the welcome and the special fellowship during these memorable trips.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa (Schock) Waibel welcome little Cooper Isaiah into their hearts and home. Shelby, Billy, Maddie, Cody, and Terren welcome their new brother into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Rich Schock and Jan Knapp.

Little Allison Michelle was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Susan (Huthmann) Scott. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann.

Our prayers and sympathy are with those who have said good-by to their loved ones. Bro. Otha Eshelman (death of his wife, Sis. Emma), Bro. Ernest Haefli (death of his wife, Sis. Dorothy Haefli), Sis. Caroline Banwart (death of her brother), Sis. Bonnie Bach (death of her mother). We remember you and your family circle in your grief. May God's presence bring you comfort and peace.

New Sunday School teachers are: Bro. Dan Meister, Bro. Mike Kaisner, and Sis. Faith Carlson. Bro. Mike Honegger will be the new church trustee.

The Bible Class Pancake Supper was held on January 22. Special thanks to all the students, parents, and those who made donations. This support helps the Bible class work teams, and helps fund wholesome church based activities.

“Beyond a Children's Home” turning lives around at Gateway Woods - was presented on February 12 at the fellowship hall. Gateway Woods staff revealed information about how God is turning lives around through their various programs.

Special prayers due to health challenges would be appreciated by these dear ones: Sis. Rachel Honegger, Bernice Houk, Bro. Bob Joos, Sis. Judy Martin, Fred Rieker, Bro. Larry Riegenbach, Bro. Bob Rumbold, Sis. Eleanor Steffen, Bro. Ivan Thomas, and Sis. Mabel Weber.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son

cleanseth us from all sin.”

John 1:7

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

John 1:9

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

John 2:16,17

Note of Thanks:

Our family wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the many kindnesses extended to us during Dorothy's recent hospital stay and death. The cards, flowers, visits, food and memorials were so uplifting to us at a time when we needed them most. Not to be forgotten, though, were the words of comfort and the prayers offered up on our behalf. We feel so blessed!

The Dorothy Haefli family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Kara Blunier
Vera Baer

“Up from the grave He arose!” Easter is such a blessed time to think and thank God for all He has done for us.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Blunier (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro. Dale) and Sis. Carol Graf (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn) as they joined a three fold cord with God. They were married February 13 in Altadena, CA. We trust Sis. Carol feels a warm welcome and

will soon feel part of our congregation.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) were our visiting ministers this month. We trust God has blessed them and their wives in the work of our Lord.

"In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus, the merciful Saviour." (Zion's Harp #46). Sis. Janet Joos lost one of her dear brothers, Tom Price, from the Chicago area. Also losing a brother was Sis. Caroline Banwart; he was Bro. Victor Banwart, from West Bend, IA. May each of the families feel God's comfort.

Retired Elder Bro. David Kieser (the late Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Dave Ehnle (Sis. Beulah) were both in the hospital for a short time. We are thankful they are home and doing well.

Several members attended the seminar, "Bringing Them Up" this past month. It is presented through Gateway Woods.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all who remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts, and food during my surgery and recovery. Your love and kindness was sincerely appreciated.

God Bless Everyone.

Sis. Edith Martin

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Doris Fischer
Dee Fehr

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

John 14:27

Our congregation was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Joan Leman on February 1. Truly she did "fight the good fight of faith", and found truth in the words of the psalmist: "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee." (Psalm 55:22). We are so grateful to God for the peace that she could continually testify of throughout the past year of surgery and chemotherapy treatments. Let us continue to keep her precious family – husband Russ, and children Chris, Eric, Matt, and Cheryl – in our prayers as they carry on without their wife and mother.

Many from our congregation traveled to Bloomington on January 23 to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Jeremy Knepp (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Melinda Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol). Those of us who remained in Roanoke had an opportunity to experience what a small church is like! We welcome Sis. Melinda to our "church on the prairie", and trust that she is quickly beginning to feel at home here.

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:3). This is the desire that was expressed by Sis. Angie Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty) and Bro. Robey Shuck (Leslie and Diana) of Taylor, MO, on their wedding day, February 13. As was read in the marriage ceremony, "Two are better than one" (Ecc. 4:9), so may they join together in praising God and living for Him. We are appreciative of Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and Bro.

Dave Marquart of Taylor for lending of themselves on this special day.

At our Wednesday evening Bible study on January 19, Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) posed the question, "Where is your faith?" As we ponder this thought, may we each be able to affirm that our faith is based on the firm foundation of God and His promises. We were reminded that our faith is made evident by the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht have been blessed with a new daughter. Charity Ann was born on February 10 and is welcomed home by big brother Joshua. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell Dotterer (Rittman).

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone for the many prayers, memorials, and loving acts of kindness given us during this past year and upon the death of our loving wife and mother. Your thoughtfulness and support will never be forgotten. May God bless you all.

Joan Leman family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach

We have been blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. They were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL). We appreciate their willingness to come and share God's Word with

us.

Another little bundle of joy has blessed the home of Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder. Anchor Bond was welcomed by Willow, Echo, Talon, Meadow, Arrow, and Hale. His happy grandparents are Shirley and the late Jim Green and Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder. Keith and Donna Michel were doubly blessed with twins, Dixie Lee and Kenzie Allan. Older brother Dylan welcomes them home. Their grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Michel and Don and Jackie Mayer (Morton, IL).

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess (Bro. Darel) and our new convert, Wayne Miller. We continue to remember them in our prayers, especially Wayne as he is still in the hospital at this time. Wayne was originally from Winthrop, MN. We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance and that he was able to find grace to answer the call.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Barb Banwart
Nancy Knepp

“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

Matthew 26:39

Our hearts are in constant prayer for the suffering members of our congregation. We especially pray for Sis. Ellen Cox, Bro. Elliot Yudenfriend, and their families, as they endure cancer treatment. We also remember many others

who endure chronic illness and pain, including emotional, mental, or spiritual agony.

Does Jesus understand your “Gethsemane”? Have you ever prayed until you sweat drops of blood? In modern slang, He has “Been there, done that.” Be encouraged and faint not!

“Trust the heart of Jesus,
 Thou art precious there;
 Surely He would shield thee
 From the tempter’s snare;
 Safely He would lead thee
 By His own sweet way,
 Out into the glory
 Of a brighter day.”

We are thankful for the encouragement from Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) in sharing the Memorandum with us February 24.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”

1 Peter 2:2-3

Three dear souls have certainly tasted of the free graciousness of God in the past month. Johnathan Kipfer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda), Katelyn Gerber (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb), and Derrick Kipfer (Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosie) have given their hearts to the Lord. We rejoice with them in this time of great peace and growing, knowing that they are on the road to salvation.

Four converts have announced that they have found peace and are ready for baptism. Alyssa Tonner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy), Trevor Tonner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie), Andy Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann), and Heather Price (Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia) are scheduled to give their testimony to His great love on February 19-20. We rejoice with these families during this special time. Our prayer is that each one will live with a zeal for the Lord in the coming months.

We also have been blessed this month with the arrival of Josie Lane Pfister. She is the new daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Shari. Josie was born on January 26 and is welcomed by her three older brothers and a sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Rich and Sis. Arlene Stoller.

The Bluffton congregation is also pleased to share the engagement of a dear young couple. Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Kaehr announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Sarah, to Bro. Quinn Fiechter, the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny. We are thankful that God is working in the lives of many and wish blessings on Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sarah.

Sadly, there are many this month in the hospital with various illnesses. Bro. John Neuenchwander (Sis. Irene), Bro. Richard Reimschisel (Sis. Elaine), Bro. Harry Longenberger (Sis. Devona) and Bro. Les Schwartz (Sis. Sally) are all currently in the hospital. Also, our dear Bro. Bob Reimschisel (Sis. Louise), Bro. Ken Reinhard (Sis. Ann), Sis. Irene Steffen and Sis. Marie

Gerber are all in need of many prayers as they face various struggles in and out of the hospital. Special prayers have gone out for our dear Bro. Kurt Ifer who has been in the hospital with critical health problems. Prayer has been a constant reassurance and help to each person mentioned. Although it's easy to overlook a number of names, it's important to remember them in prayer. We certainly pray for them and their families during these difficult times.

In conclusion, Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter left Sunday, February 23, for the Ukraine. They have the hope of adopting one or more children from that country. This is something that requires many prayers and a lot of effort on their part. We are so thankful for Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie in the sacrifice that they and their family are making for other's lives. It's a huge blessing when more are added to the Bluffton congregation. We are certainly prayerful for God's will to be done while they are overseas in this endeavor.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH**
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

I Timothy 3:1

This month we saw the birth of a new ministry: Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Tammy) joined our pulpit. He gave his first sermon on February 13. Much of the sermon was centered on I John

Chapter Three.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of a very musical couple: Bro. Bryce Drayer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan) to Sis. Erin Ward (Francesville, IN), daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy Ward.

Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Meyer are the happy grandparents of Reeves Lawson. He was born on December 10 to Kirk and Michelle Johnson.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Roberta Steffen are another set of joyful grandparents. Their grandson, Isaac Eric, was born to Eric and Elaine Steffen on January 1, 2005.

Austin Michael was born to Tim and Melanie Davis on January 2. He is the grandson of Bro. Mike and Sis. Kay Craighead.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Al and Sis. Colleen Ringger on the death of their son-in-law, Bill Leamon (Melinda).

Bro. Dan (Sis. Lora) Kieser spent some time in the hospital this month; along with Richard Kolkman, the husband of Sis. Debbie.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE**
Jessica Murray

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12

Our ministering Bro. Chris Huber taught us of the worldly things that are so easy to go along with, due to peer pressure. Many

verses and chapters in the Bible warn against this power, and we need to stay in the Word daily and seek for positive influences from God.

The wonders of the Lord never cease, as he has taken two hearts and is going to join them as one in His name. Sis. Erin Ward (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandi) has felt led to accept the marriage proposal from Bro. Bryce Drayer (Bluffton North, IN). His parents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan Drayer. We pray that the Lord will continue to work in their hearts as they are planning a June 12 wedding. May the Lord richly bless you.

In the hospital this past month was Sis. Amelia Schini and Bro. Irvin Yaggie (Sis. Lois). They are both back home now and recovering. We pray for the Lord's healing hand to strengthen you and His wisdom to guide you back to health.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him"

I Thess. 4:14

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I Thess. 4:18

Our prayers and words of comfort are with our Sis. Margaret Anliker (Bro. Chuck), as her brother, Richard Criswell was laid to rest. We also express sympathy to our Bro. Bob Pfladderer (Sis. Norma), as his sister, Clara LaHue, was laid to rest. May the Lord comfort you and your families as you go through this time of

loss. His words can give more comfort than any earthly thing.

We appreciate visiting ministers as they travel and bring the Word to our churches. This month we had Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN). We thank you for coming and pray that God will bless you for your service to Him and to us.

We pray for our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein as he joined many others for the Elder Conference this past week. May we take their words and look deeper into our own hearts and find God's grace to live for Him.

Note of Thanks:

I sincerely wish to thank each of you for the Get Well and Thinking of You cards. For the love and prayers you have given since I have had the shingles, in the hospital and since returning home. I still have the shingles but, Lord willing, they will soon be less painful.

I pray the Lord bless each of you for your love and thoughtfulness.

I also wish to thank the Hope circle for remembering me and for the many visits and prayers sent to Morrie and I.

Our love and greetings to all.

Morrie and Helen Eshleman

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Sandy Lichtle**

Greetings from Indianapolis.

Recently we have experienced a mixture of warm sunny days and cold snowy days. The warm days feel like a reminder from the Lord that spring is on it's way.

We have been blessed with many visitors this past month. They were here visiting children and grandchildren and sharing God's Word with us. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Dallas, TX), and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN). We are thankful for the time they spent with us and for the messages they shared. May the Lord bless these brothers and their families for their acts of kindness to our congregation.

Our annual business meeting was held recently. Thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne for traveling to spend the evening with us. We are thankful for those who have served and completed their terms and for those who are willing to serve and begin new responsibilities.

On Saturday evening, January 29, the Sunday school held a dinner and silent auction for the church family.

Lord willing, they plan to travel to Magdalena this summer and this evening was a fund raiser for them. It was an enjoyable evening of fellowship. Many thanks to those who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank**

We rejoice with Bro. Owen and

Sis. Nicole Gudeman at the birth of their daughter, Jesslyn Abigail. Older sister, Jaela, and brothers, Kyler and Kendon, welcome her home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser of West Bend, IA.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized this month. Jackson Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn), Bro. Bill Frank (Sis. Jo), Jorrie Massner (Jenny), and Bro. Gene Nuest (Sis. Norma) have undergone surgery and are now at home recuperating. Sis. Erma Moser's condition has stabilized so that she has been able to return to her home. May the Lord be near our loved ones and grant them His healing power.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Psalms 34:1

We are encouraged and blessed by those who choose to visit us, and serve on the pulpit. In the past months we welcomed Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie), Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa), both from Indianapolis, IN, Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), and James Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI). Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn in reading the Memorandum. Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL)

visited on February 6.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ed (Sis. Deb) Graf and family on the passing of his mother, Sis. Kathy Graf, of Akron, OH.

Sis. Thelma Schlatter, 97, quietly passed over Jordan on January 26. She was a Silver Lining correspondent in past years and my aunt. Surviving are three daughters, Colleen (Arnie) Moser, Greenville, SC; Sharon (Fritz) Hepler, Leo, IN; Joyce (Steve) Kaiser, Syracuse, IN; ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jack Bollier whose brother, Ted Bollier, passed away. Other survivors are four daughters, and sisters, Sis. Hazel (Raymond) Terrell, Jean Smith, and Marilyn (Dean) Rogers.

The engagement of Bro. Tim Wiegand to Sis. Christa Kaeb was announced January 16. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL). Congratulations and God's blessings.

Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand welcomed a baby girl, Claire Noelle, on December 15, 2004. Her sister is Savannah and brother Jonas. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Wiegand and Bro. Mark and Sis. Connie Rocke of Goodfield, IL.

Madelyn Eve was born December 24 to Sis. Jill and Bro. Adam Merkel of Washington, D.C. Madelyn's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL) and George and Karen Merkel of Bluffton, IN.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner were blessed with a baby

girl, Emily Ann, on February 14. A brother, Tyler, and two sisters, Abrey and Chelby, welcomed her home. We are sorry this birth means the Clint Plattner family will be leaving to return to Princeville, IL. There Emily will be welcomed by grandparents, Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. Our prayer is for God's blessings on these happy families.

We welcome Bro. Joey and Sis. Holly Kline who have come to serve at Gateway Woods, replacing Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany. We also welcome Sis. Natalie Lehman from Bloomington, IL, who joins Gateway Woods' staff.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sandra Bertsch who was diagnosed with MS and presently residing at The Cedars assisted living apartments.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Pat Fischer wishes to thank all who remembered her during the time she cared for Bro. Marvin and at his passing onto his heavenly rest.

"He is risen." – Once again, Jesus is the reason for the season. May we be ever watchful especially for His return. The Revelation of St. John 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

INDIANA, MILFORD

Carol Haab

Cap Beer

Our congregation had a special

World Relief evening where the whole church, children and young people included, prepared items for the World Relief program. This is a blessing for young and old to work and fellowship together.

We had the blessing of having four visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner impressed upon us how our government's executive, legislative and judicial branches were really outlined in the Scripture. Bro. Marvin Dotterer encouraged us to adhere to the Word. Bro. Steve Baner emphasized keeping our hope and also encouraged us to watch and pray.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) helped us prepare for our coming Communion service. He also took a short time to bring us up to date on the winter Elder Conference. It is encouraging to see how dedicated these brothers are.

Our Bro. Ryan Steiner is engaged to be married to Sis. Julia Hartzler. We wish them all the joys of a Christian marriage.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Tammy Waibel

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

Announced for peace and awaiting baptism on February 27 are Janessa Wahl, Evan and Jesse Stoller and Dave Bahler.

EASTER

What whispers to the bulb, "Tis spring"?

Behold this shriveled, wrinkled thing –

It stirs and grows, bursts into
bloom;
Its' fragrance perfumes all the
room.

Who tells the silent prisoner,
The little worm in tight cocoon,
"Wake up and work, and burst
your bonds;
You will be winged and flying
soon."

Who tells the acorn in the ground,
To keep on reaching toward the
sky?
How could it dream that it would
be
A spreading oak tree, wide and
high?

Who speaks within my sickroom,
where

I live, a prisoner of pain,
And tells me, though this body die,
This very flesh shall live again?

Because He arose, I too shall rise,
Shall rise and walk and dance and
sing:

And there shall be no grief, no
pain,

Nor any tear, remembering!

—*Martha Snell Nicholson*

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Melisa Gerst
Stacey Feller

Our hearts were touched with sadness as we learned of the thousands of lives and homes destroyed by the tsunami tragedy. Our congregation worked together to do our small part to bring a measure of comfort to one thousand refugees in putting together 250 tsu-

nami relief kits to send overseas. We are thankful for everyone who gave of their time, efforts and money toward this project. We also enjoyed the fellowship and appreciated the help of the visiting Sis. Elva Gerst family that night.

Our congregation was thankful for the many visitors over the last month including ministering Bro. Steven Frauhofer and wife, Sis. Irene (Bluffton North, IN).

Our dear Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe are currently on another work trip to Haiti with SEED ministries. While praying for their safe travels and return, we also want to praise Him that the region has stabilized enough to allow God's people to continue their work in this spiritually and physically poverty stricken country.

INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Edward Lester

Greetings to all our family of believers.

This month we were reminded of the choice that we made at some point in our lives. Like one of the malefactors that was crucified with Jesus, we all had a simple faith. But, like the other malefactor, not everyone in society has had this faith. The Bible and Jesus' teachings are a collection of stories and illustrations. Those people that could understand the underlying meaning of these stories were the ones Jesus wanted to reach. Others dismissed His stories as just that, stories. Don't forget to thank God for making His plan available to you.

This past month we read the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Dan

Kilgus (Remington) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse) were with us for this reading. Thank you for sharing our churches' concerns with us.

Also, Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus was with us during our annual meeting. Thanks to everyone who gave unselfishly of their time for God's work.

We also were happy to welcome home Bro. Andy Bucher (Bro. Tim Bucher, Sis. Julie) for a visit. We wanted to thank Bro. Andy for sharing his experience, going to China as an English teacher. We also want to welcome Bro. Ed Hohulin, Sis. Maralyn. They will be worshipping with us and I pray they will find blessing in our little church.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab

"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins."

Mark 1:4-5

How wonderful it is when we can still witness baptisms today. The last week of January four dear souls were added to our church family, and more remarkably, to God's family. They are Sis. Kaitlin Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette), Bro. Blake Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris), Bro. Rusty Gann, and Bro. Carlos Soto. Assisting our El-

der Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN) in this important work were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Other ministers in attendance were Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Brace Wieland (Sis. Brenda, Leo, IN).

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Lela, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). We appreciate your visits.

Two more of our Purdue students are seeking a new way of life and have started repenting. They are Jamin Steffen from Bluffton, IN, and Darrin Eisenmann from Latty, OH.

Bro. Kevin Gutwein (Sis. Laura) is our new Parkview Haven representative, and Bro. Jeff Moser is our new World Relief representative.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler

Lisa Furrer

Congratulations to our Elder Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frances on their 50th wedding anniversary. A singing and small reception was

held in their honor. May the Lord bless them with many more years together.

We thank Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette) for presenting a Bible study to us and the Remington congregation.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler have another grandchild to love. Joanna Lee was born on February 5 to Lee and Melinda Rufener of Wisconsin. Bro. Lowell also had minor surgery this month. We are thankful for his quick recovery.

“And he changeth the times and the seasons...” (Dan. 2:21). Here in northern Indiana we’ve had a fairly mild winter and are all looking forward to warmer weather and the beauty of spring.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz

Laurie Schulz

Greetings! We have been blessed with two babies this month. Camille Marie was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch (Lester, IA). Also, Paul Lee was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel Messner. His grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner (Morris, MN) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner (West Bend, IA).

Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) was down for a Wednesday night. May God bless his efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Philip Schulz and Sis. Kelli Frank (Oakville, IA) as they are engaged. Parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz and Bro. Dale and

Sis. Tina Frank.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

Originally, Easter, referred to the annual Passover Festival when Israel remembered their deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. Today, Christians, remember Easter as the death and resurrection of Jesus. (Good Friday, the Friday before Easter Sunday, being the day of His crucifixion and Easter Sunday, the day of His resurrection from the dead.) May we keep this a very sacred day as we think about our deliverance from the bondage of Satan, which could only be made possible by the shed blood, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Saviour.

We appreciated having Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) with us and submitting himself to be used in God’s service. May God’s Spirit continue with you in your labors, Bro. Fred.

Susie Frieden (Brian) was a hospital patient recently and we are thankful for her quick recovery.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of two former “Elginites” who recently came to the end of their earthly pilgrimages. Sis. Jeanne (Metzger) Meyer (Bro. Jim, Bern, KS) and Bro. Mike Butikofer (Donna, Gridley, IL).

How human it could be to question God’s timing, but may these families find comfort in believing that God doesn’t make mistakes.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**Willa Clark**

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine," sing the little ones in Sunday School. How wonderful if we can let our Saviour's light shine through us every day, so that others might see Him in our words and deeds.

We have indeed been blessed with visits of ministering brothers and their families this month. Our visitors have been Bros. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski). It is wonderful to have the same precious Word of God spoken by brothers from near and far.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Diana Butikofer**

Congratulations to Heidi Landherr and Josh Hydeman on their engagement. Their parents are Ron and Audrey Landherr (Marion, IA) and Doug and Debbie Hydeman (Lenexa, KS). We wish Josh and Heidi God's blessings and guidance as they prepare for a May wedding.

Our prayers and sympathies go to Sis. Rhonda (Bro. Roger) Reker and Karla (Doug) Grimsman since the loss of their father, Bro. Vic (Sis. Marilyn) Banwart, of West Bend, IA.

We thank those (especially from other congregations) who helped fund and/or assemble the relief kits for tsunami victims.

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

"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"

Deuteronomy 5:29

The reading of the Memorandum was presented on January 29. Our visiting Elder was Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). We wish to thank him for being with us for this work and the Sunday worship service also.

Sis. Ione DeHaan was taken into eternity on January 27. She was the loving mother of Susan (Arlyn Van Der Wolde), Sharon (Ernie Gerber), Bro. Tim (Lois) and Sis. Shirley. Her brothers and sisters include: Bro. Leo Moser, Bro. Frank Moser, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Betty Leuthold, Sis. Janet Wysong, Sis. Mariann Metzger, Sis. Evelyn Metzger and Sis. Donna Gerber. Our sincere sympathy is extended to this family at this time of loss.

We always want to remember those who are under the care of our doctors and nurses. Spending time in the hospital this past month were Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann), Sis. Delores Metzger (Bro. Paul), Sis. Doreen Meyer, Sis. Linda Meyer (Bro. Dean), and Anna and David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue), and Zachary Gherian (Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy).

There are two engagements to announce this month. Jordon

Metzger (Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy) and Masondra Kuehl are planning a May wedding. Sis. Annie Metzger (Bro. James and Sis. Lois) is engaged to Bro. Kevin Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy, Morris, MN). Their wedding date is March 13. We wish many blessings on these two couples as they make plans to become united as one.

Babies are so precious! We have four births this past month. Rosanna Grace Miller made Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori first-time parents on January 30. Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller (Smithville, OH). February 2 was the birth date for Chloe Anne. Her parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Gwen Metzger. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger, Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and great - grandparents in our congregation are Sis. Donna Metzger and Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler. Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann welcomed Marshall Jon Wulf into their family on February 9. Marshall will receive lots of love at home from Cassidy, Axel, Zachariah, and Garret. Sis. Violet Wulf (Morris, MN) is his grandmother. Sarah Lin was born to Bro. Cory and Sis. Rachel Lemman on February 15. Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Lemman (West Bend, IA) are her loving grandparents. Great - grandmother in our congregation is Sis. Zelma Knoblock.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned

with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Hebrews 2:9

Easter ... a time to go to Calvary and try to capture the magnitude of Christ's death for each of us personally.

"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

Matthew 27:54

Note of Thanks:

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, food and memorials extended to us during the loss of our dear mother and grandmother. May God richly bless you for your deeds of love and kindness.

The family of Sis. Ione (Moser) DeHaan

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand

I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How He called little children as lambs to His fold,
I should like to have been with them then.
I wish that His hands had been placed on my head,
That His arm had been thrown around me,
And that I might have seen His kind look when He said,
"Let the little ones come unto Me."

Hymns of Zion #160, vs. 1-2

Our congregation has three dear couples who have welcomed God's little "lambs" into their hearts and home. Orrin Robert Kuntz was born February 1, while Morgan Lynn Frank and Olivia Jo Schmidgall share a birthday on February 2. Orrin's joyful parents are Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura Kuntz; grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Bro. Bob and Sis. Edra Kuntz. Morgan's thankful parents are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Frank; grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema (Lester, IA) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank. Olivia's loving parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall; grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall. A Brother once said, "Now we pray that we can, with His help, bring them up so that they will return to be with God throughout eternity. If that is accomplished, all will be well, no matter what else happens." That is our prayer for these beloved families.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.
These souls betrothed before Thee stand;
Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 1-2

May God's wisdom and love guide Sis. Kelli Frank and Bro.

Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA) during their engagement time as they prepare to be married, Lord willing, on May 1. It is always a blessing to see God's plan being fulfilled in lives that are surrendered to His perfect will. Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz are thankful to God for answering their prayer to provide for their children.

We'll ne'er forsake the Bible for joy nor painful smart!
Of wisdom 'tis the fountain pure and heals the wounded heart.
And though our foes shall storm and rage, naught shall our heart affright!
In silence bear the wrath of man, for God doth shield the right.
Hymns of Zion #237, vs. 1

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA). May God's Word always flow forth in fullness and purity from His ministering servants, and may our hearts always be open to receive what He gives us.

Gethsemane, O woeful place,
where Jesus sought the Father's face.
O take the cup of death from Me,
it's awful pain and agony!
Yet not My will, but Thine be done;
this was the plea of God's own Son.
None other could for sin atone;
in anguish deep He prayed alone.
If we would Christ's disciples be,
our will with His must blended be;
Our very self must be o'ercome
that we may say, "Thy will be done."

As Jesus in Gethsemane
by prayer attained the victory,
So shall we, when we seek His
face,
still find in Him abundant grace.
Hymns of Zion #63, vs. 2, 4

IOWA

BLOOMFIELD/PULASKI

Barbara Schock

This past month, we have been blessed with many visiting ministers. On January 30, Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) was here for the weekend, and shared the Word with us. The following weekend, February 6, Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) was here, and we thank them for their efforts.

On February 12-13, the Bible Class hosted Invite-a-Sunday School. Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) was here for this weekend. We thank him for coming and sharing with us. On January 22, Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) was here for the reading of the Conference letter. We thank him also for his willingness to travel the many miles to share the Word of the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) as she continues to struggle with her health. May she feel God's presence in the days to come.

Sweet Easter Hope

The darkened tomb is empty now;
Gone is the deep despair.
The risen Lord on the garden path
Gives hope beyond compare.

In Christ we have forgiveness;
With His blood He bought our sins.
In Him there's an Easter promise;

He arose to live again.

He is the way, the truth, the life;
Through faith in Him we come
To enter in through heaven's gate
When this life's work is done.

Because Christ died and now He
lives

Our hearts rejoice today!
No longer need we fear the tomb;
The stone is rolled away.

As Easter approaches, may we think about the real meaning of Easter, what happened out at Calvary. May Easter mean more to us than a bunny and some Easter eggs.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider

Lori Skoglund

We gathered together for the reading of the Memorandum at the end of January. Our Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) was assisted by our deacon, Bro. Wayne Grimm. Due to inclement weather, a guest Elder was unable to travel to be with us. Being reminded of our duties in our Christian walk of life was good for one and all. How we appreciate the labors of our faithful watchmen. "Call and cry, ye watchmen boldly; Call aloud and spare them not! ... Truly stones could not help crying if the watchmen's call would cease." These are just a few phrases from Hymns of Zion #112.

Many in our congregation are experiencing the grief that comes with the loss of a much loved family member. Bro. Victor Banwart was called from this life suddenly on January 24. He left behind his

wife of almost 50 years, Sis. Marilyn; four daughters: Sis. Yvonne (Bro. Dave) Bruellman, Sis. Rhonda (Bro. Roger) Reker, State Center, Karla (Doug) Grimsman, Iowa City, and Sis. Jayne (Bro. Andy) Sauder, Morton, IL; three sons: Craig (Tina) Banwart, Bruce Banwart, Kansas City, MO, and Lance (Christy) Banwart, Cedar Falls; 20 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; four brothers: Bro. Archie, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Phyllis), Leslie (Kathy), Dayton, OH; four sisters: Sis. Berniece, Sis. Betty Wirtz, Sis. Phyllis (Bro. Elmer) Strahm, Sabetha, KS, and Sis. Caroline, Peoria, IL. We will long remember his promptness and quiet spirit.

Sis. Ruth Metzger is grieving the loss of her daughter, along with Sis. Eunice (Bro. Dan) Fehr, the loss of her sister, with the passing of their dear one, Sis. Jeanne (Bro. Jim) Meyer, of Bern, KS. At the close of the funeral service for Sis. Jeanne, the hymn, "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross" was sung by the whole congregation. How fitting to ponder these words at this Easter time, too.

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

How great the pains, O Lord,
Afflict Thee on this day;
"My God, my God," He calls,
"Forsake Me not, I pray."

No vengeance fills His heart;
For them I hear Him plead;
"Thy know not what they do;
Forgive them for this deed."

He bows His head and cries,
 "Tis finished, all is done,
 O God, receive my soul."
 Life's victory is won.
Zion's Harp #89

Bro. Carl and Sis. Sara Gerber were blessed with their first child. Noah David was born on January 17. Little Noah's grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Diane Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer Fehr were doubly blessed with a set of twins, two little boys. Max Elmer and Sam John were born January 26 and have been welcomed home by Emma, Jack, Charlie, Noah, Thomas and Julia. His grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Alberts of Ames.

Hospitalized for surgery recently have been Sis. Marie (Bro. Fahey) Gress, Bro. Manuel (Sis. Mary) Gerber and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Leland) Metzger. May God grant patience and grace to those that are suffering, whether in body or soul.

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

II Cor. 15:58

JAPAN, SHIODA **Eiko Nozawa**

On the first Sunday of February, our hearts were broken by sad news. Our dear friend, Mrs. Tsuruko Hasunuma, suddenly

passed away on February 4. She and her husband had been faithfully attending Shioda Church these days, even though he's been a member of the Salvation Army. She loved to read the Bible, and we enjoyed her friendly attitude very much. May the family be comforted and strengthened in this hard time of sorrow.

Bro. Jason Sanders from Eureka was in Japan for a short time on business. We were blessed by his surprise visit on the second weekend of February. After church, Bro. Ehnle took him to see Mt. Fuji. Some of us accompanied them. Mt. Fuji looked beautiful even against the cloudy sky. Part of its top was hidden behind the cloud. But later, on the way to a restaurant, the mountain showed the missing part. Bro. Jason could put the two pictures together and saw the whole Mt. Fuji in his imagination.

Sour plum trees are blooming again. Winter is about to pass, and spring is about to start. Praise our Creator God for the beauty of each season!

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie returned safely from their trip to the US to attend the mid-winter Conference and visit relatives. And, we had some visitors from afar on this end, just after they arrived back. We so enjoyed meeting Bro. Karoly and Sis. Diana Gyorf and her two brothers, Bros. Zoltan and Adrian Csoekoer, all from the Breidenbach Church in Germany. They spent a few days here on

their way to Australia, and were able to worship with us on Sunday, February 20. We thank Bro. Karoly for his interesting talk on the Breidenbach Church and were thrilled to hear how it has grown over the last several years. It was quite an interesting day blending many languages, Japanese, Hungarian, German and English, but the unity of Jesus' love was strongly felt. We were all warmly encouraged to visit Breidenbach, and I think all of us would be happy if God did open the way some day.

KANSAS, BERN **Sheri Edelman** **Rita Menold**

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) came and shared in the reading of the Memorandum with the Bern and Sabetha churches. We thank Bro. Aaron for lending himself in God's vineyard and the Sabetha church for hosting the evening!

We thank the Elders of our churches for being willing to meet and help discern God's Holy Word. The week of February 7 was the mid-winter Conference. Our hope is that God was present with them every minute they met!

Our annual business meeting was held on January 18. The brothers and sisters that were elected to serve new terms have our prayerful support.

We had several hospital patients this month. Sis. Arlinda Rokey (Bro. Morris) had minor surgery, Hal Prichard whose cancer has returned, Bro. Reuben Moser (Stella) who is now a resident of the Home and Sis. Mary

Berg (Bro. Bill). Sis. Mary is home now after weeks in the hospital recovering from a car accident. Our prayers are with all four of them.

Sis. Jeanne Meyer was laid to rest on January 26. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her husband, Bro. James; her children, Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer, Bro. Larry and Sis. Jill Meyer, and Bro. Terry and Sis. Dayra Menold, and the rest of her family as they mourn their loss. Jeanne's diagnosis of cancer and her death so quickly following was a shock to everyone. We will miss her very much.

The Plan of the Master Weaver

Our lives are but fine weavings
That God and we prepare,
Each life becomes a fabric planned
And fashioned in His care.

We may not always see just how
The weavings intertwine,
But we must trust the Master's
hand

And follow His design,
For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While we must look from under-
neath

And trust in Him to guide.
Sometimes a strand of sorrow
Is added to His plan,
And though it's difficult for us,
We still must understand
That it's He who fills the shuttle,
It's He who knows what's best,
So we must weave in patience
And leave to Him the rest.
Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why-
The dark threads are as needed
In the Weaver's skillful han
As the threads of gold and silver

In the pattern He has planned.

—*Author Unknown*

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ethel Smith**

Our love and greetings in Christ Jesus, the One who brings light into our souls. May that light be reflected in our daily walk here on this earth.

Proverbs 6-6: "Go to the ant thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise." In a recent visit to Magdalena on a work team, one of the brothers observed a trail of ants. Each one scurrying along with a small load, but all together they were accomplishing a mission. He said it reminded him of our work team. There were 26 of us on the work team from 13 different churches, along with a leader who was able to use the various talents for a productive blessed week. It was wondrous to observe how they were each busy with assigned tasks, but when they needed many hands to man the 16 or so wheel barrows to pour concrete, they were all lined up ready to go, just like the busy ants, not a sluggard amongst them! Every day started at 6:30 with 45 minutes of devotions, breakfast at the hotel and then 3 prayers at the work site, one for safety, one for the children, one prayer for all, and then singing in the evening. What a blessed week, working, fellowship, and making new acquaintances. Our prayers are with the two permanent couples, their families, and their assistants for their dedication to the work in Magdalena. A lot of opportunities and blessings to help those in need.

Elder Bro. John Lehman was here for our annual business meeting that was held on January 19. May we go about the offices and duties assigned with a diligence that is an honor to our God.

We extend our thanks and appreciation for the visiting ministers this past month: Jan. 23, Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley); Jan. 30, Bro. Ken Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL); Feb. 6, Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA); and Feb. 13, Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). We appreciate the miles traveled, the fellowship, and our minister, Bro. Larry Bahr, is thankful for the support.

We rejoice with Adrian Bahr who has expressed a desire to repent and commit her life to the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr.

EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE: "He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Prov. 30:5

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

We so appreciate visiting ministers. Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) read from Romans 14 telling us that "no man liveth to himself." Love is the essence.

Bro. Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) greeted us with his warm smile of reminiscence driving to church here years ago. His love of the Lord and concern concluded with "Behold, I come quickly." "Let's be ready."

Rudy and I had the privilege of going to Newton for the AC work-

day. The men processed 2,000 boxes of meat. The trust and cooperation between the Mennonite Center and our churches was evident when their director called one of our brothers to take charge of the process while he was in India to help with the disaster.

Jacob Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) graduated from Emporia State University on December 24. He has now turned his life over to the Lord.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Jeanelle Plattner
Dawn Strahm

We thank our visiting ministers for their labors of love in God's vineyard during the past month. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and his wife, Sis. Loretta (Alto, MI) with us to help Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell, John Lehman (Bern, KS), and Bro. Galen Rokey with the reading of the Memorandum. May we all be encouraged to heed to the loving counsel of our Elder Brothers as they sound the warnings and give advice for our spiritual lives. We also thank Bro. Dale Zeltwanger and his wife, Sis. Rachel (Morris, MN) for assembling with us and feeding us God's Word on a Wednesday evening. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) once again lent himself in God's service on February 6. We're thankful for the family ties that keep these Brothers coming to Sabetha!

We've had two engagements announced this month. Sis. Karla Kaisner (Robert and Cheri, Fairbury, IL) is engaged to Bro. Zach Anderson (Congerville, IL).

Zach's parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cindee. We certainly wish them God's blessings as they plan their May 22 wedding. Bro. Keith Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Sis. Andrea Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley, Morris, MN) were also announced and look forward to becoming husband and wife in March. May these couples continue to look to God for guidance as they plan a new phase of life.

Our sincere regrets for failing to mention the engagement and wedding of Bro. Brett Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Sis. Rosanna Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn, Silverton, OR). Bro. Brett and Sis. Rosanna were married in Silverton on November 7. We wish them God's richest blessings as they blend their lives together. Sis. Rosanna, we welcome you to Sabetha and hope you feel at home here.

As we turned our calendars to a new year, we also turned over various responsibilities in the church when we held our annual church business meeting. We all have an important duty in our church no matter what position we hold in our precious church family. May we all help each other as these as these positions and responsibilities have been placed on our Brothers and Sisters. Many thanks to those who have served their terms in various ways over the past years.

A winter all church potluck was held on February 6. It's always a blessing to gather with our church family as we fellowship around the tables so abundantly laden with the fruits of the earth. A special

thanks to those families that hosted the evening.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Peggy Strahm in the recent passing of her husband, Bro. Marvin. May she feel comforted by our Almighty God knowing that Marvin is free from all the struggles of life.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Trudging through snow, slipping on ice and glorifying God all the way. Such was the life of the students as we returned from winter break.

Now that the semester is under way we are enjoying plenty of fellowship and staying quite busy. Our group is much more diverse than one might think for a "college" town. We have full time students, those in the work force, and the brave individuals who manage both. Lest our schedules distract us, we do our best not to neglect the fellowship with each other. We have three scheduled events which occur weekly including alternating Thursdays between nursing home singing/Bible study and Wednesday night church. We also get together spontaneously to praise God and encourage each other.

Our Group is smaller this year and the change in dynamic has definitely been felt. We have said goodbye to Katie Strahm (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Mary, Bern), Bro. Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda, Congerville), Sis. Michelle Bahr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn, Detroit) and Sis. Tami Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern). Katie has moved to Kansas City to work in advertising. Luke has started

his engineering career with Midwest Engineering Professionals in Morton, IL. Michelle has returned home and begun her career teaching high school English while Tami has moved to central Illinois to work in accounting. We miss them all but wish them God's grace as they begin a new phase in their lives. We know they share the prayers of our group that the Lord will grow our numbers by continuing to draw souls to him.

It's hard to believe but by the time you read this we will be eagerly anticipating spring break. Many students from various campuses will be participating in Work Projects in Mexico, Florida and elsewhere. We pray that God's love can be shown through these acts of kindness.

Finally, we seek your prayers that our K-State group can continue to shine forth as a light and example on campus and wherever the Lord takes us.

KANSAS, WICHITA **Emma Miller**

We in the Wichita congregation are fortunate to have three ministers to serve from the pulpit. Even so, there are times when sickness or visiting other congregations leaves us with only one minister. Then there are times when ministers from other congregations spend the day with us. Such was the case February 23 when Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) his wife, Sis. Christine, and several other relatives spent Sunday with us. Then the following Sunday, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his family were with us. That same afternoon, Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa) and his

family worshipped with us. Just this week, Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) was in Hillsboro on business and spent time with those who gathered for mid-week services. We are indebted to these dear brothers for their unselfish attitude as they labor for our benefit.

February 3 was workday at the MCC Center in Newton. That is a time of sharing and fellowshiping with those who come from the various Kansas congregations. The men were packaging meat for shipment overseas while the ladies worked at various tasks that were waiting to be done.

Recently, I accepted a challenge that was long overdue and started sorting and discarding the many items I really no longer had use for. I came to the shelf where I placed my Sunday School teaching material ten or more years ago. I found the notebook we used to record the acrostics we wrote at the end of a lesson. The challenge was to use a name from the story and summarize the lesson. For example, we wrote about Dagon.

Don't worship idols
And
Graven images, neither
On your knees
Nor in your heart.

I didn't throw the book away. Someone can do that for me when it comes their turn to clear the shelf again.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Barb Huber**

How Shall It Be?
How shall it be when we at last re-

turning,
from weary wanderings and from
toil and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our
heart is yearning,
and enter into everlasting life?
When from our feet the dust of
earth has vanished,
the last sweat from our brow is
wiped away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's
care has banished,
and gave to us new courage on our
way.

Zion's Harp, #146

Our hearts were saddened when Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic shared with us they would no longer assemble with us here in Lexington. Their family has moved to Louisville because of Bro. Dan's employment. They sacrificed to travel many miles each Sunday and Wednesday evening from Frankfort, and, also, from Louisville for awhile. We have appreciated their fellowship and service given during the seven and one-half years they assembled here. Sis. Betty prepared many a lunch and food for potlucks to help out with visitors in our small church. There will be many precious memories of their labors of love. We'll truly miss them, their children, and their families, who also came to visit us occasionally. May God's special blessings rest upon them and their dear family.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), retired Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Sis. Eleanor, Akron, OH), ministering Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), and their family. They lovingly brought forth God's Word encour-

aging us to walk in His Truth. Through the reading of Psalm 48, we were reminded to contend for the Faith, "mark the bulwarks" of our God, and His plan of salvation, that we may be able to tell it to the future generations. May God richly reward these dear brothers for their faithful efforts in His service.

Our assembly was blessed with other visitors represented from the following churches: Cissna Park, Eureka, Forrest, Goodfield, IL; LaCrosse, IN; and Columbus, Junction, OH. We always extend a hearty welcome 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).

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Sis. Rosario Gonzalez

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof."

Psalm 46:1-3

This past month our prayers and thoughts were with Sis. Teresa Cervantes (from Morelia), our dear friend, Rosa (wife of Bro. Roberto Sanchez), and Bro. Javier Gonzalez, all of whom spent time in the hospital. We pray for God's

healing hand in their lives according to His will. May the Lord give them strength.

Meet Sis. Gloria Servin Ortega

Greetings! My name is Gloria and I am a 54 year old mother of five and grandmother of ten. I first began to listen to the Word of God several years ago when I visited my daughter who is a Christian in the state of Sinaloa. When we returned home, I suggested to my husband that he begin looking for a Christian church here, but he wasn't all that interested. Then some brothers from our church came to my parents-in-law's home to have studies with them and I also attended. I then began to attend church because they offered to give me a ride in the church van.

By now, I had a few years of hearing the Truth and knew right from wrong. My mother wanted me to go to the Catholic church with her, but I told her it wouldn't be right to bow to the saints as we should only bow to the Lord.

Before becoming a converted Child of God, I enjoyed going to fiestas and dances, but now I feel a great heaviness in my heart that my youngest daughter likes to listen to the music of the world. Before, my husband and I had conflicts but now our relationship is much better even though he doesn't go with me to church. I pray for him though as well as for my three unconverted children. My conversion also brought about a separation with my friends. We no longer have much in common and I would love to share with them more about the Lord. I do take advantage of every opportu-

nity I can and tell them that we are living in days like Noah did and some day it will be too late for those who don't listen.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ruthanne Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) as she has humbled herself to the calling of our Lord and started in her repentance.

Our thanks go to Bro. Tim Sauder from Gateway Woods, Leo, IN, for giving us an informative presentation on Wednesday evening. Also, it was nice to see Bro. Brian Knudstrop again, as he traveled with Bro. Tim. Also, our thanks to Bro. Neil Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) who gathered our Michigan youth/college students for a topical Bible study at Michigan State University this weekend.

Many prayers and thoughts are with Sis. Mary Herrmann (Bro. Robert) as she is undergoing health studies this month. Also, we are so thankful once again for the Lord's healing of Austin Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim) who once again is home from a hospital stay. Bro. Terry Watson (Sis. Rose) and Sis. Melva Oesch (Bro. Joe) are home recovering from their surgeries. We thank you all for your thoughts and prayers.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go to Bro. Kurt Kaeb and his family for the loss of his father, Bro. Alpheus Kaeb, of Bay City.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**Sarah Knochel****Janelle Ramseyer**

We are so thankful to see the Lord working in the souls of many dear ones from our congregation. It is such an added blessing when these loved ones are announced as having peace with God and man. Ann Jacobs (Girard and Sis. Diana) and Wade Meylan (Amanda) are both looking forward to baptism. We are thankful to see the Lord working in their lives!

May the Lord comfort Suzanne Meylan (Dale) in the loss of her mother, Norma Powers, who passed away January 23.

We also pray for the family of Bro. Alpheus Kaeb as he passed away on February 16. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Hermine, and two children, Bro. Curt (Sis. Luanne, Alto, MI) and Mary Steer (San Diego, CA). Bro. Alf also leaves behind six grandchildren and six great – grandchildren.

Bro. Winsor Mosher was in the hospital recently. May the Lord strengthen him as he returns to his own home.

Our World Relief Sewing Group has begun their winter service. It is so rewarding when we can gather with our home brothers and sisters, work with our hands and have blessed fellowship knowing that in some small way we can reach out and help others.

May the love of God radiate in our hearts and minds in the coming days!

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Mary Wiegele****Tiffany Wieland**

We had the privilege of coming

together this month for the reading of the Conference Letter. We were thankful that Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) traveled here for the evening to assist our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in reading the letter and giving explanation, exhortation, and encouragement regarding the message from the Elder body. We were prayerful for a Spirit-filled evening, and those prayers did not go unanswered. We were also appreciative of Bro. John lending himself in the ministry of God's Word as he and his wife, Sis. Marcia, spent the following Sunday services with us.

Also lending himself in the ministry this month was Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) from Alto, MI. We appreciate Bro. Howard traveling to visit us and contribute to our worship services with our other local ministers.

In a small congregation like ours in Detroit, we are not usually reminded as often of the brevity of life as are some larger congregations. This month saw us bid an earthly farewell to two Christian sisters in less than one week as Sis. Kay Novak and Sis. Maria Sabados were called to their eternal home. Sis. Kay is survived by her brother, Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi), her children – Larry Novak (Linda), Tom Novak (Cathy), and Sis. Darlene Kujawa (Bro. Bill), and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. We wish Sis. Kay's family the nearness and comfort of God during their time of mourning. As the arrangements for Sis. Kay's funeral were being finalized, we received word of Sis. Maria's passing. We want to re-

member her daughters, Pauline, Sis. Suzanne, Sis. Anna, Maria (Mario); sons, Joe and Mike; and extend our sympathy as they lay their mother to rest. While we have the confidence of Sis. Kay and Sis. Maria's testimony of faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, parting in this life always brings sorrow and heavy hearts, and we want to remember both families in prayer.

We also want to remember Ginny Rambeau (Bro. Russ) in prayer as her mother, Betty Jane Rogers, passed from this life into the next. We pray that Bro. Russ and Ginny can feel the nearness of God as they mourn their mother's passing.

As life is taken, life is also given as we see God adding to a family in our congregation. Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie Dawson brought home their first son, Drew Michael, to join older sisters, Jessica and Nicole. We want to extend congratulations to Bro. Steve and Sis. Julie and pray for God's guidance as they begin to train little Drew up in the ways of God.

There were several individuals in our congregation that dealt with various health issues this month. Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rosie) and Jason Allen (Bro. Pat and Sis. Jeanie) are both recovering from recent surgeries, and Todd Lanski (Melinda) continued radiation treatments. As always, we want to pray that God can bless the efforts of those who care for them and grant each of them healing.

We also want to wish Cecily Meyer well as she departs to spend several months in Kentucky for

employment. We pray that God would watch over her as she is apart from us and that she can feel the influence of His Spirit.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

Reading through the statistics of the Apostolic Christian churches, it is interesting to note the size difference that exists from congregation to congregation; the number in attendance ranging from under 20, to 1400. But regardless of size, when an individual or family is directed to move to or from a congregation, the change is felt. We are feeling this change intensely in our congregation as we say good-bye to the Knobloch family, Bro. Damon, Sis. Stephanie, and their son Sawyer, who are relocating to Morris, MN. Both Damon and Steph came to the Twin Cities as college students, and following their graduation and marriage, settled here. They have involved themselves in the Minneapolis church in numerous ways - teaching Sunday School, interacting with the youth, song leading, as well as working diligently on the physical aspects of the church. Their enthusiastic service here will be missed.

However, as we bid one family farewell, we rejoice to welcome others and rejoice that God so soon reassures us of His providence and wisdom. We welcome Wendy Bajema, originally from Lester, IA, and a recent graduate of SDSU as a valuable addition to our congregation. Wendy is working as a nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Also,

Maxine Larson, a faithful supporter of our church has felt the need for a more full fellowship with her Savior and His body and has made this desire known. While the past months haven't all been pleasant for Maxine due to some health difficulties, this past month has brought about a pleasant change for her.

Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR), and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) visited recently. While Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy frequently visited here in years past, it had been quite some time since many of us had seen them, so their arrival on Sunday morning was a pleasant surprise.

The same weekend, a group of young brothers and sisters from Champaign, IL, visited our congregation. We certainly appreciated their enthusiastic singing and fellowship.

While snowfall has been less than normal this year, the weather was perfect, and the snowfall sufficient for the annual Sunday School snow tubing activity with the Winthrop Sunday School.

Adam Hafdahl, son of Joanne and Richard Hafdahl, was recently married to Carol Woods. The wedding took place on December 24, 2004, in Independence, MO. The couple is currently living in Lake Saint Louis, MO. Many from our area remember Adam growing up and attending Sunday School here.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Katie Koehl
Heidi Nohl**

We were blessed to have visit-

ing ministering Bros. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and Galen Rokey (Bern, KS). May God bless them for their willing service.

We rejoice with our Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf on the engagement of their son, Bro. Kevin Wulf (Lester, IA), to Sis. Annie Metzger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois). We wish them God's richest blessings.

Brandi Lynn was born to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Kristi Messner. Welcoming her are her grandparents, Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl.

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Rachel Domnick were also blessed with a new little boy, Reece Bradley. Looking forward to his arrival was big sister, Morgan, and grandparents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherri Stoller (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick. We wish them all God's richest blessings as they raise their children.

Hospitalized this month was Bro. Kenny Zeltwanger (Sis. Edna) and Sis. Sheila Reuter (Bro. Greg). We wish them God's healing mercies.

We are thankful that souls are finding peace with God and man: Adam and Rachel Bjerketvedt (Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi) and Josh and Marci Sundheim (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf). We wish them God's richest blessings.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) for laboring on our be-

half one Sunday this past month.

Many prayers were offered for our Elder brethren as they gathered in Sarasota, FL, for the mid-winter Conference. May our God grant a double portion of grace and patience to these faithful shepherds. May our God also grant each of us grace to heed the words of exhortation.

The Sunday School children enjoyed a day outdoors – sledding – with the Minneapolis Sunday School. A hearty thank you is extended to Minneapolis for their efforts in hosting this event.

We pray for the dear souls that are under the care of a physician: Sis. Julia Messner, Malakai Ebling (Adrian and Beckie), and Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. MaryLou). May God bring renewed health and strength to each.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Garry and Marty Rokey

Once again, in the past month we have been blessed with visiting ministers: Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), as well as ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). May God bless each one for their efforts.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished

unto all good works.”

II Timothy 3:16-17

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

II Timothy 4:2

We would especially like to thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall for assisting our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the reading and expounding on the Memorandum, which is prepared by our Elder body. May we take their concerns, admonitions and encouragements to heart as they continue, with God's help, to labor to preserve our precious faith. Let us make our support and appreciation known to them and thank God for their labors.

We are saddened to see Bro. Phil Rassi leave our congregation but are thankful that his work has taken him to a community of brothers and sisters at San Diego, CA. May God bless his future endeavors.

We extend our sincere sympathies to convert, Bruce Banwart, for the loss of his father, Bro. Victor Banwart (Sis. Marilyn), of West Bend, IA.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Wendy Braker

Mindy Braker

We've had a number of visitors recently, including ministering Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). We appreciate them sharing God's Holy Word with us.

Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Joe)

spent time in the hospital this month. We wish her God's nearness during her recovery.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Visiting ministers for the past month include Bros. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL).

We look forward to the approaching Easter season; may we really listen as we read and hear the story again ... to the voice of Jesus in the garden, to the voice of Jesus on the cross ... and then the voice of Jesus when He arose again ... asking us to His love and share His story.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

Another month has flown by and we are all one month closer to eternity. That can be either exciting or very scary, depending on our relationship with a great and Almighty God. How is it with you and me?

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin and his wife, Sis. Charlene. He came to help our Elder Bro. Kent share with us the results of the August Brotherhood Conference. Also, Bro. Jeff Neihouser, and his wife, Sis. Sue, came to present a topical Bible Study to us. He chose “Wait” as his topic. A very thought-provoking topic. How do we use our time when we must wait? We get to choose.

We are thankful to have Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan home safely from the Winter Elder Conference. Hopefully, we all do our part by praying for these Brothers, who give so much of their time on our behalf.

Jeff Knobloch has expressed peace with God and is looking forward to sharing his testimony with the church on February 26. We wish him much grace, for each day, as he follows God's direction.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Angie Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Luke Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) as their engagement for marriage was announced to the church. May God bless them as they prepare for their wedding day.

Many from the Taylor congregation went to Roanoke, IL, to attend the wedding of Bro. Robey Shuck (Leslie and Diane) and Sis. Angie Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty). What a blessing it is when we surrender our lives, fully, to Jesus Christ and then seek His help in choosing a helpmate.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Lois Sutter (Bro. James), Adam Miller (Nikki), Presley Sutter (Jimmy), Shelby Sutter (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne), and Nikki (Haerr) Miller. We are thankful that they are all improved and assembling again with us.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT) with us on the weekend of January 30. May the Lord bless

him for sharing the Word with us.

We find that the winter months provide us with a great opportunity to work on World Relief projects. Our first work day was on Friday, February 4. Several quilts were assembled and tied in the afternoon, followed by a potluck and then putting together prenatal kits in the evening. We again gathered on the 18th to work on quilts and health kits.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Linda Graves in her recent sickness and hospitalization. May she continue to gain health and strength daily.

**OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser**

We rejoice for our three dear souls added to the Kingdom of God. Christina and Esther Steidl, daughters of Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl, and Marvin Indermuhle (whose wife is Sis. Carol) gave their testimonies and were baptized. Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis) and Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield) assisted our Elder Bro. Dave Graf.

We also appreciated ministering Bros. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman) and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago). The Lord will continue to guide and direct their paths.

Our Akron congregation had World Relief "Family Night" which also included "daytime". Everyone at church was welcome to attend. Various projects were worked on during the day, and then a supper was served. There were many projects to do and the young and older who wished,

could have a part in helping with doing something for World Relief.

Sis. Christina Steidl went on a work team to help on the project at Haiti. We are glad they all returned home safely. Sis. Janet Graf (Bro. Leon) is assembling with us again after being hospitalized.

A 90th birthday on April 13 will be for George Hunyadi, as he was born in 1915. We are thankful he can live in his home and assemble with us.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter**

Love, of all gifts, is the greatest
Which the Spirit does bestow.
Zion's Harp #37

Bro. Matt Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) of Mansfield became one in the Lord on January 23. May our Heavenly Father continue to lead, guide, and direct this dear couple.

Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) were our visiting ministers this past month. What a blessing it was to sit and listen to them bring forth the true and Holy Word to us. We trust they will be richly blessed and will come back and visit us again as the Lord would open the way.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller were blessed with a precious little girl on February 4. Kara Grace was welcomed home by her siblings, Emil, Adam, Ellie, Katie and

Katrina, and Rachel. Kara's grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn of our Latty congregation. Henry and Christa Manz were blessed with a bundle from Heaven on February 14 when Kayleigh Ann was born. Bro. Roger and Lisa Manz are her grandparents. We pray for guidance and direction to these parents as they raise their dear children.

We would like to thank those who have served us during the past several years and give our support to those who were recently given new responsibilities: Bro. Paul Manz (Sis. Sandra), trustee; Bro. Greg Manz (Sis. Julie), usher; Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise), Home for Handicapped Rep.; Bro. Russ Manz (Sis. Vera), World Relief Rep.; Sis. Dorothy Dietrich (Bro. Gus), World Relief Committee; and Sis. Karen Manz (Bro. Lester), Kitchen Committee.

OHIO, LATTY
Bonny Wenninger
Amanda Steffen

This month, we are so happy to announce that another soul has turned to God in repentance. We hope that Darren Eisenmann (Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol) can feel the love and prayers of the church.

We rejoice with those who celebrated the birth of a child this month. On January 27, a little girl was born to Bro. Marvin and Jennifer Manz. Welcoming Emily Elizabeth at home are siblings, Lauren, Levi, and Owen. Bro. Ross and Sis. Joy Stoller had a boy,

Blake Allen, on February 10.

On February 6, we had three converts announced for having peace with God: Joni Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim), Jana Sinn (Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn), and Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). Our prayers are with them as they await baptism.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

We rejoice with Bethany Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) as it was announced she has received the peace of God. Pray for her as she continues to grow in Christ.

On January 23, we were blessed to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Deanna Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine) and Bro. Matthew Manz (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy, Junction, OH). Ministering brethren serving us this weekend were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna will be making their home in Toledo, OH.

Hospitalized patients this past month in need of our prayers are: Sis. Becky Vent (Richard), Bro. Jim Zimmer (Sis. Clara), and Elmer "Bud" Sauder.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer
Hannah Beery

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

It is such a great privilege to know that God is a great God and we need only to be still and know that He is there with us in what we do. In happiness, sadness, times of flourishing, times of want, blessings and heartache. God is still God through all of it.

This month we were excited to hear the announcement of Sis. Julie Hartzler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Bev) to Bro. Ryan Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol) who is a native of our church here in Rittman, but is currently attending Milford, IN. Also, we rejoice with Bro. Scott Steiner (Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat) as he was announced to Sis. Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) from the Smithville congregation. Sis. Cindy will be a wonderful addition to our congregation.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer have a new addition to their grandchildren. Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht (Roanoke, IL) gave birth to a little girl, Charity Ann, who will no doubt be loved dearly by her big brother, Josh.

At the end of January, we gathered together for the yearly Memorandum. Bro. Don Braker (St. Louis, MO) came to our congregation to help Bro. Merle and Bro. Andy in the reading. It was a time of encouragement and chastisement, giving us both strength and forcing self evaluation to look for things in each of our lives to work on to grow stronger as Christians.

We are also thankful that Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) came to visit our congregation. We

are so very thankful for their love and willingness to share the Word with us. We also want to thank the Lord for Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) who shared the Word with us as well. May God richly bless each ministering brother who is willing to be used by God to feed the sheep here on earth.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Mildred Christian (Bro. Ralph) and Gladys Ramsier who were both hospitalized this last month. We pray that God will touch them with His healing hand and grant them comfort where He finds they need it.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

I am Jesus' little lamb.
 Happy all day long I am.
 He will keep me safe, I know,
 For I'm His little lamb.
 I am His and He is mine.
 I'm so happy all the time.
 Jesus loves me! This I know,
 For I'm His little lamb.

The Children's Harp #15

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. John and Sis. Paula Figel were blessed on January 24 with another grandson, Luke Anthony, son of David and Amy Figel. He is welcomed home by siblings, Justin and Laken. Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake were also blessed with another grandson on February 9. Kolton Robert was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Dotterer and is welcomed home by two older sister, Kara and Kaitlyn. May these grandparents and parents be blessed with wisdom and grace to raise these children in the

ways of the Lord.

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
 Knows thine ev'ry care;
 Knows thy deep contrition,
 Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
 Do not fear to trust Him,
 Tell him all thy grief;
 Cast on Him thy burden,
 He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

Prayers are for the family of Sis. Ruth Headley as they grieve the loss of their loved one, Mildred Headley, on January 29. May the family find comfort in the love and support of others.

May we support our Elder brethren as they recently attended the mid-winter Conference in Sarasota, FL, and the upcoming Regional Meeting in Latty, OH. We thank the two hosting churches for providing the needs of our Elders and their wives. Let's not stop praying for our shepherds as they lead their flocks.

Christ is the world's dear Paschal
 Lamb
 He is the great "I was, I Am"
 Through Calv'ry's pain and dismal
 gloom,
 He conquered over death and
 tomb.
 He rose His own to justify,
 And draws all men up to the sky.
 If you have found the Christ, His
 way, Then you can keep this
 Easter day.

Hymns of Zion #89

As it stays lighter in the evenings and is getting warmer, let's remember the Lord's cruel death on the cross and His glorious ascension that gives us hope for eter-

nal life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Alyssa Miller
Rachel Maibach

As the weather gets warmer bit by bit, and spring seems more promising each week, we are reminded that the next growing season will soon be here. That is a reminder to us as we strive daily to be fruitful vines in Christ's vineyard. Are our hearts humble and soft to receive the Word of God and allow it to take root?

"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:23

We are thankful for the ministers of the gospel who are willing to plant the precious seed of life in our hearts. This month we had two visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and their wives were able to spend a Sunday with us. We also appreciated Bro. Doug for assisting Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) in the reading of the Memorandum. May we strive to keep our hearts humble so the seed of life can germinate and bear fruit for our Lord!

Hospitalized this month was our Sis. Bonnie Maibach (Bro. Dean). She was in Rockville with her family for Christmas, and had to be hospitalized while there. We have missed you, Bonnie, and our

thoughts and prayers are certainly with you.

We rejoice when the Lord draws two hearts together to serve Him as one. Sis. Cindy Hartzler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane) has felt led of God to marry Bro. Scott Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat, Rittman, OH). May He be very near to this couple as they plan for a May wedding.

Last fall, we said good-bye to Bro. Seth and Sis. Lori Miller as they moved to our Lester, IA, congregation. We are thankful to report they have good news: they are first-time parents of baby Rosanna Grace. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). Also, Bro. Ted, Sis. Stephanie, Brandon, Justin and Nathan Luginbuhl welcome Ashley Lourae. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) are joyful grandparents.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

We were privileged to have our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) proclaim the Word of God to us this past month. It is a comfort to know that God's Word is still the same today as it was in years past.

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

Psalms 119:105

Due to bad weather, church services were cancelled one Sunday.

That made the next weekend more special as Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Walt read the Memorandum to us. May we all be encouraged by what we heard.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

Greetings of love to each of you in our Lord and Saviour's name. We were thankful to have several visitors this month. We would like to especially thank Elder Bro. Art (Sis. Betty) Metz for being with us as well as the following ministering brothers: Bro. Ed (Sis. Judie) Knecht and Bro. Todd (Sis. Michele) Zollinger, both of Silverton. We also were blessed to have Elder Bro. Andy (Sis. Roberta) Stoller (Smithville, OH) with us for the weekend when we assembled with the Silverton brethren for the reading of the Memorandum on January 29. We were thankful to once again hear the exhortation and encouragement put forth by our Elder brethren. We would also like to thank Bro. Andy for ministering the Word unto us during a Sunday evening service while he was here.

Our Bro. Lewis Kuenzi (Silverton) has recently relocated to a deaf community closer to our area. We're thankful that he now occasionally assembles with us. We have installed a computer system in the rear of our sanctuary enabling him to read the sermon as it is typed. We hope he can receive a blessing from this service.

On Sunday, February 6, we held our annual business meeting following afternoon services. Sis. Louisa (Bro. Mark) Gallup has

completed her term as Sunday School teacher and Sis. Liz (Bro. Ron) Jones will assume this responsibility. Bro. Mark Gallup has also completed his term as both usher and trustee. Bro. Brent (Sis. Brianna) Strahm will be our new usher. Bro. Nathan (Sis. Sarah) Kuenzi was voted in as trustee. May the Lord richly bless each one for their efforts.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger

We appreciate Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) traveling here to help Elder Bro. Art in reading the Memorandum on January 29.

Bro. Elmer Bolliger passed away last month at the age of 96. We are thankful that he could go to be with our Lord. We want to remember his family in their loss.

We welcome several new babies this month. Noelle Elise was born to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi on January 18. Her siblings are Nicole, Lorraine, Logan, Janelle, Leanne, Byron, and Jerome. Her grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi and Chuck and Connie Mueller (Hudson, IL).

George Wade was born to Karl and Emma Dettwyler on January 21. Devon Alton was born on January 26 to Maya Dettwyler. Devon's big brother is Dallas. Grandparents to both are Bernie and Margaret Dettwyler.

Stephen Jesse was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Kelsey Walder on January 27. His grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro.

Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi.

Brandon Kurt was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen Metzger on February 1. His siblings are Lydianne, Adrienne, Jacob, and Hayden. His grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi.

The annual business meeting was held on January 22. Bro. Chuck Walter was elected as a trustee, Bro. Rick Hoach was elected as an usher, and Bro. Tyler Kuenzi was elected for sound system duties. Sis. Lily Bence was elected to Dinner Committee. Thanks to those who have fulfilled their terms.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler in the loss of her sister, Sis. Joan Leman, from Roanoke, IL.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Ron Jones of Portland for ministering to us this past month.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

We look forward to Easter this month as a joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection. Yet in another reminder of how subtly Satan is trying to remove all mention of Christ from our society, our local township is having a "Spring Egg Hunt" this year rather than an "Easter Egg Hunt". By turning Christmas into "the holidays," the world tries to make us forget Christ was born. By reducing Easter into simply "the spring", they try to make us forget He died for our sins and arose to give us

eternal life. Let us remember to keep alive the message of Good Friday and Easter in our hearts and in our homes, and to share the joyous message of rebirth from a cold and dark life of sin into a new life in Jesus Christ.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are always so thankful for the efforts our visitors make to come and share with us, and this month was no exception. We were greatly blessed by the loving efforts of our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). We have also appreciated the precious fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bloomington-Normal, Cissna Park, Gridley, Princeville, Roanoke, and Washington, IL; Lester, IA; Sabetha, KS; and Akron, Junction, Rittman, Sardis, and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Wolcott, IN (3/20); Smithville, OH (4/3); Congerville, IL (4/10); Cissna Park, IL (4/17); and Kansas City, MO (4/24). 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 midweek visi-

tors. 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) 356-5755.

**TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringger**

We are thankful for those who have preached the Word and been with us for fellowship: Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville), Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester), and our Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville). We also had many Sunday visitors from Eureka, Cissna Park, Mansfield, Oakville, Bloomfield, Forrest, Peoria, and Bluffton North; and some midweek visitors from Bern and Morris. On February 13, we had our local annual church business meeting.

The following churches are on the minister rotation for April: (3) Alto, (10) Fairbury, (17) Elgin, IL, (24) Leo.

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

Our little church building has been becoming more and more filled in the past couple of months. It is so good to see our brothers and sisters who are returning from their summer homes and assembling with us. The singing is particularly wonderful when we swell from a trio or quintet to a full congregational choir. We welcome each one who comes "home" for the winter here.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) and Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN). These brothers officiated over the reading of the Memorandum and celebrating the Lord's Supper. We are grateful for the efforts of our ministering brothers in serving us.

We look forward to celebrating

Good Friday and Easter Sunday this month. It is this time of year when the desert blooms, and we see flowers scattered over the cactus and other plants on the landscape, a sign of renewed life. This reminds us that we can also share in the Resurrection as promised by our Lord in John 11:25-26:

"... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

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

Isaiah 1:18

Greetings beloved in Christ! We are always thankful for our visitors. This month we were blessed to have ministering Bros. Warren Zahner and Dan Goric as well as other visiting brothers and friends from Rockville, CT. We are

looking forward to having two services a month starting in the near future. This will be such a blessing for the small flock!

This month in Vermont, we also were blessed with many visual reminders of what happens to our sins when they are washed in the blood of the Lamb. They become white as snow!

We treasure the fellowship of the brethren. If you have plans to be in the northeast this spring, please remember to include us. Give us a call to help us plan for your attendance. We worship the second Sunday of the month at 10:15 in the morning. 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.

For thy promise is written
In bright letters that glow:
"Though your sins be as scarlet
I will make them like snow."

Hymns of Zion, #211



Sermon continued from page 2

the teeth. Where nuclear war is seemingly hovering over the world and has been ever since I was a child. Armies march.

At one time I read a count, counting all the little scimmages going on in the world. There were like fifty wars going on in various places. That is the way of mankind. That is the way of the sword that was drawn. Jesus said, put up that sword.

We need to consider that we as believers, we have God on our side. His power is so much not meet to be compared to all the wars and weapons of war on this earth. And all the armies that ever lived. Not meet to be compared. The power of following Jesus, if Christ so wills - and we know times will get worse and we know that believers will die. Believers have died. True believers, true followers. Recorded in the scripture from the beginning - God has the power to keep us from any devices of man that would be unleashed. He has the power to preserve us from that in His good will. He will do so. If it is His good will that it is our time to depart this earth, whether it comes from the sword of mankind or whether it comes from a heart attack or cancer, it is within His will and so will it be.

So the thought that comes to mind is that, as the scripture tells us, we should not be overly concerned about tomorrow and what may come upon the world (Matthew 6:34). With Christ, it is not a war of the world and the turmoil therein. It is the power of the Spirit. It is the power of His will, ultimately, for His children, that will prevail. If we are in that, we need not be anxious. For sufficient unto today will be the evil that we will deal with, leading a Godly life, separate from the world and that which is contained therein and following Christ.

Then I thought on Peter. Peter who denied Christ in this event (St. John 18:17,25-27). Events recorded three times as Christ prophesied. Peter obviously thought that could never happen (St. Mark 14:31). Again, we need to be reminded of the

Spirit and the power therein. What is the difference between Peter now and the Peter later who did not deny His Christ? The difference; he was following Christ. He was a devoted follower. The power is in the Spirit that was given unto mankind. That part of that Trinity that we are all familiar with. Even discussed it at Bible Study a couple weeks ago with the single group. That Trinity, that part of that Holy Spirit, that this Peter who was so weak, even though he had witnessed all these events, was later given the power that he would not deny His Lord. In fact, becoming a fervent worker therein, in the vineyard. For each one of us, that should be encouraging to us.

We don't walk separate from the world, we don't walk with Christ, by our own power. We walk by His power. We need to call on that power daily in our lives and ask for that power. So that we will not be as the weak Peter that we saw here. He knew His Lord and the power therein, but was not capable of overcoming the weakness of the flesh. Only through the power of that Spirit and asking for it and clinging on to it, are we able to be the later Peter. The one that went out and truly walked with the Lord and did not deny Him.

We are reminded in the scripture that we need to be publicly believers and followers. He who does not acknowledge me, Christ said, him will I not acknowledge in the day of judgment (St. Luke 12:9). We need grace.

The mock, or the trial, Christ being shuttled back and forth between the scribes and the Pharisees, their leadership, the high priest. Even the Roman rulers recognizing this was really a religious matter. A matter of the old law. That Christ had done nothing worthy of death under the Roman rule. Which was, as I understand it, a just law-based, fact-driven type law. Nevertheless, He was sentenced to death because of politics and pressure of the political scene at that time. So reminiscent that the world has not changed. That that which we saw with Christ at this time, we still see today. We see poli-

tics, alliances, allegiances and power. A desire for power that seems to drive the world situation. That was what was at work in this trial with Christ. Even as we read from the writings of Solomon, that there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9). It will be so until the end.

But we as believers, we need to be observant of these matters. We need to have wisdom to understand them, even in the times we live in today. We need to have wisdom to discern when the objectives and goals of mankind are for power and lust and the things of this world. Even in our daily walk of life, that God will give us the wisdom that we can be aligned and be in situations with people that are not driven, are not driven by these motives. Even as the rulers of the time had motives that were not pure. They were not gentle and meek and kind. They were not loving their neighbor as themselves. They certainly were not loving the Lord their God with all their heart, soul and mind, as we are to do.

When we look at the scripture in our lives, does it not come down that if we draw near to God, as He promised, He will draw near to us. We don't have to fret about all the details of our everyday life and the decisions that we make. Because God will bring them about to our well being. As one door closes somewhere in our life, if we are fastened with Christ and are looking to eternity - remember God has the power to eliminate armies - what can He do in our life? Does He not know that one door closed is another door that opens? Does He not know all things? So it comes back to us to draw near to God and be one with Him and He will take care of all the other details.

Even as He allowed Christ to go to the cross looking like a horrible thing, it was all in the plan and it was all for good. How much more should we reflect on our own lives and understand that if we are with Christ, really who can be against us?

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

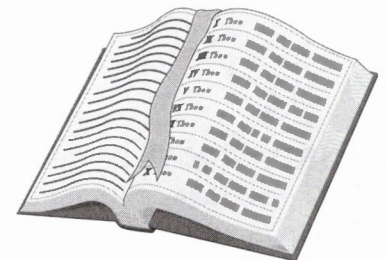
Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Houseparents. At this time, however, we are experiencing a staff opening. Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner are planning to leave Gateway Woods in the near future. This offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the 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



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Gateway Woods offers four \$1,500 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field (this unfortunately does not include Nursing). The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by contacting Bro. Joe Gerber at 888-443-4283 or e-mail at

joe.gerber@gatewaywoods.org

or by visiting our website at

www.gatewaywoods.org

and clicking on the Social Services Scholarship link. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 1, 2005. We encourage all eligible members or friends to apply.

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

Mexico Work Teams 2005

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
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@bwsys.net
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.

- 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)

www.accounseling.org

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.”

Romans 15:1-3

The Bible teaches us about our responsibilities to bear each other's burdens. Are we our brother's keeper? Yes!

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services received the support of the Elder Body and began services in January, 2000. Over the past five years we have grown and developed. We are thankful for the support we have received from the church and for the opportunity to be a part of bearing the infirmities of others. We are thankful when souls are able to get help to make changes that allow them a closer relationship with God.

While ACCS is located in Central Illinois, we serve the entire church nationally and internationally. Because distance can be a barrier to people getting help, we have been trying to find ways to be of support to our brethren wherever they are located. ACCS recently received support from the Elder Body to make some of our services available on the Internet. This site is available to the public at www.accounseling.org.

The web site has the following features:

- Interested individuals can find information about mental health issues and relationship problems.
- The information can be accessed whenever it is needed.
- Information about how to find help for oneself or others is available.
- Information about ACCS and the services we provide can be found.
- Print information can be downloaded and/or ordered online.
- New information is being added to the site regularly and we plan to continue to add to the site as we are able.

Part of the site is devoted to Elders and ministers. This part of the site requires a password to access. The information in the Elder/minister area is not necessarily sensitive, but it is material that is specifically for the purpose of assisting them in their roles.

The content of the site has been carefully screened by a committee consisting of the Board of Directors, Elders, ministers and other interested parties. We want the site to be useful to those accessing the site and supportive of the church. We hope and pray that it can be used to the honor and glory of God.



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

EVERYDAY LIVING

Non-Resistance	Exodus 20:13 Matthew 5:39, 26:52 Romans 12:19 Hebrews 10:30
Pleasing Thy Brother	Matthew 25:40 Romans 12:10, 15:1-2 Galatians 5:13, 6:10 Ephesians 5:21
Not Giving Offense	Matthew 18:6-9 Romans 14:13,15,21 I Corinthians 8:10-13; 10:32,33
A Forgiving Spirit	Matthew 6:12; 6:14-15; 18:21-22 Mark 11:25-26 Luke 6:37, 11:4 Ephesians 4:32 Colossians 3:13
Like Mindedness	John 17:21,22 Romans 12:16, 15:5,6 I Corinthians 1:10 II Corinthians 13:11 Philippians 2:2 I Peter 3:8
Love and Charity	Mark 12:31 John 13:35, 15:12-13 Romans 13:8-10 I Corinthians 13 Galatians 5:14,22 Colossians 3:14 Hebrews 13:1 I Peter 1:22, 3:8, 4:8 I John 3:11-18 I John 4:7, 12,16,20,21

... continued next issue

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“How Much Faith?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We know we are to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8 tells us, “For by grace are ye saved, through faith.” However, some people have a struggle with faith, possibly when they first repent, when they are midway through their life of faith, or even when they are near the end of their life of faith. Both one’s circumstances and one’s physical condition are factors in maintaining faith in God and in Christ. Therefore, the question arises, “How much faith must I have?”

Paul writes of Abraham, “He was strong in faith,” (Romans 4:20). “And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith,” (Romans 17:5). Concerning the Roman centurion, Jesus said, “I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel,” (Matthew 8:10). It sounds as if faith is quantitative and can be measured.

Romans 14:1 reads, “Him that is weak in faith, receive he.” Mark 9:24 records the words of a father whose child was in need of

Christ’s help, “Lord, I believe. Help thou my unbelief.” Christ did cast the evil spirit out of the child in spite of the fact that the father did not feel he had very strong faith. These scriptures speak of faith which is not so strong, but rather weak, or lacking in quantity. I once visited a sickly, elderly sister in America, the widow of a deceased elder, and she told me and others with me, “It is not my physical condition which bothers me, it is my struggle with faith.” That really made me think. Most of us are embarrassed to be struggling with faith so we keep quiet about it and suffer alone. You don’t need to, I’ll join you and we will talk this over together. Faith is to believe in someone you haven’t seen with human eyes, so it is not scientifically provable, like the fact that the earth revolves around the sun, rather than the sun revolving around the earth. By faith we must step out into the spiritual world, and the devil doesn’t want us to keep the faith.

A verse that has been a great

help to me in the matter of faith is John 7:17. It reads, “If any man will do his (God’s) will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” Now if someone tells me they would like to believe the Bible but they can’t, no matter how much they would like to do so, I respond by saying, “Do what the Bible, especially the New Testament, tells you to do, such as humbling yourself, reading the Bible every day, praying every day and attending church services regularly, and you will come to believe.” It works. When I asked someone in Japan how he moved from complete unbelief to a strong faith in Christ, he replied, “I don’t know, but I believe.” He had come to church regularly and read and studied his Bible avidly. Faith was the result of that obedience.

How much faith is required, still needs to be answered. I always say in my sermons and in my conversation, “You need enough faith to obey. That’s how much.”

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He's the Lilly of the Valley, The Bright and Morning Star

THE SILVER LINING
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