



The Silver Lining

*And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings:
he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

April 2005

Sermon by Bro. Larry Bahr, Ft. Scott, KS

Jeremiah 40 and St. Mark 13

Again, welcome to each one this morning. Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This morning Brother John Lehman called and in the midst of his conversation, he said they are expecting north winds up to 40 miles an hour this afternoon or this evening. Get prepared for the cold and the snow, or whatever is going to come. I came to church this morning and Brother Bob said, "Today is the last warm day. It is coming."

Wednesday evening, for those who weren't here, we read the last chapter in Revelation. In the last chapter in Revelation, Jesus Christ Himself said, "...Surely I come quickly." Revelation 22:20. In His ministry, as He walked upon the face of the earth, He said to be aware of these things that are going to come to pass. To be aware of the changing of the seasons.

In those days, before we had the technology that we could see this from satellites, and see the winds and the directions of the winds and how the currents were going to go, they had to base their preparation on things that happened pretty quickly. Like the changing of the wind. The wind shifted from the east to the west. Or from the south to the north. They didn't have a lot of time sometimes to prepare for the storm.

We don't know how much time we have to prepare for eternity. But Christ Himself said, surely I come quickly. And John himself said, come Lord Jesus, come (Revelation 22:20). He had a peace in his heart and he was ready to meet Jesus and was ready to stand before God on judgment day.

So this morning, we know what is coming. We know that Christ is going to return and we know that we need to make preparation. So we are thankful that we can come together in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We can come around His Word and we can prepare ourselves for that time.

I don't know that enough can be said about the very last verse in that

chapter (St. Mark 13:37). When Jesus took the disciples, was it Peter and John, and took them to the mount there, Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and He went forward a little bit and He said watch. He went forward and prayed and they fell asleep and He came back and He was a little disgusted with them (St. Mark 14:33-41). At that time, was He asking them to watch for the army that was going to come or the group of men with the swords and the staves and the spears to take Him and to deliver Him to Pilot? Maybe that was the case, because it wasn't quite the time yet. I don't fully understand the significance of the three times that He came back to the disciples and said about watching.

But He very clearly tells us in this chapter, to be prepared for the end. To be prepared when the Son of Man, when Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth to call His own home. I don't know the significance and how all these things play a part. Except that He says, I am going to come quickly. He tells them that all these things are going to come to pass. Then He very clearly says that these things will happen before this generation passes away (St. Mark 13:30). We would think, well that means our generation. Or the generation who He was speaking to. And that it still hasn't happened yet. But then He very clearly defines that no one knows this time, even the Son. Just the Father (St. Mark 13:32).

So while we don't know the exact time and place where we are going to be, He does very clearly tell us that in these end times, when we see these things coming to pass, we should have no care and concern about our possessions, about going back to our house, about going back to pick up our garment, about all these things. But we should be ready to go. Always ready to go. He told us in His parables and in His teachings, about the one who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back and he is not fit for the kingdom of heaven (St. Luke

9:62). That we should make a 100% commitment to serve God and that we should put no importance upon the things of this life.

Does that mean we just sit in our house and we twiddle our thumbs and wait? No. Because He did teach us that we are to be good stewards (I Peter 4:10). We are supposed to be

Sermon continued on page 44

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

May

1. Denver, CO
2. Smithville, OH
3. San Diego, CA
4. Kansas City, MO
5. Atlanta, GA
6. Rittman, OH

Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For May Issue

(16 Mar. News - 15 Apr. News)

Due: 20 April 2005

The Silver Lining (Vol. 60, #4)

1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America
Counselors:

Ervin Knecht, Ron Schambach

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@dtnspeed.net
(e-mail is **preferred**)

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL, 61561

309-923-7192 (phone) 775-923-9987 (fax #1)
309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

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

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2005

Legalism or Holiness?

In many places in the scripture we are exhorted to be holy. From the very beginning of time God commanded His people to obey His laws. The fulfillment of God's promise to send His Son to defeat Satan and shed His blood for our sins brought great changes to the lives of God's people. Much of the detail of the old law no longer applies to our lives. However, at no time did the need for holiness diminish. "...be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 20:7) is no less important today than when it was written many years before Christ came to earth. The encouragement to be holy is repeated in the New Testament. Peter wrote "...Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:16).

We know that sin cannot enter into heaven. Unless we are purified and cleansed from all unrighteousness, we cannot be saved. In spite of the clarity of the scripture that our spiritual garments must be clean and spotless, many professing Christians deny the need for holiness for an individual to enter into heaven. Simply professing a belief in God or accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior are regarded as all that is needed to enter into heaven.

Many professing Christians consider the requirement of holiness to enter the kingdom of heaven as "legalistic". The standards that warn us to flee from evil and to separate ourselves from the world are often dismissed as simply the rules of man. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that they should "...come out from among them (idolaters), and be ye separate..." (II Cor. 6:17).

It is true that we must be careful to not add to the Word of God and to not make the way of salvation appear that we can "earn" our way into heaven by following the guidelines of man. It is also true that Christ's righteousness and His sacrifice do not relieve us of the need to be righteous, to be free from the pollutions of the world, and to be holy. We cannot be like the world

and be a child of God. To be a child of God we must be quite different from the world, so different that we will be peculiar. Christ "...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Paul wrote that we "...are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people..." (I Peter 2:9).

There are those who believe and teach that it is not possible to live righteously and to live an overcoming life. They maintain that Christians are nothing but saved sinners who continue to sin daily. Many professing Christians state that those who believe we must attain unto holiness, live sanctified, purified lives, and be Christ-like are legalistic and reverting to the old law. Many deny that our lives must demonstrate holiness, purity and the fruit of the Spirit.

Those who would espouse a false doctrine of continuing in sin are "...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). John was inspired of God to write to the church of Pergamos that there were those "that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate" (Rev. 2:15). The church of Ephesus was commended because they "...hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate" (Rev. 2:6). The Nicolaitanes were those who followed Nicholas, one who taught that the grace of God could be stretched to cover all unrighteousness and that it was not necessary to live a righteous, overcoming life.

There are many scriptures that tell us we must indeed live a holy life, one of faith in God and of works that bear fruit. To all seven of the angels of the churches in Asia which John was commanded to write, Christ said "I know thy works". Also, to all seven of the churches, there was a special promise made to those that overcome.

Paul wrote that those who were guilty of the works of the flesh "...shall not in-

herit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). He also wrote that "...they which commit such things are worthy of death..." (Ro. 1:32). John was inspired to write that those who are guilty of unholy acts described in Rev. 21:8 "...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

There are those who teach that because "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Ro. 3:23) that there is no way we can become free from sin. The Bible teaches us that we "were" sinners, "...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God" (I Cor. 6:11). "...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

There is no condemnation to those who "...walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Ro. 8:1-2). This does not mean we are free to sin, but rather by the grace of God we "...shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Ro. 8:21). Although we do have liberty in Christ, at no time is this liberty meant to free us to do whatever we wish. We can be free from the yoke of sin. This does not free us from the need to be holy. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (Gal. 5:9).

Holiness is not legalism. If we have faith we "...can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13). We can love Him and keep His commandments for "...his commandments are not grievous" (I Jn. 5:3). If we fulfill His commandments we can truly have in our hearts the fruit of the Spirit "...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).



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

Homes For The Aged

We are often reminded that mission work begins at home. Examples of such efforts include the homes for the aged in our Brotherhood, which meet the many special needs of our elderly brethren and friends. In the early eighties, the two Bluffton churches felt a need to someday have a combination retirement and nursing facility for the local brethren and friends. This facility would be open to neighbors and friends from the community as well.

Through prayer, research and encouragement from the neighboring Mennonite Home (Swiss Village), ground breaking was held in October of 1988. Occupancy took place in November 1989. The name Christian Care Retirement Community was selected. It seemed to reflect the purpose and atmosphere that was to prevail for those who would eventually work and/or live in this home. Christian Care, as it is commonly called, is directed by a board of nine brothers from the two Bluffton churches, as a not for profit corporation.

Sunday services

At the onset, Sunday services were made available via a radio system in each resident's room and/or in an activity room. As loved ones gathered in the large activity room and tried to listen to services, the radio system did not provide the needed fulfillment of a true church setting. Many of the elderly folks had spent years attending church services where there was a minister sharing God's divine love and preaching salvation to all who would come. Many residents from the

community have lost contact with their churches. Thus, church services at Christian Care may serve as their main source of spiritual food.

In order to meet these spiritual needs, live services were begun on Sunday mornings. Midweek services are held on Thursday afternoons. Ministers from the Bluffton Apostolic Christian Churches take turns fulfilling a rotation schedule for these services. Various family members who accompany their loved ones support the Sunday morning services. There are also volunteers, including couples, single brothers and sisters, who bring the residents to the chapel area for services.

Encouragement through singing and the Word

It has been a blessing for the young groups of both Bluffton churches to assist in the services by providing supportive singing. Usually, six to ten young people are present not only to sing, but also to turn the pages of hymnbooks and roll wheel chairs from one area to the other. What a joy to witness the older generation sing from their hearts, hymns committed to memory years ago. Maybe their eye sight fails, but the memory and words of the old familiar hymns linger on.

After a time of singing, the message portion of the service takes place. A ministering brother opens with a prayer, reads a portion of Scripture (sometimes requested by a resident), and meditates, followed by further singing. The ministering brother, who serves in the fulfillment of being used in yet another capacity, finds joy and blessings for being a servant of God near home.

There are many good fruits of

these efforts, both seen and unseen. A visiting couple began attending the services regularly as they accompanied their one hundred year old father (brother in faith) to the services. Soon the couple (in their seventies), became convicted and repented. They were baptized recently, becoming members of the Bluffton Apostolic Christian Church. The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword (Heb. 4:12).

Fellowship of the saints

The gleam in the eyes of the residents during services is a joy to behold. When the services are concluded, the fellowship of the family and residents is a most enjoyable scene, as old times are discussed and acquaintances renewed. As in all of our churches, no one is in a hurry to leave. The safe and blessed haven of being near God's Word and people is so special in these uncertain times.

Souls are precious

What a tremendous way to fulfill Christ's purpose for mankind: spreading the Word and nourishing the believer. These residents, in general, are our forefathers, who taught us the way. We cannot overlook the spiritual needs of our brethren and friends, regardless of their age. Souls are precious, have purpose and a hunger for the Truth.

The Apostolic Christian Church, through our homes for the aged, must fulfill this special mission to provide spiritual food for the residents' inner needs. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. (1 Timothy 4:6)



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

Hope for Haiti

For over a year, Haiti has been in the news on a regular basis. Unfortunately, the majority of the time the news has not been positive. So one may wonder why World Relief is involved in Haiti and are we truly making a difference? What is the risk to the health and safety of our brethren and friends who travel to Haiti on work teams? The brothers on the Caribbean Board of the national World Relief Committee must address these questions often.

Haitian history

To understand the answers to these questions we must understand the history of Haiti. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries Haiti occupied one third of the island of Hispanola, called the Pearl of the Antilles. The French controlled the country of Haiti and used slaves from Africa to work in the fields and on the plantations. During the slave rebellion against the French from 1794 to 1804, the leaders of the revolt are alleged to have dedicated the island nation to Satan and voodoo worship for victory and deliverance from the French. The revolution was successful in 1804, as Haiti became the World's first black republic.

2004 marked the 200th anniversary of Haiti's independence. In January 2004, celebrations by government leaders and voodoo priests were scheduled to recognize the power of Satan and voodoo and to dedicate the country to voodoo for another 100 years. Fortunately, the Christians within Haiti rallied together in prayer to God for deliverance from this evil and through this effort the will of God prevailed. The celebrations were cancelled, the government leaders were removed

from the country and a pro-Christian interim government installed. For the most part, peace is restored, yet the people suffer from a non-existent economy, great poverty and years of neglect by the government.

The grip of poverty

Haiti is a country of great need, so how does World Relief help? For many years Haiti was considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Unfortunately, Haiti is by some accounts the poorest country in the world. Half the population is under-nourished. One in five children die before the age of five. The majority of the people do not have access to clean water.

In much of the country, contemporary medical care is nonexistent and the majority of medical care is substandard. The literacy rate is below 30 percent. Yet there is hope in Jesus Christ as nearly half of Haitians are evangelical Christians, many supported by conservative faiths within the US and Canada. Conversions continue to increase as the Word is taught in truth.

Making a difference

The National World Relief and the Caribbean Board seek to aid the Haitian people through Haitian Christian organizations whose doctrine is consistent with the Apostolic Christian Church's Statement of Faith. At present, we provide support in the form of financial assistance and work teams to provide medical care, school construction, trade schools, agricultural and veterinarian training and water projects.

At the present time, the Caribbean Board is sending work teams to Haiti and we have a couple resident in Haiti for a short duration to assist

the teams. The Board members remain in contact with the leaders of the organizations we support and the US State Department to determine the safety in sending brethren. Presently, there is peace and calm in the areas our Brethren work. God has provided for our needs with the opening of air transportation from the Port au Prince airport to Les Cayes in the southern portion of Haiti where our brethren work. This has permitted the teams to reduce a six to eight hour road trip to 45 minutes.

This change gives us great comfort in sending brethren at this time. One of the greatest challenges for work teams in Haiti is the time of travel and the condition of the roads. While there is little risk while traveling on the roads, the conditions require slow travel, often below 10 miles per hour.

Faith in action

In closing, we would like to share several comments from Eris Labady, the Haitian leader of the Palm Grove Mission in Haiti, which we support. When asked if we can truly make a difference in the lives of the Haitian people, he makes two points. When we send teams to work in Haiti, in addition to the financial support, we show the Haitian people we care. Truly putting Christ's teachings into action are an example for the Haitian people.

He finally relates the story of a young boy on a beach throwing starfish back into the sea, washed upon the shore by the thousands. A cynical man chides the boy, asking if he can really make a difference with so many starfish washed on the shore. The boy looks at the starfish in his hand and states, At least I will make a difference to this one.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

What a beautiful time of year!

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

As we see and feel winter slipping out of our grasp, we reach with great anticipation for the freshness and newness of life that comes with spring. The residents look forward to a time of fresh air without having to be all bundled up. Many of the residents are not able to experience the outdoors during the winter months without compromising their health, so springtime is a real treat!

With every right comes a responsibility. The residents that live at Oakwood, Linden, and in the community homes will get to help with the spring cleaning as they prepare for the coming warm months.

When we review the last month, as we do every month, we thank God for His provision in meeting the needs of the residents and the staff. We are also thankful for all of the prayers and financial support that allows for continuous quality care for the very special individuals that live at the Homes. We would like to thank the congregations that have allowed us to have informational meetings to educate the church on how the church is meeting the

needs of the disabled.

During the past month the residents at Timber Ridge have learned about several different countries during "Culture Week" and were allowed to experience various foods from different regions of the world. Residents enjoyed activities such as a Valentine's party, swimming, going out to eat and shopping.

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

Detroit House, 650/652 Detroit Street, Morton, IL 61550: Jacqueline Barton (26), Kristi Knapp (29).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bruce and Heather Drayer

The world that we live in offers many comforts and blessings. However, it also brings trials. We all face trials of some form or another, and it is easy to focus on them. Often in our work, we face struggles and wonder what should I do? Or, how can I handle this situation? We then begin to devote much time and energy without a clear direction. It's amazing how quickly a trial can become a major frustration when we face problems alone.

It's exciting to know that God offers blessings and attention to those who call upon Him. Psalm

34 is one of the encouraging chapters that we can take comfort in. The Psalm promises a freedom from fear, deliverance from trouble, protection, a show of kindness, fulfillment of needs, a listening ear, and redemption. The chapter also requires our participation, too. We can receive God's blessings when we seek Him, cry out to Him, trust Him, fear Him, keep from lying, turn from sin, do good, seek peace, have humble hearts, and serve Him.

May we all be encouraged as we set out in our daily race. Our Father is ready to help us each step of the way.

News

This month, we welcomed Jasmine H, Jessica B, Ashley B, and Josh S to our campus. We trust that God has placed them here for a purpose, which is to expose them to the truth of God's Word.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of three new staff members! They are Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann Grimm (Bloomington, IL), who have been hired as new Houseparents and Sis. Christy Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), who will be an Assistant Houseparent. It is a blessing to once again see God meet our needs! Thank you to everyone who continues to pray.

We are also delighted to announce that Sis. Julie Zimmerman, Assistant Houseparent in the West House, was recently announced for marriage to Bro. Kurt Schrock (Congerville, IL). We pray God's blessings on their future together in the Lord!

On March 12, 2005, we held our

annual Representatives Meeting on our campus in Indiana. We heard first hand testimony of how God has used Gateway Woods to help hurting youth and families here in Leo and through our Family Services Program in Illinois. One young lady testified that without Gateway Woods intervening in her life, she shudders to think where she would be. Another couple from our Bluffton congregation testified of God's faithfulness in bringing them a beautiful child from the Ukraine through Gateway Woods' Adoption Program. Our staff continues the initiative to make informational presentations to all congregations in the US, informing our brethren of the various services and ways that God is working to "Turn Lives Around"!

Please continue to remember us in your prayers. We are expanding into a new population of residents - troubled pregnant teens and young mothers. Our Board has also approved the building of a 4th group home on our campus. We covet your prayers in meeting the programmatic, financial, and staffing needs of these new endeavors! Be looking for more information in the near future.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, AL
Melissa Slagel**

"Then in a cloud Jesus ascended up to heaven. How did He do that? Did an airplane pick Him up or a car somehow, or was there a big staircase? Did He jump really

high?" I had a group of little faces looking up at me like I was a little crazy. Then I heard in exasperation "it was just a MIRACLE of course!!" Wow, it seems like children with their little minds would need to be able to see just how Jesus got up there. But they don't; they just simply believe. It is evident to see why God wants us to have the faith of a child.

This month we have been learning all about animals, the color yellow, and the letters w through y. We are almost through the alphabet and that means our school year is nearly over already! We will soon begin working on our graduation. It is amazing to see the progress of the children over the past months. Even with all the teaching that we have done through the course of the year, it feels like I could never teach them as much as they have taught me.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"The grave could not hold my Redeemer and Lord,
but as He had promised and said,
The third day's bright morning,
fulfilling His word.
My Savior arose from the dead.
The grave could not hold Him, the
soldiers in steel,
Were guarding the tomb where He
lay.
And tho' on the stone was the gov-
ernor's seal,
an angel did roll it away.
The grave could not hold Him; a
conqueror,
He is risen triumphant o'er sin.
Now death and the grave have no
terrors for me,
In Him I the victory win.

He arose, He arose, just as He said
He promised and said.
The grave could not hold my Re-
deemer and Lord,
He arose from the dead."

Our sympathy and prayers go out Jeff and Janice Flannagan as they lay their dear mother, and mother - in - law, Dezzie Flannagan, to rest. They are the daughter and son - in - law of Bro. JR and Sis. Louise. She was a special person who will be missed by so many.

This month we want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyliss, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) for bringing God's message to us. We appreciate our other visitors this month as well from Fairbury and Gridley IL, Lexington KY, and Wolcott, IN.

Ed Hagggenmaker was in the hospital this month. He had two more stints put in and is recovering well. Haruko Lewis was hospitalized this month as well. She is the mother of James Lewis. I know they appreciate our prayers.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:11

Dear ones, did you notice you could not stop there? Oh, for the whole armor of God!

Phoenix received much rain this winter to help our drought, and a blessing from our winter visitors. God's love flows so freely.

Bro. George and Sis. Willow Gramm and their children, Mya and Travis, moved to San Diego. We pray God's blessings on them. Willow's parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres.

We had a fellowship dinner on March 6, followed by a presentation by Bro. Tim Sauder on Gateway Woods. It was a blessed evening.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) who also gave a presentation on the Home for the Handicapped. The Lord was gracious as his servants ministered to us.

Bro. Dick Beery retired as World Relief representative after 47 years of service. Bro. Jerry Tooley was appointed to replace him. May God richly bless both of them for their willingness to serve.

Sis. Eleanor Hill was hospitalized for some testing. Sis. Alice Baumgartner is recovering from a broken hip. Please pray for both.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

The annual business meeting was held February 26, and Bro. Wayne Koehl was elected for the Secretary/Trustee position.

We have had several visitors

the last month, and wish to thank them for including Prescott in their travels. A fellowship dinner was held Saturday, March 12, and a breakfast, March 13, at the church when several young brothers visited from the Bluffton area.

Our visiting minister in March was Bro. John (Sis. Nelda) Rowell from Burlington, IA. May God bless him and his family for lending his support to our congregation.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are having work teams traveling through Tucson on a regular basis now, either traveling to Magdalena or Agua Prieta on mission trips. We pray they can feel our love and prayers as they head into a week of service to those less fortunate.

We have had quite a few visiting ministers traveling through Tucson for one reason or another. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) visited us on a business trip and was good enough to preach the Word to us on a recent Wednesday evening. Bros. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) also ministered to us this past month as they traveled through with different work teams. As I said before, we are having a lot of work teams passing through and I feel as though I may have forgotten some ministers. I apologize if I've omitted someone's name. We appreciate each minister who opens God's Word with us. We know the

Lord will bless their efforts.

Our ACYF Fellowship Weekend was a very wonderful time of fellowship and fun with our Sunday School classes from Phoenix and California. We are thankful for their safe return home and even more thankful for the wonderful memories made and the blessings God showered upon us that weekend.

Our winter visitors have begun leaving, some will remain into April and some even into May. This year they experienced more rain than they usually encounter in January and especially February. We are so thankful for the rain, as we are in the middle of a drought, but we know our snowbirds come out for sunshine and clear skies. Those who stayed into March are being rewarded with clear blue skies and beautiful sunshine and a desert landscape that is especially green and colorful. Desert experts tell us that there are desert flowers blooming that have not bloomed for ten years due to lack of rain but are now popping up all over and looking unfamiliar to some of us. More showers of blessings!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Cor. 15:57

This month we mourned with the family of retired Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Sis. Margaret), while at the same time, rejoicing

in the race he has won through Christ. We were thankful for visiting ministers who assisted with his funeral including: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR), retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Sis. Lorene, Detroit, MI) and retired ministering Bro. Jim Hoerr (Sis. Virginia, Peoria, IL).

Our congregation is thankful for the effective medical treatment received by Sis. Kay Hackenjos (Bro. Glenn) and Sis. Mary Witzig (Bro. Bill). We rejoice when we can welcome these dear sisters back to church.

Visitors are a blessing, and this month was no exception. One weekend, we enjoyed the fellowship of 16 young group participants from Bluffton, Burlington, Elgin, IA, and Forrest. May their youthful energy be used to magnify God's goodness.

We welcome Sis. Janice Lehman to California, where she will be spending a few months in a short-term rotation.

Note of Thanks:

My family and I wish to thank everyone who has remembered us during our time of grieving for our beloved husband and father. May each one be sincerely blessed.

Sis. Margaret Kinsinger and family

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

Greetings to each one in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have enjoyed numerous visitors in the month of February, for which we thank the Lord.

Among them was ministering

Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol, Sarasota). We pray the Lord will bless him for laboring on our behalf.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. George and Sis. Willow Gramm and their children, Mia and Travis. They have relocated to the San Diego area from Phoenix. We look forward to having them in our fellowship and pray the Lord will bless them as they assemble with us.

Once more as the Easter season is upon us, we are reminded of the great price our dear Lord and Saviour paid upon Calvary's tree to redeem us from our sins with His innocent blood.

He gave His all for us. May we give our all for Him.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

We are grateful to the ministers that took their time to share with us God's Word this month. They are Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH).

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

Romans 12:15

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) was here for a mid-week service in which four new converts were announced. They are Eva Toth (Zoltan and Sis. Maria), Abigail Piticar, Caleb Piticar (Bro. Vinny and Sis.

Justine) and Jesse Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb).

Sis. Melanie Tomic (Bro. Tim) experienced the loss of her grandfather, Bro. Alf Kaeb, in Bay City, MI. He leaves behind his wife, Hermine.

Dear Bro. Peter Pfeiffer has undergone surgery and is recovering well, thank the Lord. It will be so nice to see him in church again.

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

Once again, we remembered what our Lord and Saviour has given for us with a Communion service held on March 19. It was also a time of blessed closeness with the brotherhood. Thanks to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) who came for the weekend with his family to be of service to us.

Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,
Members of His Church, your faith renew;
Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out for you.
Here your hands in faithfulness uniting
And the fire of brother-love new lighting,
Let your common prayers rise to His throne.
Thank and praise Him who hath made you one!

Zion's Harp, #26

At this special time of year, when we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our Sunday school presented an inspiring

Easter program to us and to a local nursing home.

Recent elections have given us new officers in the following areas: Treasurer, Bro. Eric Huber; Secretary, Bro. Rod Schmidt; Trustees, Bro. Tom Katanic and Bro. Bob Gonglach; Kitchen Committee, Sis. Kary Mangers; World Relief Sewing, Sis. Naomi Wiegand. Elected to serve as Sunday school teachers were Bro. Doug Mangers and Sis. Sue Katanic. We appreciate all those who are willing to serve our church in these various ways.

We were reminded by our Elder Bro. Mike Leman on Palm Sunday, about the difference in what Jesus could have done that day long ago and what He chose to do. At His triumphal entry into Jerusalem the crowds wanted to make Him their King. He chose instead to die on a cross for our sin. Because of what our Lord chose to do, we can live a victorious life, both now and forever. But what are the choices we make every day? As Christians, why do we sometimes continue to strive after things of this world when we know that they won't make us happy? Why do we not choose to be more prepared to do battle every day, dressed in the full Armor of God, when we know that our adversary is prowling about like a roaring lion seeking to devour us? Today, let's not forget how much we need our Lord's protection and choose to stay close under the shadow of His wings.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Reutter
Laura Virkler**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

We rejoice with Bro. Eric Virkler and Sis. Heidi Ballasy as their engagement was recently announced to us. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane Ballasy. We wish them much grace as they prepare to take this step of faith together.

Two families have been blessed with healthy newborns this past month. Bro. Adam and Sis. Jamie Luginbuhl welcomed their first child, Simon Alexander, to this world. Grandparents are Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl and Bro. James and Sis. Juanita Walter from Fairbury, IL.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah Zahner also welcome a baby boy as their first, Aidan Charles. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Deb Crarey and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner. May each of these new parents feel God's guiding and strength as they enter into this new phase in their lives.

Even as we can be happy in the birth of our precious children, we have been reminded of the frailty of life and reminded that each of us will someday pass away. Our prayers and sympathy rest with the family of Charles Lanz Jr. at his passing after a battle with cancer. He leaves his brother, Bro. Ed

Lanz (Sis. Marilyn), and his sisters, Shirley Lanz and Gloria (Tom) Simmons-Lawson. May God be with this family and comfort them always.

Visiting with us during Charles' last days and for the funeral was ministering Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy). We were grateful for his willingness to be used as a vessel to bring to us the Word of God.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Take, eat; this is my body.

Matthew 26: 26

The members of our congregation were able to travel to Philadelphia to partake of Communion this month. What a blessed time to pause and remember what Jesus has done for us. We want to thank the Philadelphia congregation for their always warm welcome and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for coming to assist Bro. Ben.

Ken Belsley is still unable to assemble with us as he recovers from his fall. Our prayers are with him and Roberta; we miss them.

This month we welcomed Bro. Alan Banwart (Kansas City, MO) to our congregation. He is here on a temporary work assignment. We are glad when work brings someone to our area, whether it is for a week or a few months.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN)

and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis, Linda, Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors were from Detroit, MI; Bluffton, Francesville, and West Lafayette, IN; Latty, OH; Champaign and Princeville, IL; and Philadelphia, PA. When Bro. Ron was here he presented a Bible Study on "Why we can Trust the Bible".

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bros. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, North Fort Myers, FL), Ron Jones (Portland, OR - Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz were formerly residents of Ft. Lauderdale and it is nice to have him return in the Lord's capacity), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis.

Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL). We pray that God would bless His servants for the work they do through Him.

Sis. Barb Schneider would like to express her thanks for all the prayers for her recovery from heart surgery. Sis. Ruth Schneider tells us that Sis. Barb is continuing to mend and regain her strength.

Our prayers of sympathy are with Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder on the passing of Bro. Roger's sister, Sis. Judy Martin. We pray that God would help the family in their time of loss and that they might find comfort in the knowledge of their loved one in Heaven.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Mary Masters**

I'm sorry that I missed listing Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) as one of our visiting ministers last month. We certainly enjoyed his visit and ministry.

This month we enjoyed visits from ministering Bros. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI).

We also were blessed by our Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) when they came to serve Holy Communion. What a blessed day we had remembering

our Lord's sacrifice for us.

This month was also the men's annual singing group gathering which took place in Sarasota.

We would like to take this time to thank our northern part-time residents for their untiring efforts in helping with the church work while they are here. Our church roof was slightly damaged during the hurricanes we had. The repairs were quickly made with the help of our dear snowbirds. The Sunday kitchen work is happily done on a rotation basis by our winter visitors, too. We appreciate very much the willingness of these loved ones.

Many of us are surprised at how fast the time goes and how busy we are. There are times though that we can be tempted to complain of the drudgery of the sameness of life. This has been true since the beginning of time. Remember the complaints of God's people in the wilderness. In Numbers 11, they complained, "Our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes." God provided exactly what they needed, but they wanted something more exciting. Are we tempted to do the same? When the same routine continues day after day, let us beware not to complain but take the opportunity to focus on God and what He wants us to learn. Blessing is found on the pathway of duty.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

At this most precious time of year, we remember Christ's great sacrifice and His triumphant res-

urrection. In a Communion exhortation, each member in the Body of Christ was encouraged to thoroughly examine his heart in preparation for sharing the Lord's Supper.

The Sunday School children presented the Easter message in a program that took us from Bethlehem to the Cross. This same encouragement of self-examination was portrayed as one student reminded us of the disciples' question at the Last Supper, "Lord, is it I?"

We rejoice with our new Brother in Christ, Harold Spiker. Recently he was baptized by sprinkling in Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo's home where he resides. He is Sis. Linda's father.

During this winter season we continue to enjoy many visiting ministers, including Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Chris Huber and Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), John Jackson and James Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN).

The "Snowbirds" expressed their appreciation to the Sarasota Church at the annual Appreciation Dinner. We sang our thanks during a short program that followed. We appreciate them worshipping and fellowshiping with us each year.

many visitors this past month. May God richly bless you for your willingness to take time to visit. It is very much appreciated. Among our visitors were ministering Bros. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Our prayer for these brothers and all ministering brothers is that they would continue to rely wholly on the Spirit and not on man's wisdom that they would be able to speak the truth.

As many as could, came together for our spring church cleaning on March 12. We would like to thank each one for their labors of love, as much was accomplished.

We appreciate visitors and ask that you to 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 now meet on the first, third and fifth 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 **Doreen Moser** **Sheila McCoy**

There will be showers of blessing
This is the promise of love;
There will be seasons refreshing
Sent from the Saviour above.

We have truly been refreshed in spending time in studying God's Holy Word. The Old Testament is the main focus of our study and is so full of history, laws, struggles and God's blessings to His people generation after generation.

There will be showers of blessing
Oh, that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing,
Now as on Jesus we call.

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) gave the exhortation for Communion. May we call upon Jesus as we spend time in prayer and search our hearts to make sure that we are worthy of Communion and God's blessings will surely follow.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Lana Schifferer as Sis. Lana's brother has been taken from this life. Calling on Jesus in prayer we lift these dear ones to Him as only He can comfort and provide for each day ahead.

There will be showers of blessing
Send them upon us, O Lord;
Grant to us now a refreshing,
Come, and now honor Thy Word.

Our Sunday School children honored Thy Word and brought forth the Easter story. Blessed and holy

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Carol Kaufman**

God has richly blessed us with

was our Palm Sunday. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) and his precious wife were part of our day.

There will be showers of blessing
Precious reviving again,
Over the hills and the valleys
Sound of abundance of rain.

As the calendar says it is spring, we look forward to the hills and valleys becoming alive with the beautiful creations sent from heaven above. As the Easter season comes and goes, may our spiritual life also be revived and may we continue to praise God from whom all blessings flow.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Kara Martin
Ann Nussbaum**

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) was able to spend a Sunday with us. Also, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was with us to help with the reading of the Memorandum. We thank both of these brothers for giving of themselves on our behalf.

We have several new babies, and we are thankful each has arrived safely and with good health. Megan Lynn was born on February 2 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Metz. Her sisters are Larissa, Allison, Hope, and Hayley. Grandparents are Mark and Ruth Ann Martino (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Roanoke, IL). Kylie Morgan was born on February 4 to Bro. Rick and Sis. Shawn Masters. Her brother and sister are Cody and Kaitlyn. Bro. Everett and Sis. Bev Hari and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary

Masters (Ft. Myers, FL) are Kylie's grandparents. On February 11, Charity Nicole was born to Bro. Trace and Sis. Denise Brim. Her big sister is Autumn. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Mark Brim and Sis. Barb Brim. Rocky Thomas was born on March 2 to Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon O'Shea. His grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago, IL). Bro. Andy and Sis. Jill Lehman arrived home from South Korea with Caleb Andrew on March 14. He was born on August 2. Trevor and Haley are his brother and sister. His grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Marcia Bauer and Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver, CO).

Our prayers are with Sis. Leona, Sis. Carol, and Sis. Janice Nussbaum on the passing of their brother, Bro. Wayne Nussbaum (Fairbury, IL), on February 17. We are also keeping in prayer Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen) as he lost his mother, Sis. Verena Heiniger (Morton, IL), on February 23.

Our Bible Class held a Spaghetti Supper and Servant Auction on March 12 to raise funds for their summer mission trip. We are continuing to be in prayer as the trip approaches.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our most heartfelt "THANKS" to all for the care and sympathy you showed to our family in the recent passing of my mother. We were so blessed and comforted by your kind ex-

pressions of love.

Ron and Kayleen Heiniger

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We appreciated having many visiting ministers with us lately. Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) labored willingly for our benefit.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Bro. Rich Gillespie (Sis. Paula) at the loss of his grandchild, Elijah Jeffrey Gillespie. We trust that the Lord's plan is perfect and so we go forward in faith believing.

We enjoyed having many visitors for our invite-a-guest weekend. It is always a blessing to find the same faith in others, though time and distance oft separate us.

"And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house. . ."

(King Solomon)

II Chronicles 2:5, 6

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

We are getting excited as spring draws near and warmer weather is on its way! It is always a joy to watch the tulips and crocuses poke their way out of the cold ground and bloom so beauti-

fully!

At the end of February the College group hosted a Parent's Appreciation weekend. This was an opportunity for the parents to visit their college kids and for the kids to show their parents how much they are appreciated. There was a dinner on Saturday night at the church and then church was full on Sunday! We thank ministering Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont) and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis) for laboring in the Word that weekend.

A singing shower was held at Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner's to welcome our new married couple, Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny Schroder. Bro. Peter had already lived here but Sis. Penny is new to the area and we are so glad to have them!

The children performed their Easter Program for the church on Palm Sunday. Our Easter Program takes the place of the afternoon service and it is always so special to watch them sing and say their pieces about the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We thank all of the Sunday School teachers and parents for their efforts in putting this together.

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his

resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 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 27:51-54

We thank our other visiting ministers from this past month. Ministering Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis) gave a topical sermon on Spiritual Growth one Wednesday evening and we are very appreciative for his efforts. We also thank ministering Bros. Curt Rassi (Tremont) and Clark Stoller (Gridley) for ministering to us.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings to all from Chicago. God has blessed us during the last month, and has given us several warmer days. Although the majority have not been so warm, those that were especially pleasant seemed to fall on Sundays, and made the Sundays even more special. Recently the Sunday School presented a program of Easter songs to us after our morning service. It is wonderful to hear the exuberant voices of the children and see the future of our faith standing before us—there are usually smiles all around.

The Sunday School also presented a creative and most enjoyable program for us the night of the Sunday School Benefit Dinner. Many of them traveled to Magdalena, Mexico last summer

for a mission trip along with a group from Francesville, IN. Again, there were many smiles and feelings of thankfulness as we saw young people of all ages taking an active part in sharing with us. A big thank you goes out to everyone who had a part in planning and presenting the evening. It was special.

Two of our dear brothers were hospitalized in the past month. Bros. Steve Lau and John Schrenk had some health difficulties, and we pray they can feel God's healing hand as well as our love and prayers.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Mary Metzger (Bro. Virg) and her family as her sister-in-law, Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN), was called to her Heavenly reward. We know this is a hard time for all but are thankful for the hope we have for those who die in the Lord. "Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast. There by His love o'er shaded, sweetly my soul shall rest." May God be with this family.

One thing that I have struggled with through my years of conversion is the feeling of condemnation. As if I can never quite "get it right" so to speak, and that God is despairing of me. I share this because I believe others feel this too, at times. Perhaps you have. I remember a dear Elder brother sharing with me once that the Bible says that Satan is "the accuser of the brethren" and he wants us to feel "no good". He said it is important that we recognize Satan for what he is and how he wants to

do anything he can to jeopardize us spiritually. The following came to mind and I'd like to share it with you.

My father has a twin brother and they are identical. It is uncanny to some when they see them for the first time and it is commented upon at times. One Sunday, quite some years ago, my father was ministering on the pulpit and my uncle was sitting in the congregation. My little cousin was also there. He suddenly piped up, "Two Uncle Waynes!" Well, the reason was that, in his mind, he saw one "Uncle Wayne" sitting in the pew while simultaneously he saw another "Uncle Wayne" preaching on the pulpit! I'm glad it wasn't up to me to explain that one. But I wonder how Satan may view me and you. Does he go before God, point, and say, "Two Rachel Meyers!" and then give evidence of a life lived one way before my brothers and sisters in Christ and another way in my heart and among those I meet on a daily basis? Does he accuse me before God? It is an inspiration to know that God recognizes Satan for who he is – The Accuser – but that it is up to me to provide a life with evidence contrary to those accusations. The loving expectations our Father has for our Christian lives on this earth can inspire us to rise to the occasion, knowing that the only evidence we can give for the kind of life we live on this earth is the evidence we provide via the fruit in our lives testifying to God's presence in us, as well as our redemption by the blood of Christ. May that fruit

be sweet and pleasing in God's sight. God's blessings to each one of you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Pam Walder
Andrea Walder**

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

We were privileged to gather together on March 5 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Tom Stock. We appreciate their willingness to encourage us on the narrow way.

Our visiting ministers this past month have included Bros. Clark Stoller, Steve Baner and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL). We're thankful for their labors on our behalf.

Those experiencing health problems recently include Sis. Lucille Walder. Bro. Ken Weerts was a surgical patient this month. May God continue to provide for the needs of each one.

On March 12 we hosted the Regional World Relief Meeting. It was a blessing for all who attended to see the many ways our church is able to help those in need.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Loretta Schneider (Bro. Ken, Remington, IN) who has gone to her eternal rest. Our prayers are with her daughter, Sis. LouAnn Kaeb (Bro. Eric),

and their children. We trust the Lord will provide comfort for those who grieve.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Schrock

One Sunday recently we were reminded that in serving God, we do not need "letters of commendation" (II Cor. 3:1), or letters behind our name (MD, RN, PhD, etc.). We simply need God's direction and peace-filled seal of approval in our hearts.

Two dear souls have felt the refreshment of this peace lately as they searched out God's will for their future. Recently, the engagement of Bro. Kurt Schrock (Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Julie Zimmerman of Leo, IN (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen) was shared with our congregation. May they continue to be led by peace as they plan a June 19 wedding.

Another family in our congregation is filled with God's peace and joy! Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa Luthi welcomed James Howard into their family on February 17. Eagerly anticipating his arrival home were his siblings, Maranda, Jordan, Jennifer, Matthew, Jacob, Mark, Mary and Julia.

As one enters this world, another departs. We would like to express our sympathy to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart on the death of Bro. Jerry's uncle, Ralph (Bud) Fritz, of LaCrosse, IN. We are thankful that Ralph was able to express his faith in the Saviour during his final days.

We are also thankful for those

who are willing to minister God's Word to us each Sunday and Wednesday night. We have been blessed with visiting ministers lately, including Bros. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH), Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN), and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). We especially thank Bro. Gerry for assisting our Elder Bro. Bob Walder in reading to us the Memorandum. We appreciate their Godly counsel and pray for God's grace to apply these scriptural precepts into our daily lives.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Esther Miller would like to thank everyone for their love and prayers during her hospital stay and since her death. May God bless each of you for your many kind deeds.

Bro. Merion Miller and families

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

On February 19 at the Fellowship Center, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) gave an interesting slide presentation of a Romanian work project known as the Antioch program. He explained how brethren from the U.S., Germany and Eastern Europe have distributed aid to those in Romania through several self-help initiatives, such as small livestock programs and contributions of garden tillers and meat processing machines. Bro. Gene's sharing of his time on Saturday

evening, as well as his ministry on Sunday, were truly appreciated.

The following Sunday, two other visiting ministers served us by reading and expounding upon God's Word. Here for Invite-a-Couple weekend were Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Kevin Knapp (Bloomington- Normal, IL).

That afternoon, we sang a farewell hymn for Bro. Chad Heiniger (Bro. Don and Sis. Peg), whose employment led to a relocation. He is now assembling with the brethren in Remington, IN. We wish him the Lord's blessings as he becomes established in a new community.

On March 4, Rob and Jodi Hammer announced the birth of their first child, Tre Wayne. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer and Ron and Irene Hammer are delighted at the arrival of their new grandson.

Though illness had its impact on many during the late winter season, there were two from our church family who were hospitalized with pneumonia. We are thankful that Sisters Louise and Lenore Steffen are gradually recovering.

ILLINIOS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Lisa Metzger

We rejoice in the baptism and spiritual rebirth of three precious souls in our congregation. Bro. Jared Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Bro. Landon Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Kayla Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen) became a part of the

Body of Christ on February 27.

We appreciate visiting ministers who lent themselves for the baptism weekend. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) were present to break the Bread of Life. Other brothers this month to share in these duties include Bro. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA).

Also, Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan - Naumburg, NY) came to share Holy Communion with us. This was a precious time for our congregation. We thank Bro. Duane for traveling the many miles to help with this sacred work and for his willingness to preach the Word on Sunday.

With sadness, and yet with peace, we have said a final farewell to Sis. Edna Anliker as she has finished her earthly race. We truly did appreciate her quiet example in our church as she went about her duties faithfully.

Our hearts also feel sympathy for Bro. Walter Zimmerman as he has lost his dear wife, Mabel. May he feel the Lord's comfort in this time of loss.

Sis. Ruby Grusy has been hospitalized recently. May God's grace be sufficient in this time of trial.

Beginning their life as one, Bro. Jake Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Janell Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna) were united in marriage. "...unite Thou them with heart and hand, and guide them evermore."

Brian Blunier (Bro. Ted and

Sis. Donna) and Lizzie Henrichs (Ralph and Mic, Cissna Park) recently made their wedding vows. Also, Kathy Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie) and Jon Guth (Mike and Denise, Eureka) were united in marriage. May God be near and bless these new couples.

We are glad for the Lord's leading in directing two souls to become one, as Bro. Matthew Schmidgall (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary) and Sis. Lisa Kupferschmid's (Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth) engagement has been announced. We wish them God's blessings as they anticipate their wedding and life together.

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Gabriel Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) has taken this scripture to heart and decided to change his life to serve the Lord. We rejoice with him and pray God will be near and provide for him each step of the way.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne Wettstein are blessed with another healthy baby girl. Kelsey Rose is welcomed home by her siblings, Joshua, Jeni, Katie, Kendra and Jeremy. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Donna Wettstein and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Ida Mae Rocke. We are thankful for the new joy brought to this family and hope all continues to go well.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank all my relatives and friends who made my 90th birthday so special. To those who came and those who sent cards and gifts, thanks again. God bless all of you.

Sis. Frieda Gerber

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for your love, concerns and prayers during my surgery and subsequent radiation treatments. Your acts of love and kindness were and are sincerely appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Bro. Jim Stoller

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY **Anna Schmidgall**

We always appreciate having visiting ministers with us. Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Art Bahler in reading the Memorandum. Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) also visited us and shared God's Word.

February 26 was the wedding day for Kyra Kaisner (Robert and Cheri) and Jaythen Gadberry (Jay and Gloria). We pray for God's blessings and guidance in their lives.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Jodi Kaisner are thankful to welcome into their home their first child, Lydia Grace. May God grant them wisdom to raise her in His ways.

Our prayers are with Deann Steidinger and Sis. Carrie Steidinger as they recently spent time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing touch.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to two families in our congregation in the loss of their loved ones. We remember Sis. Janice Nussbaum in the passing of her brother, Bro. Wayne Nussbaum. We also lift up in prayer Sis.

Bonnie Bach as she laid to rest her dear mother, Sis. Louise Bach. Sis. Louise is fondly remembered for her many years as a Sunday School teacher where she tirelessly brought forth the old, old story to the little children.

ILLINOIS, FORREST **Jill Wenger** **Lori Leman**

Joining their hearts and hands in marriage were Bro. Garrett Kupferschmid (Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Bethany Wenger (Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee). We wish them much happiness in their new life together.

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not!

Zion's Harp #112

We are thankful for ministering Bros. Chris Wuethrich (La-Crosse, IN), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) who lovingly brought us the gospel of salvation during this past month.

We gathered together with the Fairbury brethren on February 23 in Fairbury for the reading of the Memorandum. Giving us timely exhortations to walk a closer walk of life with Christ were Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Art Bahler (Fairbury) and our own shepherd, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker. May we all take these exhortations to heart to help us "walk the walk" rather than just "talk the talk".

We welcome our new brothers in faith, Jeremy Leman (Bro.

Ernie and Sis. Carol) and Brett Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) who gave their testimonies and were baptized on March 5-6. We thank Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) who assisted Elder Bro. Wayne with this important work. May these two new brothers go on their way rejoicing, always letting their light shine to those around them.

Rejoicing over a new daughter, Taylor Lanz Kafer, are Josh and Dana Kafer and grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Dean (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Bryon (Sis. Neola) Nussbaum in the loss of their brother, Bro. Wayne Nussbaum, of Fairbury. Also, Bro. Elmer (Sis. Rosetta) Stoller recently bid an earthly farewell to his sister, Sis. Martha Stoller, of Gridley, and more recently of the Roanoke Apostolic Christian Home. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Duane Schneider (the late Sis. Janny) on the loss of his sister – in – law, Sis. Loretta (Bro. Ken) Schneider of Remington, IN. We pray these loved ones will feel God's comforting Spirit.

Those who spent time in the hospital this month were Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb), Wes Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley), Sis. Rosetta (Bro. Elmer) Stoller, and Don (Marge) Stephens. May God's comforting Spirit be felt by each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Rita Bauman

Heather Hohulin

Sis. Marie Goetzinger was called home to heaven. She will be missed by her children, Joann Goetzinger, Gail and Dave Tolley, Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp, and Mark and Laurel Goetzinger, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We rejoice that she is healed of her earthly infirmities and that she is with Jesus.

Our prayers are also with Roger and Sherry, Tim and Kim Mullins in the death of Sherry's mother, Leona Caldwell. May they also feel the comfort of the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Christy Wiegand as she relocates to Leo, Indiana, to help at the Children's Home. We are thankful that she is serving the Lord in this way.

We have two new babies in our congregation. Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb, John, Simon and Alison Wiegand, welcome home Peter James. Justin, Sheri and Coletton Zobrist welcomed McKinley Lanae. What a blessing a new baby is. Our prayers are with them.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla Wiegand, and Sis. Minnie Grusy. May they feel the ever-present hand of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Ed Fritz, Jim Plattner, Steve Martin, Walt Herrmann, and Mark Streitmatter. We thank them for their service to us. May God bless them.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Marie Goetzinger would like to thank all who showed her love and kindness over the years. Your expressions of sympathy, love and support at the time of her passing were greatly appreciated. God bless you.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry Klopfenstein

We had a blessed evening during Holy Communion. We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us, and may the Lord bless him for his labors, and travels.

On Easter morning we were privileged to have Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) present as a visiting minister. May God bless him for his willingness to preach the gospel.

Sis. Amanda Funk was taken into the fold on February 26. She is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie Funk. She expressed how she needs the lifestyle disciplines and accountability of our church brotherhood. We wish her well, and pray God will continue to be with her. It is always a joy when baptisms occur, thanks be to God.

On March 20, Sis. Elise Kaupp was announced to be married to Bro. Kent Kellenberger (Ft. Scott, KS). She is the daughter of Bro. Timothy and Sis. Betty Kaupp. His parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Ft. Scott). May the Lord bless this faith venture and give them much happi-

ness in the future.

Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein, who temporarily resided at Manor Care, Normal, Illinois, now resides at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Normal. He suffers from Parkinson's disease. May God comfort him and heal him according to His will.

Carter Schieler, 15-month old son of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Charity Schieler, who broke his leg a few months ago, had his cast removed and is now walking around, and is eager to play after spending four weeks in a body cast. God is the great physician.

The high school Bible Class just returned from a mission trip to Jamaica.

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you for the prayers and deeds of kindness during the time of our loved one's illness and death. May God bless you.

The family of Sis. Martha Stoller

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Louise Steiner has repented of her sins and we were privileged to hear her testimony and witness her baptism on Wednesday evening, February 23. We rejoice with her and her husband, Bro. Melvin.

Our Family Worship was held by our Bro. Bob Pfloderer on "Heaven", March 2. What a joy awaits us if we walk with Him!

A new baby girl has blessed the home of Bro. Andrew and Sis.

Sandy Rassi, namely Alyssa Marie. She is welcomed home by big brothers, Timothy and Lucas, and big sister, Kayla. May God bless this little family.

Sis. Verena Heiniger passed away February 23. She is the mother to Bro. Ron (Sis. Kayleen) Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Larry and Bonnie Heiniger of Morton, and Jim and Kathy Heiniger of DeBary, Florida. She had been a member for 84 years, repenting in 1922 at the age of 15.

Bro. Harlow Blunier (Roanoke, IL) passed away. He is a brother to our Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Hank) Grimm.

Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bern, KS) passed away. She is the mother to our Sis. Maretta Rokey.

Dorothy Aberle passed away March 11. She is the mother to our Bro. Mel (Sis. Lois) Aberle.

May God comfort these dear families.

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Lou and Marjean Lonteen**

"Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 1:3

Our congregation was blessed by visits from guest ministers: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).

Our Sunday School students presented a wonderful Easter program on March 13. Thank you students, teachers, and parents for your part in this special service.

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

Revelation 3:20

Sis. Leona Ivies shared her testimony of faith and was baptized on February 23. We know the angels rejoice along with Sis. Leona, her dear family and church family.

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

Revelation 3:21

On March 1, Sis. Judy Martin entered her eternal rest in the Lord. Funeral services were held on March 5. Our prayers and sympathy remain with Bro. Dean and each of their dear family. Sis. Judy's smile and kind ways will be deeply missed by our congregation.

"O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together."

Psalms 34:3

Bro. Gabe and Sis. Molly Stickling have overwhelming love in their hearts for their new little boy. Josiah Gabriel Stickling was born on March 11. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister and Ben Stickling.

"God is faithful, by whom ye

were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus our Lord.”

I Corinthians 1:9

We welcome home Bro. Heath Coburn, as he has finished his term of service for our country. We also remember Jeffrey Weber in our prayers as he serves in Iraq. May God's protection be upon all those who protect our freedoms. Prayers for continued healing are appreciated for our dear ones: Sis. Harriet Hoerr (Bro. Dave), Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein (Bro. Cleve), and Bro. Larry Riggenschach.

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.”

Revelation 5:12

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer
Kara Blunier**

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come...”

Song of Solomon 2:12

It is so refreshing to see the creation bringing forth signs of new life once again!

We had several visiting ministers again this month: Bros. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Fred Funk (Morton, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). We thank each of you and

your wives.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Esther Kieser (the late Bro. George) as she has recently been hospitalized. She has also moved to Apostolic Christian Skylines. We think of her as she recovers and adjusts to a new home.

We are also praying for Sis. Tricia Wagenbach (Bro. Tim) and her family as they mourn the loss of their mother, Sis. Judy Martin (Peoria, IL). May God be near you in the days ahead.

We are happy to welcome back Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner, Tyler, Abrey, Chelby and new little Emily to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they re-establish their family here after having served at Gateway Woods for nearly five years.

Bro. William (Nick) and Sis. Gladys Knobloch have reached a milestone in life. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 16. We also congratulate Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin, who were married 50 years on March 20.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr
Doris Fischer**

Think Spring ... and what do you think of? Life returning to plants that seemed dead, increased warmth and light, a delightful re-freshening. Ever see “spring” come to a person's life? The light of Christ replaces the darkness of sin, and turmoil is exchanged for peace. Following a season of re-freshening in their

lives, we had the joyful privilege to witness the baptisms of Zach Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Jordan Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel). “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb are grateful for a new life of the earthly kind. They brought home a new daughter, Abbi Grace, who was born on March 9. Abbi has an older brother, Josiah, and an older sister, Kelsey. Abbi's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Ann Hoffman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb of Bloomington.

We were glad to have Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) with us on two occasions recently. Bro. Erik shared the topic “Walking in the Light” on our Family Worship night. We learned how the physical properties of light can help us to understand the spiritual world. And we were reminded how, just as God once commanded “Let there be light,” He now commands us to BE light in a dark world. Special thanks to Bro. Erik for his willingness to serve.

An unfortunate fall has Sis. Susan Bradle recuperating from a broken leg. May God grant thorough recovery, and patience during the time of waiting for it!

Our loving sympathy is extended to Sis. Sally Blunier on the February 25th home-going of her husband, Bro. Harlow Blunier. We pray God's comfort is felt by her and their children, Larry

(Gayle) Blunier of Wadesville, IN, Steven (Wendy) Blunier of Roanoke, and Susan (Alan) Haas of Roanoke. We rejoice that Bro. Harlow is relieved of the suffering of this life, yet grieve with his family in the loss of their husband, father and brother.

Note of Thanks:

My deep and sincere "Thank You" to all you loved ones who kindly remembered me with your cards and gifts of love; but most of all for your prayers on my behalf while I was in the hospital and during my recuperation at the Apostolic Christian Home in Roanoke. Your love and thoughtfulness will long be remembered! May we all remember to love Him – because He first loved us!

With much appreciation and love,

Sis. Mardell Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Heather Rassi
Teresa Rowell

Several ministers visiting this month included Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL). We count the ability to travel between congregations a true blessing and are thankful for those who come to Tremont.

We rejoice with Bro. Gary Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) and Sis. Kathy Koch (Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane) on the announcement of their engagement. May they feel God's blessing and guidance as a couple.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Dean Martin at the recent death of his wife, Sis. Judy. Although they have been attending the Peoria congregation, we remember their years of attendance here in our Tremont congregation. May he feel God's comfort in the days that follow and continually throughout his lifetime.

On March 5, Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Ropp welcomed their new little boy, Asa Timothy. Thankful grandparents are Ken and Joyce Ropp (Tremont) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder. We pray a blessing upon these new parents as they raise their child for the Lord.

Brent Dill (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) recently spent time in the hospital due to a car accident. We are so very thankful for God's mercy and healing that we have witnessed.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Nancy Knepp
Barb Banwart

On March 12-13, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our dear new Sisters Amy Folkerts (Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda) and Michelle Phillips (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz). Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) assisted in this sacred rite. Also with us were ministering Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) and Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL). We were so earnestly reminded of the seriousness of hav-

ing on the "wedding garment", the robe of righteousness, made pure and white through the blood of the Lamb. And that through all eternity, He will wear a vesture dipped in blood as an everlasting reminder of the price that He paid that our robes may be clean and white.

Earlier in the month, our Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico) was with us on a Wednesday evening. At another midweek service, our Bro. Randy Mogler gave us insights into the Passover meal and related it to the Last Supper and Communion. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) lent himself in our service at Holy Communion on March 19. What a sacred and solemn evening.

Two new babies have joined us recently. On February 22, Amelia Ann was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Nicole Steffen. Adelayde is her big sister. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen and Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum (Phoenix, AZ). And little Ty Harold, son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel arrived on March 2. Ethan and Kara love their new baby brother. Kent and Janet Hodel and Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz (Roanoke, IL) are Ty's grandparents.

We rejoice also with Bro. Todd and Sis. JoEllen Martin who have recently returned from Russia with a daughter and son, Yana and Alex, who are siblings, ages 8 and 7. Bro. Todd's parents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin (Eureka, IL) and Sis. JoEllen's parents are Harold and

Loretta Wettstein of Washington. We pray God's blessing on his new family and look forward to meeting them soon.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold) in the death of her brother, Bro. Ken Zeltwanger (Sis. Edna), of Morris, MN. May God comfort all who feel this loss.

Note of Thanks:

It was nice to be surprised with so many cards on my 80th birthday while we were in Phoenix. Thanks to everyone.

Bro. Carl Wyss

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Amber Steffen
Elizabeth Frauhiger

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Earlene Steffen in the passing of her dear husband, Bro. Louis Steffen. He passed away on February 16 at the age of 86. Also mourning their loss are his children, Kent Steffen and Keith Steffen (Marie). We also weep with our Sis. Sharon Barger (Bro. Gary) as she laid to rest her mother, Virginia Lawson. Virginia passed away on February 25. Our sincerest thoughts and prayers are with these dear families.

We are thankful for Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) as they shared the Word with us this month. We also appreciate Elder Bro. Phil's assistance in serving Communion to us this month. Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO)

and Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) also assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz in this precious remembrance of our Saviour's sacrifice.

We welcomed Sis. Alyssa Tonner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy), Sis. Heather Price (Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonya), Bro. Andy Kaeher (Bro. Keith and Sis. LouAnn) and Bro. Trevor Tonner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie) into the fold on February 20. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be their guide in their new walk.

Our prayers are with those who have not been feeling so well these past few weeks. They are: Sisters Marge Ringger, Marmie Gerber, Hilda Steffen, Margrite Kipfer, and Bro. Bob Reimschisel (Sis. Louise).

"Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:7

The angels in Heaven rejoice that a sinner has turned in repentance. We also rejoice with Bob Steffen (Sis. Nova, dec.) as he has turned his back on the world to follow the Saviour.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda Grube have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Rozanna, to Bro. Micah Rauch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North). We pray that God's guiding hand will be upon them as they embark on this new journey.

Joining hands and hearts in Holy Matrimony on February 27 was Bro. Todd Fiechter (Bro. Rick

and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Jessica Reinhard (Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jan). We pray that they will continue to allow the Lord to be their Guide.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Darren Drayer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

After much searching and praying, there were two engagements announced this month. Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube (Bluffton, IN) joyfully announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Rozanna (Bluffton, IN), to Bro. Micah Rauch, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy. The second engagement was Sis. Kristina Warren to Bro. Rob Jolloff, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev. We are prayerful for each couple that together they would grow deeper in the love of Christ.

Monica and Estee Frauhiger welcomed their new baby brother to their family, Winston William. Winston William's parents are Bro. Grant and Sis. Maura Frauhiger. His joyful grandparents are Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner and Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane Frauhiger.

Likewise, Adin Stoller is a big

brother now at the birth of his baby sister, Avia Grace. Bro. Phillip and Sis. Aimee Stoller are her parents, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Meyer and Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller (Bluffton, IN) are the grateful grandparents.

Visiting the hospital this month were Bro. Harry and Sis. Clarice Isch, Bro. Dan Kieser, and Sis. Marge Ringger. We continue to lift these dear brothers and sisters up in prayer.

"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."

Psalms 4:8

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber**

Greetings of Love from Francesville! As I record this month's news and extend that precious greeting, I wonder if we as brethren really realize the significance of this greeting! May it be the blessing it was designed of God to be and unite our hearts in fellowship. Christian greetings are written of in the New Testament fifteen times to emphasize the beauty of loving and honoring our brother and sister in the Lord.

Peace and love impel the greeting,
Greetings do our love impart;
Christian greetings are a blessing,
As a pray'r console the heart.

There is comfort, peace and blessing.

Of a greeting in the Lord.
Verse 3 "Christian Greetings"
Hymns of Zion

It is with great "joy" that we announce the engagement of our dear Sis. Joy Gutwein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Jason Huber (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly). They are both from our home congregation and plan a May wedding. It is our prayer that God will richly bless their lives together. Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy both repented in their young years and it is so encouraging to witness God's faithful hand unfolding their lives.

Our brother, Irvin (Sis. Lois) Yaggie, has undergone surgery and is recuperating at home. We pray that his recovery is quick and complete. We will be happy to have him assembling with us once again.

Our Bible Class participated in ACYF at Purdue University on Sunday, March 13. We were asked to pray that their day was blessed and that seeds were sown for future spiritual growth for each and every student.

We are looking forward to the blessing of Easter and the remembrance of our Lord's great sacrifice for our salvation. As we study the last week of Jesus' life on earth, may it generate personal revival and renewal in all of us.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

II Corinthians 5:21

Note of Thanks:

I wish to express my thanks to every one who remembered me

with lovely cards, flowers, gifts and good wishes on my 90th birthday. God bless each one of you.

Sis. Emilie Anliker

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Debbie Anliker
Sandy Lichtle**

On February 20, the engagement of Bro. Scott Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Kate Ringger (Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna, Gridley, IL) was announced. We rejoice with them and pray for the Lord's continued guidance and blessings as they prepare for their wedding.

We sincerely welcome Bro. Dan, Sis. Betty, Katrina, and Minnie Baltic and Chad and Jill Christner to our congregation. May they feel at home here in Indy.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) for bringing the truths of God's Word to us this past month. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Shirley Frank
Cathy Nuest**

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Hymns of Zion #161

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ralph Fritz, Sr., who passed away February 17. He is survived by his wife, Pat; their three children; a sister, Sis. Sylvia Banwart (Eureka, IL); and a brother, Otto Fritz, Jr., of La-Crosse.

This month, Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) visited our congregation on Wednesday evenings. It's always a special blessing when we have visiting brethren minister unto us during mid-week services.

Sis. Erma Moser has been moved to the hospital from Parkview Haven, where she and Sis. Lorene Moser are now residing. We pray that they will feel God's nearness during the twilight years of their lives.

A group went to Florida on the week of February 26 – March 5 to help rebuild after the devastation of the hurricanes. May the Lord bless this project that has been undertaken.

We had a blessed time of spiritual fellowship with brethren from many different churches during our Fellowship Weekend. We thank Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) for ministering to us.

Our young couples enjoyed a potluck supper while our single group watched their children. We appreciate their thoughtfulness. Later, a singing was enjoyed by all.

“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither

have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

I Cor. 2:9

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie) at the passing of his mother, Sis. Loretta Schneider (Remington, IN). Although they are thankful their mother could be relieved of her suffering, her presence will be greatly missed here on earth.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

Our prayers are with Sis. Tammy Herrmann (Bro. Mark) as she recovers from surgery. May God's grace sustain her during treatment and healing. Sis. Marie Bertsch (Bro. David) has been hospitalized for several days. We pray for healing as she returns home.

Gateway Woods hosted an informational meeting for church representatives on March 12; many stayed over for Sunday.

The church honored Bro. Tim Wiegand and Sis. Christa Kaeb at a singing shower the evening of March 13. Their parents were here with us. May they feel the Lord's grace as they prepare for their April 3 wedding date.

The engagement of Sis. Julie Zimmerman to Bro. Kurt Schrock of Congerville, IL, was announced. We are very happy for this couple and pray they feel God's blessings in their commitment. Sis. Julie's parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman and Bro. Kurt's par-

ents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock, both of Congerville.

The Steppingstone Prayer
I do not ask to walk smooth paths
Nor bear an easy load.
I pray for strength and fortitude
To climb the rock-strewn road.

Give me such courage I can scale
The hardest peaks alone,
And transform every stumbling
block
Into a stepping stone.
—Gail Brook Burket

Fill me with Thy purpose, Lord,
As Thou hast filled the sleeping
seeds;
Like them, let me grow tall in
grace,
Blossoming in noble deeds.
—Lurline McKenzie Leigh

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Carlton Beer
Carol Haab**

“And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”

Luke 22:19-20

We had the privilege of partaking Holy Communion on March 5. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) graciously assisted our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in this holy sacrament. We sincerely thank these brothers for their labor of love.

Other visiting ministers this

month were Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Charles Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). It is always a blessing to receive God's Word from His willing servants. May they be blessed for their efforts.

Big brothers, Cody, Dalton, and Riley welcomed a new baby sister, Emma Lynn, on February 1. May God guide the happy parents, Tom and Jodi Haab, as they raise their precious family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab and Keith and Carol Hefflefinger.

Our prayers go out to those who have been hospitalized. They are Sis. Eleanor Beer and Bro. Maurice Beer. May God's comforting hand and healing power touch them.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

During the Easter season we remember the pain and suffering of our Lord, so that our sins could be washed away by His blood. God gave His Son so we might be forgiven and have the hope to live eternally in heaven. May we never forget this great sacrifice. Our prayer is for all to come to the cross and repent so Christ's death will not be in vain.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

Tammy Waibel

Another month has gone by and we at Remington would like to send Christian Greetings and love to all of you. We have had a busy month and would like to share our joys and sorrows with all of you.

One event we missed on December 22, 2004, was the birth of Lydia Kay Nieman to Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea Nieman. Welcoming this bundle of joy home was big brother Cade and grandparents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller. Also, born to Megan Reyes on January 21 was Jayden Enajah. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Isabell. We apologize for not getting these in sooner.

Valerie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) has, by faith, chosen to follow in the way of the Lord in repentance. May she always feel the nearness to the Lord as she did when she first submitted to Him.

In the hospital recently was Bro. Jeremy Scheitlin (Sis. Amanda). Also, daughter of Megan Reyes, Sierra, was in the hospital recently for a tonsillectomy and Jayden Enajah has been in the hospital twice since being born. May the Lord be with these families in their time of need.

We had reason to celebrate here in Remington as four souls gave their testimonies on February 26 and then were baptized on February 27. Our new brothers and sister in Christ are: Sis. Janessa Wahl (Bro. Fred and Sis. Libby), Bro. Evan and Bro. Jesse

Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Dave Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette). We are overjoyed for them and their families at this wonderful time. The angels are rejoicing.

The visiting ministers for this blessed occasion were: Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). Thank you, brothers and your families, for coming and being a part of this joyous weekend with us.

The men of the church attended a seminar called "Growing Godly Men". Thank you, Bro. Kent Kloter of Gateway Woods, for coming and sharing.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

All of us here at Remington are feeling the loss of two of our dear Sisters in faith. The Lord has called Sis. Norma R. (Frey) Wasner home to be with him on February 19 at age 85. She was born May 23, 1919. Her daughters are Barb (Spider) Sigo and Marcella (Dale) Tyler. Two grandchildren: Krystal and Kerry Tyler. Sisters: Sis. Velma Wilson (Remington, IN), Sis. Evelyn Lehman (Altadena, CA), Sis. Lois

Bahler (Bro. Edwin, Remington), Carolyn (Ray) Bahler and Marge (Verlin) Stoller, both of New Haven, IN. Brothers: Lloyd (Thelma) Frey and Wally (Adeline) Frey, both of Remington, IN. Her husband, Bro. Art, preceded her in death in October, 1988. We rejoice in the knowledge that we will one day be able to see her again.

The Lord has also called home another dear soul, Sis. Loretta Ann Beckley Schneider, at age 66, on March 11. She was born May 17, 1938. She leaves behind her husband, Bro. Ken Schneider; daughters: Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb (Bro. Eric, Cissna Park, IL) and Sis. Lisa Walder (Bro. John, Urbana, IL); sons: Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, Valparaiso, IN), Stan Schneider (Patty, Fort Wayne, IN), Bro. Greg Schneider (Sis. Heidi, Remington, IN), Bro. Dale Schneider (Sis. Andrea, Kouts, IN), Bro. Brian Schneider (Sis. Kristen), and Eric Schneider (Jessica, Monticello, IN); 28 grandchildren; two brothers: Elmer (Nancy) Beckley of Remington, IN, and LeRoy (Donalou) Beckley of Stilwell, KS; and three sisters: Sis. Velda and Sis. LaVina Beckley (Remington, IN), and Wilma (Neal, Lee, FL) Baer. Thank you, Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), for helping our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus, Bro. Dan Stoller and Bro. Al Schambach with the funeral service of Sis. Loretta.

May we all be in prayer for the families of Sis. Norma Wasner and Sis. Loretta Schneider in

their time of need. Both women were wonderful mothers, grandmothers and help mates. Their lives were a testimony to all of us who knew them and loved them.

On March 18, we were reminded of the sacrifice offered to us as Jesus died on the cross for our sins, when the children got up and shared with us the Easter Story. What a wonderful feeling we get when we know there is a heaven and a loving God waiting for us.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Norma Wasner wishes to thank those who remembered her with cards and visits while she was at the care center and for the love, support, kind deeds and prayers offered on our behalf during the loss of our dear mother and grandmother. May God bless each one of you.

*Spider and Barb Sigo
Dale and Marcella Tyler
Krystal and Kerry Tyler*

Words will never express our appreciation and gratitude for all the prayers, cards, food, gifts, personal visits, phone calls and encouraging words during our loved one's years of illness and then the expressions of sympathy at the time of her departure from this life. May God richly bless you all for your acts of kindness.

The family of Sis. Loretta Schneider

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Melissa Gerst

Stacey Feller

The weekend of March 5 and 6, our congregation enjoyed the fellowship of our annual fellowship weekend. Bro. Fred Witzig and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Indianapolis, IN), were among those who came, and we thank Bro. Fred for his inspiration to us through the Word.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Ernestine Meister after two subsequent surgeries and the death of a loved one. We are thankful that she is able to assemble with us many Sundays. She wishes to express appreciation with the following note:

I want to thank everyone for your prayers during my surgery and recovery. At the same time how you were there for me and the family in the sudden illness and death of my brother, William Meister. Many thanks to all for your prayers, visits, telephone calls, cards, flowers and gifts, and also for the meals. We will always remember your kindness. May God richly bless you.

*Ernestine Meister
Nieces and Nephews*

Note to South Bend subscribers: Silver Lining dues are being collected in April. Please see correspondents re: payment. Thank you.

**INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Ed Lester**

“Grace be to you, and peace,

from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 1:2

Have you ever wondered what Jonah was thinking about while he was in the belly of the fish? At first, he was probably blaming God for his troubles. Sounds like something I would do? Until he finally realized his own disobedience was the cause and prayed about it. Moses made excuses when God told him to go talk to Pharaoh.

Do you ever feel like you have been making excuses to get out of doing something God is asking you to do?

Pretending like you don't hear God — don't hide your talents. (Mt. 25:24-30)

Feeling like you just don't have what it takes. (Jgs. 6:14-16)

So how do you know when God is talking to you? By looking to His Word you can find the guidance you are seeking. God talks to us in many different ways; being able to recognize His voice is the key to spiritual growth.

We at Valparaiso would like to welcome to our congregation Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea Schneider and family. We also want to express our sympathy to them in the passing of Bro. Dale's mother, Sis. Loretta Schneider (Bro. Ken), of Remington, Indiana.

This month the ACTIVE children made care packages for our young adults that are off at college.

We all would like to thank Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for worshipping with us this past

month and preaching God's Word.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Diana Houston
Nettie Haab**

Showers of Blessings.

There are showers of blessings when spring finally arrives! It's so nice to see the robins again along with spring flowers.

We happily announce the engagement of Bro. Jason Huber (Francesville, IN) to Sis. Joy Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein, all of Francesville, IN.

Collegestudent Andrew Huber has surrendered his life to the Lord. Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber (Francesville, IN).

Our visiting ministers this past month have been the following: Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Sid Kaufmann (Sis. Sandra, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We are so thankful for their willingness to come and share God's Word.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein have a new baby girl to add to their family, Isabella Claire born March 3. Other siblings at home are Carl Brecken and Kaitlin.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Elaine Bahler

Lisa Furrer

Visitors are truly a blessing and we were thankful to have Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville) share the Word with us.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...”

John 3:16

We were once again humbled as the Easter story was brought to us in recitation and song at our Sunday School program. A special thank you to our Remington congregation for sharing their church facility with us to host the program. Our building/remodeling project is progressing and, as we see some of the finishing work begin, we are anxious for its completion.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

Most of us hear the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus at least once every year. How often do we read of His ascension, which, according to Acts 1:3, took place around 40 days after His resurrection? It must have been a glorious sight for the disciples to witness Jesus being carried up into heaven.

What a precious fellowship is ours! It is something that we can never appreciate in our unconverted state. We were recently blessed by hosting a few from Congerville/Goodfield single

group. What an edifying and uplifting blessing it is to fellowship, in the Lord, with those of like mind and faith.

We are thankful that Sis. Millie Butikofer (Bro. Paul) is home from the hospital, and gaining strength daily.

As Becky Frieden (Sis. Gloria) and Eric Pryor (Richard) make plans for their June wedding, we wish them much grace to seek God's direction and will for their lives.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

Once again we see God's glory, as all His creation breaks forth from winter's hold, and the world around us turns from brown to many shades of green, accented with the colors of many spring blooms. Where a grassfire has consumed last year's withered grasses, the new growth seems even more vibrant and beautiful. Often we see the parallel in our Christian lives — if sorrow or hardship visits, the Christian soul's love for God appears even stronger and more alive.

We are thankful for all our visitors this month, especially those brothers who so freely teach us from the Word, including Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and our own Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield- Pulaski).

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

We have been enjoying the few warm days we've had occasionally over the last few weeks of winter.

It gives us a hope of spring coming just as our current relationship with Christ and His brethren gives us a hope and expectation of better and lasting things to come.

Recently, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) visited and, along with Bro. Joe, shared the reading of the Memorandum letter. We appreciate their thoughts and insights on the topics the Elder brothers addressed in the letter. We also thank Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen for staying Sunday.

IOWA, LESTER

Dawn Knobloch

Dawn Metzger

We wish God's blessings upon the lives of Bro. Kevin Wulf and Sis. Annie Metzger as they were united in marriage on March 13. Bro. Denny and Sis. Judy Wulf (Morris, MN) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger are the couple's parents. Among our visitors here for this special occasion were ministering Bros. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Roy Koehl (Morris, MN). Sharing God's Word with us earlier in the month was Bro. Mike Rinckenberger from the Congerville, IL, congregation.

The gift of God's peace is a wonderful blessing and we were reminded of this as Travis and Tammy Detwyler's peace was shared with us. They worship with the Silverton, OR, congregation, but Tammy grew up in our congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers always wend to those that are suffering from a physical ailment.

Those spending time in the hospital this past month were Todd Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona). At this time of writing, Sis. Emma Gerber is hospitalized and awaiting surgery after suffering from a fall. David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) spent some time at St. Paul Children's Hospital but we are thankful to report he is now back at home.

On March 9, Madyson Elizabeth was born to Kevin and Janet Oleson. Excited siblings are Maranda, Thomas, Tanner and Morgan. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger. We extend our congratulations to this family.

We share our sympathy with Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee Knobloch in the death of Sis. Coralee's brother, Tom Gerritson.

We send our best regards to Mark Dietrich as he has moved back to Silverton, OR, after living in our area for a time.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Rosalie Wiegand

Sharla Wiegand

We are thankful for the ministers who visited our congregation this month: Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL). A very informative and touching presentation was given at our fellowship center by Bro. Matt Steffen and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) on the history and current status of Timber Ridge.

The Bible Class was privileged to spend a weekend in Sabetha, KS. It is our hope that the friendships made that weekend will continue for a long time.

The Conference Report was read and expounded on with the help of visiting Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL).

**IOWA
BLOOMFIELD-PULASKI
Barbara Schock**

Haste and seek your soul's salvation

Heed the Word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,

Leading to eternal fire;

Seek the everlasting treasure,

Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp #177

We are very thankful that we have had souls seek out their soul's salvation. We rejoice with Jenny Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa) and Andy and Stacy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Joos, Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich), as all three have turned their lives over to the Lord.

We also would like to welcome Dan Rokey (Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis) to our congregation, as he has moved out here to farm. We rejoice with him and his parents as he has also turned his life over to the Lord. We are thankful for our four converts.

This month we had visiting ministers. On March 6, Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) was here for the week-

end. We thank him for his time and effort here as he was alone on the pulpit.

On March 12 and 13, we had our annual church Invite -A- Couple. It was a very enjoyable weekend with a number of visitors. Some of them were well known here, but it was nice to get to know the many others we did not know. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield) and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) were here for the weekend. We thank them also for their efforts to preach the Word to us.

“...Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”

John 21:17

On a Thursday night, a good number of our congregation got together to assemble soup kits. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and enjoyable to work together to help feed others in the world.

**IOWA, WEST BEND
Lori Skoglund
Sue Schneider**

Even though we were unable to enjoy any visiting ministers this past month, we did appreciate the many brothers, sisters, friends and their families who visited us from various congregations. It is always a blessing to fellowship with both old and new acquaintances.

Sis. Sara Metzger was our only surgical patient this month. We are so thankful she seems to be making a good recovery. Sis. Madeline Banwart, Sis. Frances

Zaugg, Sis. Berniece Banwart and Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm have all been hospitalized for medical reasons. May God's healing hand be over each of them.

We sympathize with Sis. Frances Zaugg at the passing of her sister, Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bern, KS). Sis. Lucy has many nephews and nieces in our congregation. We extend our sympathy to them also.

As we look about and observe our world during this spring time, we can detect the signs of a wonderful rebirth on the earth. May we each look within ourselves, examine our own hearts, and say with the Psalmist, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

**JAPAN, SHIODA
Eiko Nozawa**

Sis. Haruko Saegusa had her 88th birthday recently. One's 88th birthday is a very special one called “Beiju”. Those who were at church on the first Sunday of March wrote a few lines for her and wished God's blessings on her.

On March 13, church attendance was doubled. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus brought the whole family and Bro. Steven Sauder (Roanoke, IL) who has been staying with them.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger, and their daughter, Sis. Kay, were our guests on the third Sunday of March.

We thank God for each one of these visitors. It's a joy to receive loving greetings from their home churches and loved ones. May

God bless their lives and homes.

KANSAS, BERN
Rita Menold
Sheri Edelman

Bro. Clint and Sis. Kristi Strahm are rejoicing at the arrival of their first child, Katrina Mary, on February 15! Happy grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold of Forrest, IL. We wish Bro. Clint and Sis. Kristi God's blessings as they raise and nurture their precious bundle from Heaven!

March 5 was a beautiful day for the wedding of Byron Stoller and Emily Edelman. Parents of the newlyweds are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Edelman of Sabetha and Bro. Darrell and Sis. Gloria Stoller. We certainly want to wish them God's Blessings as they establish their home together!

As we assemble with the Sabetha congregation on Wednesday evenings, we were blessed to have two visiting ministers with us this past month! We thank Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) for proclaiming God's Almighty Word to us!

Our congregation is overjoyed to have Sis. Mary Berg (Bro. Bill) back worshipping with us again, after recovering from an automobile accident. God truly has worked a miracle in Sis. Mary as she has made a tremendous recovery! We continue to pray for her and her family. We also hold Bro. Emil Strahm up in prayer, as he was also hospitalized this past

month.

The victory was won for Sis. Lucy Rokey, as she was laid to rest on March 12. We think of her children, Bro. Allen Rokey (Sis. Glenda), and Sis. Maretta Rokey of Morton, IL, and also her siblings, Bro. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Sis. Frances Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We will miss Sis. Lucy, but we know that she has won the great reward!

Bro. Heath Coburn has returned to his home in Peoria, IL. We pray that God will watch over Bro. Heath wherever he may go, and invite him to visit us often!

As the Easter holiday is approaching, we should never forget Christ's death on the Cross and resurrection! It is only through His shed blood upon the Cross that we have the hope of eternal life with Him in Heaven!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ethel Smith

Our greetings in Christ Jesus - this season when we celebrate our Risen Lord. We are surrounded with plants and trees that appear dead, but we see little buds appear and new life springs forth. A wonderful parallel to ourselves, when we become dead to sin, we experience a new life in Christ Jesus. Our Sunday school will present their Easter Program on Palm Sunday.

March 2, our Elder Bro. John Lehman and Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi assembled with us and read the Memorandum and presented an exhortation for Communion service, which will be April 2. This, too, is a time of cleansing

and renewing our faith in preparation for partaking of this holy sacrament.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Timothy Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont - Gridley, KS), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), and Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL). God's blessings to each and every one for the effort put forth to serve our church. The fellowship is much appreciated.

"Although we cannot comprehend His plan, we must trust Him. God allows trials in people's lives to shape their characters and mold their will to His. He knows what man can never understand - the only way for a person to be truly free is to be fully surrendered, the singular path to happiness is marked with suffering, the only way to be filled is to be spilled. We can never be our own until we are His. Christ demonstrated these truths in His life, and death. JESUS' ENTIRE LIFE WAS A SACRIFICE."

I took this paragraph from a 11th grade student's paper, titled, "Fathomless", in which she was explaining God's mercy and plan for His people on the subject of Job 38:4. Yes, we do have to be spilled to be filled with a Christ-like mind.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

Why do you go to church? Bro. Jay recited this poem in this past month:

Some Go To Church

Some go to church to take a walk
 Some go to church to laugh and
 talk
 Some go to church to meet a friend
 Some go to church some time to
 spend
 Some go to church for speculation
 Some go to church for observation
 Some go to church to worship God
 Why did you come to church to-
 day?

February 26-27 we were listening when Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) brought us the Memorandum. Bro. Jon related that a minister had the question asked from a wife, "How much income is the Lord's?" Reply: "Everything is God's." As a boy, he was joyfully riding his bike and an older man stopped him and asked him to rake leaves in his yard. He reluctantly laid his bike down and did a sloppy job of raking. Then the man gave him a dollar and ... he wished he'd done a better job.

Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) was with us for Invite a Guest weekend March 13 and ministered to us. He related how when he visited Grandma Emma (she was Aunt Emma to me) it comforted him to know that she would still sing the hymns when she didn't respond to anything else. I could relate to that - my memory recall, especially for names and dates, goes into "call waiting" but the words with music come more easily. Almost 51 years ago Aunt Emma (I had just been married and moved to Kansas) asked me to teach Bible School as one of the

grandchildren was ill. We had between 50-60 students. Uncle Henry was one of the ministers then and led the prayers at Bible School. Now our Gridley church has been torn down, we've joined with Lamont and our united Sunday School is small. Everyone appreciates visitors - young and old. We are "out West" where the coyotes still howl at night on the prairie, but we do enjoy air conditioning when the summer 100 degree temperatures arrive!

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Dawn Strahm
 Jeanelle Plattner**

Our congregation has been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) brought God's Word to us on Sunday, February 20. That same weekend retired Elder Bros. Gene Marti (Kansas City, MO) and Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) spoke to our Bible class students during our Sunday School weekend. Bible class students and teachers from Tremont, IL; Oakville and Burlington, IA; and Bern, KS, were also in attendance.

Other visiting ministers included Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), and Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) was with us for a Wednesday evening service. God provides abundantly for our needs and we thank these brothers for their willing service.

Byron Stoller (Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS) and Emily

Edelman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) were united in marriage on Saturday, March 5. We wish this new couple many blessings as they begin life as one.

On the weekend of March 12-13, our church enjoyed gathering together for the bi-annual invite-a-guest weekend. Many thanks to those that hosted the Saturday night meal and singing. It is a blessing to meet and greet those of like mind and faith from across the land!

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

I had a special privilege the weekend of March 27 when I met a brother who grew up in the Wichita congregation but moved to Indiana sometime in the sixties. Bro. Marty Langhofer and his wife, Sis. Lavilla, had been in Manhattan for a meeting at K-State, Marty's alma mater. They then came to Wichita to spend time with his parents, Bro. Al and Sis. Judy. It was humbling to hear Bro. Marty share some of his experiences as a veterinarian and as a Christian. He spent a Sunday in one of the Apostolic churches in Romania that had been built with American funds. If I understood him correctly, the church services in Romania lasted much longer than they do here in the States.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi spent Sunday, March 20, with us to share the Conference letter. Bro. Jay had come to Wichita a few weeks earlier for the same purpose but felt it wise to wait until more of our regular ministers

could be present. Thankfully, Bro. Max Reimschisel is recovered from a serious bout with the flu. We certainly are indebted to our Elder Brothers for their willingness to meet our needs.

We assembled on Saturday evening, March 5, for Holy Communion services. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) presided and was assisted by Bro. Max Reimschisel. After my sister and I retired to her home for the night, I asked her how she felt about the Communion service. She replied, "It was such a pleasant experience." I agreed. We are indebted to Bro. Sauder and his wife, Sis. Miriam, and to Bro. Curt Rassi and Sis. Kathy for their willingness to make the long drive from Tremont to Wichita to minister to our needs. Our own Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane took the time to come and partake of Communion with us and then went back to their own congregation for Sunday services. May God grant our ministers the necessary health and stamina for the tasks they encounter.

Bro. Milton Bowers was hospitalized again this month. He was dismissed this past weekend but is in a weakened condition. We are keeping him and his caregivers in our prayers knowing that God's perfect timing will be revealed.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Once again, we are praising the Lord for calling Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne) to repentance. We are praying for him as

he begins his new journey with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our congratulations go to Chris Blough (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz) and Michelle Neeb (Mr. and Mrs. Neeb) for the recent announcement of their engagement.

A big heartfelt thanks goes to all who were involved in all aspects of the successful spaghetti dinner benefit put on for Ramona Humphrey on Friday, March 18.

We are praising God for Sis. Mary Herrmann's (Bro. Robert) successful surgery this month. Mary is home and recovering well.

Our thoughts and prayers go to everyone who suffered from illness this past month; there has been a lot of colds, flu's and various other illness floating around. Our hope is that all will be feeling well for the celebration of Easter Sunday.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen with us on a recent Wednesday evening for exhortation on Communion. As we look forward to this holy commemoration, let us be prayerful and thankful for the Lord's great sacrifice. Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) spent a recent Sunday with us as Bro. Bill Waibel was alone on the pulpit. It is such a blessing when visiting ministers can come and support our own local brethren.

Aaron Kaeb (Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne, Alto, MI) has begun his

walk with the Lord. Aaron is working in our area and we are thankful for his presence on Wednesday evenings. We wish him the Lord's blessings as he seeks Him in repentance.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Erwin (Sis. Nina) Wieland as he spent some time in the hospital recently due to a fall. He is currently recovering at an area nursing home. We pray that the Lord will continue to be with him and heal him if it is His will so that he can be restored safely home again. Fred (Helen) Knochel was a surgical patient down in Florida and we pray for him as he recovers.

March 12-13, our young group had an invite a friend weekend. It was a blessed weekend of fellowship and we certainly enjoyed having visitors in our congregation!

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my 80th birthday with cards and prayers which were very much appreciated. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.

Sis. Maxine Virkler

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tiffany Wieland
Mary Weigele

"What Will You Do With Jesus?" This was the theme of the Easter Program presented by the Detroit Sunday School and various vocal groups on Palm Sunday. This certainly is an appropriate question for each of us to ask ourselves as we reflect on Jesus'

death and resurrection and give thanks for all of our blessings.

We have been reminded recently of the words found in Romans 12:15 which tells us that we should "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." We have experienced both the joys of birth and the sorrow of death here in our congregation. We rejoice with Laza and Sis. Ranka Mojic as they became first-time grandparents when Natalia Angelina was born to Mike and Sylvia Robb of Prescott, AZ. Also, Ken, Bobbi, and little Ava Kaisner welcomed Luke Aaron into their home and hearts. Luke is the grandson of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner. We pray that God will bless these families to raise their children in His love and mercy.

We also felt sorrow for those close to us who experienced the death of loved ones. Our sympathies are extended to Chuck and Dorothy Leman at the loss of her brother, Bro. Harlow Blunier, of the Roanoke congregation. We also shared our grief with Sis. Ruth Knochel at the death of her sister, Sis. Esther Graf, of Akron, and with Sis. Vi Barton (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Martha Szilagy at the sudden passing of their brother, Robert Koprince. We know that God will grant comfort to all who sorrow, and we continue to remember them in our prayers.

We rejoice with Stephanie Meyer and Zackery Brown on their recent engagement. Stephanie's parents are Sis. Kristi Meyer and Mark Meyer. Zackery's parents are Tom and Jean Brown of

Holt, MI. We also want to pray for God's blessings on Dan Kujawa and Christine Cassel as they were married on March 19. Dan's parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa.

We are so grateful for those who are led of God to the mission field and share their time and talents with those who are less fortunate. Recently, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz traveled to Haiti and Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard were in Mexico. They shared with us the many blessings they received and how they were humbled by all the love shown to them. Locally, the Detroit Church continues with our "Hands and Feet" outreach and have been touched by the gratitude from those who benefit from our efforts. We want to thank all those who continue to plan and organize these worthwhile activities.

Our church is looking forward to hosting the first Michigan-Toledo, OH sing on Sunday evening, May 15. This will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Woodpointe and all are welcome! Also, the 17th annual Choir Benefit day of worship and fellowship will be held on July, 17, 2005. We encourage all who can to join us in a day of praise and thanksgiving.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill**

Have you ever heard the saying, "Today is a gift - that's why it is called 'the present'."? While initially this might seem like a trite word play, it is a good re-

minder, and we can learn from it. I have a friend, who, in her yearly birthday card reminds me to thank God for "the gift of life". We've had two opportunities in our congregation to celebrate life. Sis. Millie Schmidgall celebrated 85 years of life on February 25. A gathering was hosted by her family, and many of her birth and church family had the opportunity to attend.

A new life was added to the Bergstrom family. Blake Douglas was born March 15 to Aric and Deena Bergstrom of Eau Claire, WI. Blake's grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Bergstrom, and Dave and Gail Johnson, Apple Valley.

Several in our congregation are enjoying life a bit more now that good health has returned. Sis. Ethel Bednarski is back in MN after spending some time in southern California with her daughter, and is feeling much better. Also, Koye Leenderts, son of Aric and Rae Lynn, spent a few days in the hospital and is healthy once again.

The message of new life, and the blessing of the abundant life in Christ Jesus was shared with us the weekend of March 12-13. Elder Bros. John Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), and Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) were here to share in our Communion service. We also enjoyed the Easter message on Sunday afternoon during our annual Sunday School Easter program.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS**Heidi Nohl
Katie Koehl**

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Darrell Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God bless them for their labors.

Anthony Ekren and Amy Fehr were united in marriage on March 12. Parents of the couple are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr, Vance and Kim Gullickson, and Mark Ekren. On March 13, Bro. Kevin Wulf and Sis. Annie Metzger were united in marriage in Lester, IA. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger (Lester, IA). On March 19, Mike Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Corey Hart were married. And on March 20, Bro. Keith Grimm and Sis. Andrea Koehl were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We trust God will bless these couples as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Kenneth Zeltwanger was laid to rest. We extend a sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Edna, and three sons: Bro. Dale (Sis. Rachel), Bro. Loren (Sis. Rhonda) and Rollyn (Jodi).

Hope Maree was born to Dave and Alison Schmidgall. She is welcomed home by big sister, Faith. Grandparents are Sis. Bev Minke and Doug and Pat Schmidgall. Jeremy William was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Heidi Wulf. Megan is a happy big sister. Thankful

grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion), Bro. Karl Koehl (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Hazel Moser, Sis. Lillie Luthi, and Sis. Sophie Nohl. We pray God will grant them healing where it is His will.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner**

Winthrop hosted the Sunday School meeting for the churches involved in the Youth Fellowship weekend. We are thankful for God's guidance as activities and events are planned for our youth.

We would like to announce the engagement of Russell Miller (Sam and Sandy) to Amanda Kisor (Rick Kisor and Teresa Heath). May they look to the Lord as they plan their new life together.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn), Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou), and Malakai Ebling (Adrian and Beckie). We pray the Lord will continue to watch over them and place His healing hands upon each one.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**Garry and Marty Rokey**

"For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:

For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

And he took bread; and gave thanks, and brake it and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:16-19

We are thankful that Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Don Braker in providing the Communion service for us. By participating in the Lord's Supper, we are reminded of what Christ has done for us. When we partake of it, we show our appreciation for His suffering and death on the cross for our sins and this points to the coming of His kingdom in glory, thereby strengthening our faith and unity.

We also appreciate the many labors of Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) as he visited our congregation this month.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Mindy Braker
Wendy Braker**

We are thankful that there are ministering brothers who are willing to preach the Word by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Among our many visitors this past month were the following ministers: Bros. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), James Koehl (San Diego, CA), Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). May God

bless them for their labors.

Hospitalized this past month was our Sis. Edith Hohulin (Bro. Martin). May God grant grace and strength to Sis. Edith.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). We look forward to Bro. Kent returning this month for our Communion service.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk are enjoying being grandparents with the birth of their first granddaughter, Madeline Elizabeth, on February 15. Her parents are Joshua and Rachel Miller, Burbank, CA.

Spring is here, and a great time to reflect on the lessons God teaches us through His creation. At the right time, each flower blossoms to the color it was designed to be; may we drink in the sunshine and rain life brings with patience...that we too could bloom where planted.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Sally Haerr

Signs of spring are all around us and how we enjoy the rebirth of God's creation. Rebirth is about new beginnings and we rejoice with Bro. Jeff Knobloch as he was baptized and welcomed into our church family as a brother in Christ. There is no higher standing. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis.

Connie, Bern, KS) came to assist Bro. Kent for this occasion.

On March 2, Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) came to present a topical Bible study to our church entitled, "Joy in the Journey". On March 5, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) came to help serve Holy Communion to us. Also that same weekend, Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) came to be with us. We want to say "Thank You" to these brothers, and we know that God will bless and reward you.

Our congregation is rejoicing in the selection of Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn) as our new minister. We pray that God will give him much grace and wisdom as he preaches the truth of God's Word.

The Sunday School Soup Supper was held at the Fellowship Center on March 12. All those involved were thankful for the generous donations. Some of the proceeds went to help a lady that has cancer.

Bro. Steve Sutter (Sis. Deb) is in the hospital following emergency surgery on March 19. He is still in need of our prayers for a complete recovery.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have completed our World Relief projects for the winter. On March 4 we assembled quilts in the afternoon and then put together school kits in the evening. The afternoon of March 18 we also finished with our quilting

projects, enjoyed a potluck meal together and then put together snack mixes in the evening. This was our first time making snack bags and we all had a great time. These treats were then delivered to a children's home in Watertown and those who wanted to received a tour of the facility. They were very thrilled with their bag of goodies!

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Sis. Lois Schambach on March 17 and her husband, Bro. Dave, on the 23rd. They were long time residents of our area and moved out to the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman, OH, several years ago. They have always held a special place in the heart of the Croghan -Naumburg congregation and our prayers extend to the many children, grandchildren and extended family in their loss.

Beyond the sunset, O blissful morning,
When with our Saviour heaven is begun.
Earth's toiling ended, O glorious dawning,
Beyond the sunset when day is done.
Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones who've gone before.
In that fair homeland we'll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset forever more.
Hymns of Zion #172, vs. 1,4

OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that Matthew Pamer has turned to the Lord in repentance. He is the son of Bro.

Steve and Sis. Arliss Pamer. May he feel the Lord's presence always.

Bro. Daniel Pamer was on a work project for an agriculture school in Haiti. We appreciate his willingness to serve, and we are glad they returned home safely.

Bro. David Schambach, Bro. Joe Grossenbacher, and Sis. Janice Graf were hospitalized and we wish the Lord's blessings for all of them.

Bruce Fritz, 52, passed away March 1. He had been working in Texas and came home to be with his mother and family since October. His mother is Sis. Esther Fritz, and his father was the late Bro. Harold Fritz. His sister is Diana Stingley and his brother is Mark Fritz.

Sis. Esther Graf, 86, went home to be with the Lord on March 5. Preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Ellsworth, she is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Dianne and Robert Horn of Indianapolis; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Charlotte of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; grandchildren, Kimberly Horn Conger, Matthew, Michelle, and Sara Graf; brothers, Paul, Bud, Bob, and Don Emery; and sisters, Sis. Martha Laukhuf, Sis. Ruth Knochel, Elsie Gillis, Mary Pyles, Nancy Semonin, and Grace Emery.

Sis. Lois Schambach, 86, went home to be with the Lord on March 17. She had lived most of her life in New York before moving to Rittman in 1998. Surviving are sons: Bro. John (Sis. Joyce) of our Akron church, Gary (Karen)

of Florida, David (Carolyn) of Michigan, and Paul (Lisa) of New York; daughters, Sis. Judith (Bro. Arthur) Gottier of Connecticut and Marilyn (Kevin) Koziol of Virginia; 16 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren.

We appreciated our visiting ministers: Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), and Elder Bros. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

As warm showers of rain usher in our spring season, so we also have been blessed with an abundance of "showers of blessings" in the Columbus congregation this month.

We are so thankful for the many visiting brothers who bring family and friends to our little church. Sharing God's Word and love were Bros. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Rittman, OH), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman), Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina) and Wallace Ramsier (both of Mansfield).

Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder are very thankful for the safe return of their son, Will, from his tour of duty in Iraq. Many prayers were offered on his behalf. They also welcome their daughter, Danielle, home from a lengthy stay in Florida and it's wonderful to have them both in our fellow-

ship once more.

We rejoice with Bro. Casey Banks (Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis) on their recent engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for a wedding and a new life together.

Letter of Thanks:

I recently returned from deployment with an Army "Combat Stress Control Company" in Iraq. I am thankful for the encouragement and blessings I have experienced these past 15 months. There are many things worth mentioning; however, today I write to communicate two things: thanks to you and recognition of our heritage.

The poem, "A Cowboy's Prayer" says "...I thank Thee Lord that I am placed so well...". These words have come to mean a great deal to me since my tour in Iraq. In His mercy, God saw fit to consistently place me well. I am confident that this was no coincidence. The prayers of one humble man are good, yet the steady prayers from so many people are what helped keep me from great compromise throughout the year. It puts an intense sense of humility in me, knowing that one person is indebted to so many. I am grateful for everyone's support and prayers, but regret I cannot adequately demonstrate my appreciation to each of you. Thank you from me. Thank you from the other soldiers, known and unknown, for whom you pray for daily.

I owe thanks for much more than prayers. To people from Michigan to Texas and California to Florida, I am grateful they took the time to encourage my family, write letters, write emails, and send care packages. I certainly never deserved such attention; however these reminders were helpful with such distance and time between there and home. Thank you to the schools and Sunday schools in the Mansfield, Dublin and Detroit areas that sent school and hygiene supplies and gifts. I was honored to distribute your donations to the underprivileged. Thank you for being active in helping others. Your selflessness is what makes our society great. I am proud of our flag, this land, and more importantly, the people of America.

Kuwait, 30 Jan. 2005, the day of Iraqi elections, I sat in Chapel Services. With about sixty others, I sat in awe, a lump in my throat, goose bumps on my arms, and focused on nothing except the resounding voices at the far side of the Chapel. Over seventy men, belonging to the Infantry Brigade primarily from the American Samoan Islands, stood singing in such a harmony it literally took everyone's breath away. Their hymns were in the Samoan language, and although we did not understand the words, we knew the message and felt its impact. The thing that struck me the most was not the sound though. These burly men were the toughest men their small islands had to offer, some community/tribal leaders, all large men, and all bearing

weapons for the United States Army. It amazed me that these powerful men sang with such zeal, confidence, and spirit to God. They all knew the songs by heart, and it was clear that this was an integral part of their society. I could see they found great assurance and strength in the way they worshipped God. I found myself admiring their strong heritage. Then it hit me. I felt great pride as I remembered that our Church community has a heritage of similar power. The pride remained, but I was also ashamed that this was the first time I had felt such a deep appreciation for the Apostolic Christian heritage. Among many things, I am pleased we sing the old hymns in a moving and beautiful way.

I thank the Lord for those who have come before me, keeping a firm foundation for our generations.

*Respectfully,
SSG Will Sauder
Columbus, OH*

OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

February 19-20 we enjoyed Invite A Guest Weekend. We would like to thank all those who came to make it such a blessed weekend.

Mason Douglas Schlatter was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi on February 28. His grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter and Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH). May God continue to be with this dear couple as they raise their little bundle from Heaven.

“This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

I Corinthians 11:25

On February 12 we came together to partake of the Lord's Supper. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) for his labors during this weekend.

Please forgive me for omitting the birth of Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz's granddaughter, Emily Elizabeth Manz. Emily's parents are Bro. Marvin and Jennifer of Latty, OH.

OHIO, LATTY Amanda Steffen Bonny Wenninger

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior!

Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!

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

He arose a Victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign;

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!

Gospel Hymns #323, vs. 1

We once again have arrived at the wonderful renewal time of the year that is called spring. But more importantly, we are also in the Easter season, a time in which we can look to our Lord and marvel at what He has done for us. We can take these events and not only

apply them to our lives now, but also to any day of the year.

Our congregation was blessed to have many visiting ministers this past month. We welcomed Bros. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH), Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), and Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN).

We rejoice with Jeremy Whitman as he begun his repentance. His wife, Mandy, started her repentance as well earlier this year. His parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman.

One of the potluck groups hosted an Invite - A - Couple weekend recently. We were quite full that Sunday, and we thank everyone who was here with us that weekend. Those are the times when we realize that it will be very nice when the remodeling and reconstruction efforts are done. We still encourage anyone to come and visit us.

There were a few hospitalizations and surgery patients this month. Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Bro. Ken), Sis. Dolores Riggerbach (Harlan) and Sis. Helen Stoller (Bro. Roy) were hospitalized and/or surgery patients. Our special prayers go out to them for God's strength and healing for them if it is His will.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

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

not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

We pray for the presence of God's divine comfort and peace in the lives of two of our families who have suffered loss this past month. Trevor David was born on March 11 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Beer. God took little Trevor from this life back into His arms soon after his birth. In addition to his parents, he is survived by siblings, Trent, Thomas and Katrina; and grandparents, Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen Baltic and Bro. Joel and Sis. Sue Beer.

Sis. Marcella Sauder (Bro. Charles) suffered the loss of her brother, Bro. Louis Steffen, of our Bluffton, IN, congregation.

Sis. Lucille Groh recently moved to our Rittman Nursing Home. Keep her in your prayers as she adjusts to her new home.

Also in need of our prayers is Sis. Anne Gromen who was hospitalized.

We are thankful to God that Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) was willing to come to our congregation as a visiting minister and share God's Word with us.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anne Widmer
Hannah Beery

Ye of my blessed pilgrimage,
Dear and beloved companions...
God's blessings on you I acclaim,
And greet you in the Saviour's
name!

Zion's Harp #173

A sincere thank you is extended to Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) for sharing in the ministry this past month. We deeply appreciate all those who visit our congregation and are willing to be used in God's work.

"May ev'ry sinner comfort find
In penitent submission..."
(Zion's Harp #173). Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller are rejoicing with their son, Jordan, on his beginning in repentance.

Bro. Joshua Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) and Sis. Megan Steiner (Bro. Mark R. and Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) were united in marriage on February 27. May the Lord bless them as they continue to seek His guidance and direction for their lives.

"O may the small flock be increased
In grace 'neath His protection..."
(Zion's Harp #173). Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Hartzler along with Kendra, Marisa and Colby, welcomed Caleb Matthew into their home on February 16. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Josiah Glen joined the Bro. Aaron and Sis. Debra Gasser family on February 26. Completing the family are Kayla, Charity and Brittany. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Fred and Mindy Hartzler celebrated the birth of Sheldon Noah on March 2. His two older sisters are Shayleen and Shila. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis.

Jan Hartzler.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have had hospital stays recently. Elise Rufener (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Shirley), Matthew Steiner Jr. (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) and Jeremy Miller (Bro. Michael R. and Sis. Carol), along with Sis. Carole Widmer (Bro. Harold) and Bro. Chester Rufener (Sis. Roma) have suffered physical ailments this past month. We wish the nearness of God on each one.

OHIO, SARDIS
Jami Hartzler
Terry Zollinger

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not!
 Jesus wants a faithful witness;
 Teachers not confessing Jesus
 Have stern judgment as their lot.
 Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
 Call aloud and spare them not.

Zion's Harp #112

Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) brought to us biblical teachings through a slide presentation from his trip to Israel. It was interesting to see the sights where the prophets of old, Jesus and His disciples walked while here on earth. Bro. Matthew also shared God's Word with us on Sunday. May the Lord richly bless him and his family for their efforts.

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield - Pulaski, IA) shared the duties of reading the Memorandum with our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle. We would like to thank Bro. Doug for his willingness to teach us of God's

will for our lives.

The nights are still cool, but during the day when the sun shines one can feel spring is near. Robins are all around and even flowers are peeking through the ground. Each year, we marvel at God's creation anew.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Rachel Maibach
Alyssa Miller

We are thankful for a new convert. Joy Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) has chosen to begin the "narrow way ... which leadeth unto life." (Matt. 7:14). May God grant you grace to walk humbly before Him. We are praying for you.

Hospital patients this month include Bro. Ed (Sis. Elaine) Marty and Bro. David (Sis. Larisa) Maibach. Both of these brothers underwent surgery. May you feel God's healing hand. It was good to see Sophia Lusk (Mike and Terry) at church again on Sunday, after an extended hospital stay. Her grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl, were smiling, too. We hope that little Sophia keeps improving!

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler are rejoicing over the arrival of another grandson, Josiah Glen. He was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Debra Gasser (Rittman) and is warmly welcomed home by his three sisters, Kayla, Charity and Brittany.

"Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life..." Bro. Josh Riggenbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie, Rittman) was united in marriage with Sis. Megan Steiner

(Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) on February 27. We trust that they will feel God's nearness as they begin their life as one. We also welcome Bro. Josh to our congregation, as they will be attending church with us in Smithville.

We are always blessed when the true Word is shared with us. Our home brothers minister faithfully, and we are thankful for them. We are also grateful for visiting brothers who have come to "sow the seed" among us this past month: Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) and Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington). Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury) joined us for Holy Communion and ministered to us on Sunday.

"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 a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Matt. 13:23

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

I John 3:1

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis.

Emily, Junction, OH) spent a Thursday evening with us reading the conclusion of the mid-winter Conference. May we take to heart that which was proclaimed.

We wish to thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) for his timely message of love and encouragement. It is a pleasure to have one of our former college students return and spend a day with us.

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

Our convert, Ben Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna), has found peace in the Lord. May the Peace that passeth all understanding abide in his heart always.

In preparation of the coming Easter season, we spent a Sunday evening listening to our Sunday school present the blessed story. We pray that these young ones will keep this precious story deep in their hearts.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

“Greetings be to you, our brethren, To our sisters in the Lord...”

Zion's Harp #255

We wish to extend our loving greetings to each of you across the land. We have such a blessed

Faith wherein we can greet one another in the Saviour's name. We trust you've each had a blessed month as we've had here in the Northwest.

We want to especially thank our dear Bro. Ed (Sis. Judy) Knecht (Silverton) for spending a Lord's Day in our midst and laboring on our behalf. We also would like to express our sincere appreciation to each one who has made the effort to assemble with us recently.

Sis. Brianna Strahm spent some time in the hospital this month. As of this writing, all is going well and the prayers of the brethren have been greatly appreciated.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”

II Corinthians 13:11

OREGON, SILVERTON
Cindy Metzger
Melissa Kuenzi

Beth Lynn was born to Bro. Monte and Sis. Kellie Kuenzi on March 12. Her siblings are Madisen, Nolan, Jenna, and Cora. Her grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi and Woody and Sherri Hill (Silverton).

We are thankful that Travis and Tammy (Wulf) Dettwyler have found peace and are ready for baptism.

We appreciate Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN) traveling here to min-

ister to us. Also visiting were Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr and Bro. Ron Jones from Portland.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Nathan and

MaryElizabeth Gasser

There is often talk of new life coming forth in springtime, and we experienced this recently as Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl welcomed a new grandson, Simon Alexander Luginbuhl. We rejoice with them and with parents, Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami (Rockville, CT), and wish Simon the Lord's richest blessings throughout his life.

We were blessed to take part in Holy Communion this month and are grateful to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and his wife, Sis. Loretta, for being with us. Likewise, we welcome all who might be traveling through our area this spring and summer to join us for worship and fellowship.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

We recently welcomed Kirk Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte, Forrest, IL) to our area as he pursues educational opportunities. We are thankful to have him in our midst and pray the Lord will be with him and richly bless him here.

We have been abundantly blessed in the past month with numerous visitors. The Lord has provided willing ministering brothers who have ably shared

His Word with us: Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), and Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN). We are also thankful for the precious fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Champaign, Chicago, Cissna Park, Congerville, Forrest, Morton, and Princeville, IL; Bluffton, Milford, Valparaiso, West Lafayette, Wolcott, IN; Lester, IA; Sabetha, KS; Detroit, MI; Taylor, MO; and Junction and Toledo, 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: Kansas City, MO (4/24), Forrest, IL (5/1), Indianapolis, IN (5/15), and Bay City, MI (5/22). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Mother's Day (5/8) or Memorial Day weekend (5/29). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Carrie Beyer

Our church would like to sin-

cerely thank Bros. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix) and Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita) for coming and serving in the ministry here over the past two months. Your time is valuable; thanks for spending it with us. We're excited to host ministers from Detroit and Elgin, IL, in May.

God rained down a unique blessing on our church recently, when we able to host a group of over 20 college students from Kansas for the weekend of March 4-6. On Saturday, my husband and I joined the group in traveling to one of the poorer sections of Dallas to help minister to the physical and spiritual needs of homeless men and women. What an incredible experience to talk and pray with the people under that bridge! Perhaps for the first time, we could see them as a soul in need of God's love, rather than just another statistic. That evening, we were challenged through Bro. James Emch's Bible Study; he used the city of Nineveh in the book of Nahum as a case study to show how Christians must use the Word and each other to stay close to Christ. Many thanks to James and our visitors from Kansas for blessing our lives by being here!

We'd like to invite anyone living near or traveling through the area to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the DFW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the

hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.750.1028).

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger

Something interesting happened during our last home singing. Our boys had been playing ball outside after supper and were joined by a couple of the neighbor boys. When my husband called the boys in to sing he invited everyone (he knew the neighbor boys liked music), so they came too. The oldest neighbor boy exhibited some curiosity during the singing when he asked, "Is this an annual event?" My husband told him that it was more often.

We like to get together often. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another..." (Mal. 3:16). "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," (Ephesians 5:19).

It's uplifting when we speak with one another, not only in our song services, but in a wide variety of ways ranging from daily encouragement within our families, to our Elder Brothers through the Memorandum that we heard this month. We can speak with our local brethren and those far away; whether by letter, phone call, or even a brief mid-week evening visit, like the Brother from Bern,

KS, did last week when he came through our area on business.

We are thankful for the following ministers who spoke the Word of Life this month: Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Ken Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford), and Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, San Diego). This season seems to be the time of year that we have many visitors regularly, though we enjoy them all year long, too. We had many Sunday visitors from Indianapolis, Bay City, Princeville, Chicago, Gridley, Burlington, Oakville, and Congerville.

The following churches are on the minister rotation for May: (1) Goodfield, (8) Philadelphia, (15) Bluffton, (22) Morton, (29) Bern.

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, ap-

proximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southbound frontage road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Sandy Leman

We have bid farewell to many of our winter residents over the past month, and most of those who remain as this is written will have returned to their summer residences by the time it is read. We look forward to next fall, when we will see each other again.

We enjoyed visits from ministering Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) and Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL). We thank each of them for bringing forth the Word. May God bless each of them for their efforts.

VERMONT, NORWICH Areli Reutter

"In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:19

Greetings dear ones in the Lord! This month we were blessed to have ministering Bros.

Dan Stoller and Duane Reutter, as well as other visiting Brothers from our beloved churches in Connecticut and Ohio. If the Lord wills, starting in April we will be holding services twice a month. Ministering brothers from several different congregations will be serving the small flock.

We esteem very highly the fellowship of the brethren. If you have plans to visit Vermont this spring, please consider worshipping with us on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. Give us a call in advance to help us plan for your attendance. Services start promptly 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 right off Interstate 91: just take exit 13 and proceed to 344 Main Street, Norwich, VT 05055.

As we continue to wait patiently for the spring after a prolonged winter, we are reminded also to wait patiently for the coming of our Lord.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
Revelations 22:20



Sermon continued from page 2

working. Doing the Lord's work. I don't know that enough can be said. It takes a lot of discipline. It takes a lot of work and sacrifice to set aside our cares and concerns and say I am going to go out and do the Lord's work today.

Now, the children of Israel, in the Old Testament or the tribes or whichever one it was, the tribe of Judah, we can see that even one who did not serve a country or a king who worshipped the true and living God, that this guard who took some of the children of Israel captive, recognized God's work, didn't he? He recognized that it was because of their disobedience and their sinful nature that God pronounced this discipline upon the people. But he was good to Jeremiah and he let him go. He said I will let you make the decision here as to what is going to happen. (Jeremiah 40:2-5)

I don't know the significance and I don't know Jeremiah well enough to say what happened. We know in the next chapter that the governor was then taken, life was taken. The one did come. This Ishmael came and killed him. (Jeremiah 41:1,2) But Jeremiah and the remnant did come back to the area there; I don't know if they lived in peace or how things actually worked out in my lack of knowledge of the book of Jeremiah.

But even those who do not serve God will see and know that God is real. They will suffer because of their lack of willingness to submit themselves to God and to repent and to believe upon Jesus Christ. It says in the Bible that the devils know and fear and tremble (James 2:19). We see examples of that when Jesus Christ came in the presence of those possessed with the devils. They knew who He was. Those with the unfamiliar spirit recognized Jesus Christ. (St. Matthew 8:28,29)

Yet, the children of Israel and those who knew the scriptures, who knew Jeremiah and Isaiah and all the prophecies and how they prophesied that this one would come. That He would be born of a virgin. That

He would serve a purpose. That He would be a humble man. He would be a homely man. Isaiah I believe, is one who said that He would have no form of comeliness (Isaiah 53:2). He would not be a desirable person. He would not have any wealth or riches upon this earth. And they recognized all this. They read it. They understood it. But yet, they didn't partake of it.

Here, Jesus Christ - as I mentioned this morning, we know what is coming. We know when the cold weather is coming. We see the changing of the seasons. Then this chapter opens up and talks specifically about the coming of Christ. The returning. The end times. I don't understand how all this plays out. I don't know that we need to understand it except to be prepared.

We know when it is cold we get a coat on. We shut the windows. We even put the storm windows up. In places where they know that the hurricanes are coming - I worked with this one man who is buying some product from us. He was on vacation out in Arizona when the hurricanes were coming and were going to hit the panhandle of Florida. He cut his vacation short to go down and to help board up houses and windows and doors. He was preparing.

This chapter, all by itself, tells every one of us this morning that we are to be prepared. When is the time going to happen? We know specifically no one knows that date. He said take heed and pray for ye know not when the time is (St. Mark 13:33). We don't know when our last breath is going to be taken. We don't know when Jesus is going to return. We don't have that privilege.

We don't know exactly the time when the cold wind is going to hit tonight. But we know enough to go home and to make sure our windows are shut. We know that we want to make sure the pilot light is lit or we have a log on the fire or something to be prepared. That takes work. It takes effort. It takes maybe setting aside what we would like to do to go ahead and prepare for the storm or for the cold winter.

Even in that chapter that we read, he said for the Jews to come and to take and to store up wine, to take the fruits of the field and to store it up, partake of it and be ready for whatever comes. (Jeremiah 40:10)

But He says, but the disciples, and our human nature is to look upon the material things of this life. The disciples did. They said, look at these great buildings. (St. Mark 13:1) Maybe they were looking at the wall. Or maybe the wall wasn't built then, I don't know. But the great temple and the majesty of it, the beauty of it.

What did Christ say? "...there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." St. Mark 13:2. In some places we see well, they kind of laughed at Him. They said how is that ever going to take place? We could look at history and see that it wasn't too many years after Jesus Christ was crucified - within the next 100 years - that Jerusalem was overtaken. It was destroyed. You can see pictures. You can go and look at the wall around Jerusalem and you can see where it was torn down. And how another country, another nationality came in and rebuilt the wall. They have a different architecture and a different structure and a different ability. You can see the differences in the wall. What Christ said did take place.

But I wonder if the reason was is that we shouldn't put our significance into those things. We shouldn't care about those things. He said we should care about our soul. Because what was the next words that came out of His mouth in this chapter that is recorded for us? When they said, explain these things to us, He said take, heed lest any man deceive you. (St. Mark 13:4,5) Be worried about your soul and your soul salvation. Always be on guard. Be aware of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Be aware of the prophecies that are in the Book. He said many are going to come and say, I am Christ (St. Mark 13:6). Or many are going to be false prophets and say here is Christ or there is Christ. Come over here.

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

Come over there. (St. Mark 13:21, 22)

We even see that happening in our lifetime. Where there are those who are deceived in what we would call a cult. They were taken up and they went up on a mountain top or something, thinking this is, Christ is going to come. Now is the time. It didn't happen.

We can see instances of those who have led people to even mass suicides. Because they didn't believe in the true Jesus Christ. They followed a false prophet. We can point fingers here and we can point fingers there. But maybe the finger ought to be pointed at ourself. That we are ready. That we recognize the true Christ. That the teachings of those people, the teachings that we are hearing, or that we hear over the airwaves, or somebody at work or at school or at play, does it follow along with this Book? Does it follow along with Jesus Christ and the spiritual teachings that He and the prophets taught?

It says we are to prove every spirit (I John 4:1). How can we prove every spirit if we are not in tune with the Spirit? The true, living Spirit? The Holy Spirit of God? If we are not in tune with that Spirit, then any spirit could sound or feel comfortable unto us.

But He said, "...Take heed lest any man deceive you:" St. Mark 13:5. He said, "And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled..." St. Mark 13:7. We get discouraged when we see the war that is going on now. And we hear of things that people want to do to the United States, or to our President or to Christians or whatever it may be. He says, "...for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet." St. Mark 13:7. Don't be troubled. He said these things are going to come to pass.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles..." St. Mark 13:8.

We know of that taking place now. He says, "...these are the beginnings of sorrows." St. Mark 13:8. This is just the beginning! In reality, this has been taking place all along, hasn't it? So not to get discouraged. Not to get troubled.

It should trouble the unconverted soul. Am I ready to meet Christ? Am I ready to stand before the Father on judgment day? Those should be troubled. They should have sorrow. And should help break the spirit - the selfish spirit. The heart that is hardened toward God and not willing to humble themselves at the cross in a humble repentance. It should trouble them.

But to the soul who is prepared, don't be troubled, He says. These things needs be and shall be. But the end is not yet.

But He said, "But take heed to yourselves..." St. Mark 13:9. There are going to be difficult times. He talks about all these difficulties. He said they may take you into the synagogues to be beaten (St. Mark 13:9). How sad it is. The synagogue, we think, is a place of worship. That those who think they are doing God's will and God's way will actually want to persecute and beat the child of God. That doesn't seem right. It doesn't even seem possible that that could happen. But we know the hearts and minds of men.

We see examples of it in Pharaoh. That he hardened his heart so that God's glory could be manifested. (Exodus 7:3) We see how it happened even in Christ's time so that God's perfect plan could be carried out and fulfilled. We are going to continue to see it because the hearts of men will be deceived. Their minds will be deceived. But He said these things are going to take place and that we should not worry about it.

We see examples of some of the disciples, how they even were thankful that they were found worthy to suffer for Christ's sake. That they were thankful for that. They praised God for it. We just sang in that hymn about crosses that we will bear that help to prepare us to meet God and to be in His presence. (Now and Then,

Zion's Harp #191). That help to prepare us for that.

How does a burden prepare us for being in God's presence? Ideally, to the humble heart, it brings the soul to their knees and it helps us to rely more fully upon God. It brings us to the point of knowing that we need to be closer to God. That we need to work harder at being closer to God. I know we can't be close enough, because we are taught in the Word of God, that those who draw nigh unto God, He will draw nigh unto them. But He resisteth the proud. (James 4:6)

What about the person who has the burden and thinks, I am going to get through this of myself. I can get through this. I can do this. They use the word I too much. It ought to be we, or with the help of God's strength and grace that we can get through the difficult time.

Much like the poet who wrote the poem of the 'Footprints in the Sand'. They felt that they were actually neglected of God. Yet in reality, they recognized that God was carrying them through the difficult times. Then we recognize sometimes we need to be carried, don't we?

He said don't premeditate about what we are going to say at this time. Let the Spirit be your guide (St. Mark 13:11). That doesn't mean, like again, that we just set aside and we don't prepare ourself. We are supposed to have the Word of God written upon the table of our heart (Proverbs 3:3). We are supposed to have the Word of God at hand at all times. That we should know the Word of God. It is a living Word and it says it will never pass away. All these other things are going to pass away but God's Word will never pass away. That is something we can always take with us. That is something we can always have with us. Even though the Bibles may be burnt and may not be available, we should know and we should always have put it and written it upon the table of our heart.

He says it is going to come to a point where a brother will deliver his brother up to death. The father the

son. The son the father. The children against their parents (St. Mark 13:12). It seems difficult to understand that type of evil. Have we seen it? I think we have if we look back through time. But He said there is going to be all this tribulation. He says that there is going to be much affliction. I don't understand all this. I don't understand why it says, "But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!" St. Mark 13:17. I don't understand it.

But He does say that to His own, the elect, the child of God, He said that He will shorten the days (St. Mark 13:20). How is it? Will He actually shorten the days or is there still going to be 24 hours? Often when I read this, I think how it is when we are busy and how quick the time flies when we are busy. But when we don't have anything keeping our mind going, the day just drags on and on and on. If we meditate upon the evil and if we worry about the evil, maybe that is how the day is going to go long and drawn out. But if we are busy in the Word of God, if we are busy in the work of God, maybe the day goes faster and we don't recognize how quickly the time flies away. We don't worry about self, but we worry about doing God's work. I don't know. Maybe. Just a thought.

But He says, He gives us the warning. He talks about His coming again and how it is going to be. He says, "...in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." St. Mark 11:24,25. We can turn and we can see how that was revealed unto John when he was on the isle. How it was revealed unto him the different angels that had the different vials. This angel came out and opened this vial or that vial. Different things took place. And one of those, it says something about the moon and the stars and the heaven, and how He reveals it unto him (Rev-

elation 6:12).

Then He says, "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power..." St. Mark 13:26. And one of those chapters talks about the Son of man, Christ coming on the horse. And those on horseback with Him, coming in the clouds, I believe it says (Rev. 19:11-14). Then the battle (Rev. 19:15-21). The one who has the chain is going to bind Satan and cast him into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3). There will be peace. It says that the heavens and the earth will pass away. John said that he saw a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1). There is no darkness. There is no sun. There is no stars. No need of it (Rev. 22:5). There is no more sorrow, no more tears (Rev. 21:4). No evil will be allowed there.

We know what happened in this earth. Evil took place. Satan deceived Eve in the Garden. They partook and they disobeyed God. They were cast out (Genesis 3). But God saw, out of His love and mercy, the opportunity and the plan to provide a way of salvation. His Son, Jesus Christ.

Who are the elect? Who are those who are going to suffer in the tribulation? Those who have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. Those who have repented. Those who are living - in Revelations it talks about the righteous (Rev. 19:8). Those who strive to walk a righteous life with the grace of God and the strength of God. By ourself we can't do it. But by God's strength and by God's grace we can. We can be an overcomer. The overcomers, it says, shall inherit the earth (Rev. 21:7). When Jesus talked about those and when He taught the beatitudes on the mount, was He talking about this earth? I don't believe so. He was talking about the new heaven and the new earth. About being in the presence of God.

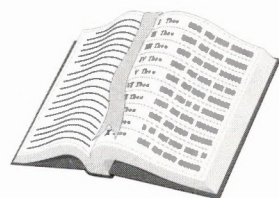
But He warns us about the false prophets. He warns us against the tribulation time and how bad it is going to be. We can turn and we can

read in Revelation about how bad it is going to be. But thankful that if we are one of the elect, the days will be shortened. With God's grace, we can overcome. Even the difficult times. We can be found worthy to enter in.

But then the exhortation of watchfulness. We don't know the hour and we don't know the time. But He says, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping." St. Mark 13:35,36. We know that when we are sleeping, we are pretty vulnerable, aren't we? A lot of burglars try to break in the house at night when people are sleeping and when they are not home, because they are vulnerable. We know when we are sleepy, we are not very alert.

Spiritually, we never should be sleeping. We should never be sleepy but always on guard. We know that Christ is going to come, it says in the twinkling of an eye (I Corinthians 15:52). It will be as the lightning from the east is to the west and how it lights up the sky (St. Matthew 24:27). But to be watchful and to be ready. Then He says, "...I say unto all, Watch." St. Mark 13:37.

We have that hymn "Watch and pray that when the master cometh..." (Watch and Pray, Hymns of Zion #121). It is one of my uncle's favorites. It is one of my favorites. It says, "If at morning, noon or night." Did he read this chapter, the author of that hymn? Probably did. Probably very well known to that hymn writer. A simple hymn. Simple words. It is even an attractive hymn and it is easy to hum. It is easy to remember the words to it. Watch and pray. May God bless His Word.





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

Gateway Woods Auction
August 20, 2005



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
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	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	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 16-23, 2005	Construction	Kent Mogler	651-452-8586	kent.mogler@genmills.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

*Hymns of Zion
Gospel Hymns &
Tabernacles*

We again have places to send all of these books.

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

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- Referrals to qualified mental health professionals in your area
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
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- 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

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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

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

By: Bro. Perry Klopfenstein

EVERYDAY LIVING

Humility	Proverbs 15:33, 22:4 Micah 6:8 Matthew 18:4, 23:12 Luke 14:11, 18:14 Galatians 6:3 Philippians 2:8 Colossians 3:12 James 4:10 I Peter 5:5,6
Old Teach Younger	Exodus 20:12 Deuteronomy 6:7 Ephesians 6:1-4 Colossians 3:20 Titus 2:2-6 I Peter 5:5
De-Emphasis On Outside Literature	Ephesians 4:14 II Timothy 3:13,14 I John 2:24 Jude 3-4

MISCELLANEOUS

Keeping The Traditions	II Thessalonians 2:15, 3:6
Singing	Psalms 100:1,2 Ephesians 5:19 Colossians 3:16
Grace Before Meals	Matthew 14:19, 26:26 Luke 24:30
Prayer Following Meal	I Corinthians 10:7 Exodus 32:6
World Relief	Matthew 25:35-45 Luke 3:11 Galatians 2:10

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Words Are Powerful”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

There are several scriptures which teach us that words are powerful. We read in Genesis 1:3, “And God said, Let there be light and there was light.” God created everything out of nothing, simply by speaking the words.

John begins his Gospel by calling Christ, the Word. This may be because Christ communicated God to us and words are used to communicate, but it also infers that there was tremendous power in Christ, the Word. Verse three reads, “All things were made by him.”

God’s Word is very powerful and Christ, the Word, is very powerful, and we are made in the image of God, Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His own image,” so it naturally follows that our words are very powerful, also, although not as powerful as God’s Word, of course.

We human beings do not always have good control of our words. James speaks of that dilemma in Chapter 3 of his Gen-

eral Epistle, where it is written, verse 10, “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” We must conclude that our words also, are very powerful as they affect others. It appears that we can, by what we say, bless and encourage others, or we can discourage and destroy them, by what we say.

Christ taught us in Matthew 5:48, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Hence, we pray that God will deliver us from temptation so that we will not lie, steal, cheat, commit adultery, or go to places which will destroy our spirituality. We also need to pray that God will give us grace to do good things, such as share God’s Word with others when we have the opportunity, to visit the sick, the orphans and the widows, to let others know that they are precious and very valuable, and to use the right words in the right way.

The Bible doesn’t only tell us to avoid sin but it tells us to do good, as in James 1:27, which reads, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James also writes in 4:17, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” Words are important, and the tone of one’s voice. If I have ever said anything which offended you, please tell me and I will repent and try to avoid making the same mistake again. I will prayerfully and earnestly try to use words in a more constructive way. However, if I offended you by telling you the truth in love, then you are mistaken in being offended. Words are powerful. Let’s be careful how we use them. I believe God spoke and Christ arose. I repeat, words are powerful.

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Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

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

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*****CAR-RT LOT**R-001

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