

The Silver Lining

*For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
and as the garden causeth the things that are sown
in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

Isaiah 61:11

March 2006

Sermon by Bro. Scott Schafer, South Bend, IN

II Chronicles 6:1-31 and St. John 13

Quite a prayer from Solomon as he was dedicating God's house. It was interesting, as we read that, that Solomon realized that God wasn't going to stay in that house. He didn't build the house to hold God. He built the house to hold the people to worship God. He acknowledged that there. "...behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee..." II Chronicles 6:18. Surely this house isn't going to.

God is everywhere. He is not just in the church. He is not just in the assembly. He is not just in the Sunday School room. He is everywhere. We need to acknowledge that and know that. He is that big. He is so big that even the heaven and the heaven of heavens can't hold Him. We shouldn't try to hold Him.

We should not want to try to put God in a box or make God fit into our life and lifestyle or what we want God to be. It needs to be what God wants us to be. So many times we want to kind of create the whole scenario here and then make sure God's along with us. Are you there? Are you there God? As opposed to letting Him, let Him create that and we make sure we are with Him. Because we can't contain Him. Us or a building or even the heavens! He is just that big.

So let's remember that even as Solomon acknowledged that. That God is just so big and so broad and that we need to make sure He is there wherever we are, wherever we go. That we acknowledge that. We know that. That we are not just Sunday church Christians. That God is big enough that we are there with Him wherever He is. And He is everywhere, not just in the church.

Solomon prayed, "That thine

eyes may be open upon this house day and night..." II Chronicles 6:20. What a prayer that is to have that God's eyes would be upon us day and night watching us and being near unto us. Strengthening us day and night. What a wonderful prayer that is as they dedicated the temple.

This is quite a scene, I think, if we can picture this in our minds on what took place here (St. John 13). Not only the physical scene but what was kind of the air of the attitude there amongst those disciples? What were the underlying issues that were there? I think if we look at some of these things and some of the teachings that Jesus was trying to give to them, it makes that whole physical environment all kind of piece together just really well; what happened before that and what was going to happen after that.

But as they gathered there, they had eaten supper together and Jesus knew but there was this air of betrayal in this group, in this close knit group of His disciples. He knew that and He felt that. It said even that it troubled Him. He was troubled in the Spirit later on (St. John 13:21). So in amongst this whole scenario of eating supper with those closest to Him - and Jesus' life is about to end and He knows that. The disciples don't know that. But He knows that. He knows His life is about to end. He's gathered with those that are closest to Him. They've been walking with Him for two, three years. They've seen Him and they've touched Him and they felt Him and they tried to understand Him. They've been there. Now they are eating supper together and it says, "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's

son, to betray him;" St. John 13:2. So here is this air of betrayal that is amongst those that are close to Him.

I don't think it is any different today. Jesus calls each one of us to be close to Him. He calls us to be at His table. We read that this morn-

Sermon continued on page 44

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2006

Appreciating the Value of Standards - II

In the last "Light From the Word" the need for standards in nearly every phase of our life, including the church, was introduced. This concept will be continued in this article.

The Apostolic Christian Church follows a process similar to the Jerusalem conference described in Acts 15. Those who are ordained of God to be spiritual watchmen are required to make decisions, feed the flock, warn of dangers and take the oversight of the flock (Je. 3:15; Eze. 33; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2). Those who are given the authority over the church are accountable for their oversight (Eze. 34; Heb. 13:17). As Apostolic Christians we believe this pattern of authority is to be followed today. The ultimate authority of the Apostolic Christian Church is Jesus Christ and is carried out through those ordained for this responsibility, the elder body. No one individual has the authority to make decisions for the national brotherhood. Each local elder is responsible for implementing the decisions of the elder body in the local congregations.

Our brotherhood does have standards. Some standards are issues of doctrine, some are traditions and customs and some are application of scriptural principles to everyday situations. Some standards are needed to help the operation of the church run smoothly and may have no significant spiritual impact. Examples of this are starting time for services, day of the week for midweek services, etc.

The standards of doctrine, tradition and application of scriptural principles are based upon the Word of God. Each individual in our brotherhood must decide whether he or she will follow the standards. Those who choose to not follow the standards risk exposing themselves to the danger of drifting away from the brotherhood. Why should we appreciate the standards of our brotherhood? Of what value are they? If they restrict our liberty should we heed them? Some individuals say they have no conviction about a certain issue and therefore they see no reason to follow the established position.

The Bible instructs us to "Obey them

that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief." (Heb. 13:17). Submission, by definition, is only necessary when we disagree. There are numerous times in the Bible in which we are instructed to sacrifice self-will and submit to another - to God, to the authority of the church, to government, wives to husbands, children to parents, servants to masters. Even Jesus had to submit when He "...fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39).

Why should we willingly submit to those in authority? A few of the many benefits of submitting and following the standards of the church include the following:

Failure to submit to those in authority can cause discord within the brotherhood. Discord destroys the peace of individuals and of the brotherhood. It can cause individuals to lose confidence in the leadership of a congregation or the national brotherhood. It can also undermine the faith of individuals and give Satan an opportunity to lead a soul astray. The Lord hates "... (him) that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:19). Surely no one would want to do what the Lord hates.

Submission to godly authority brings blessings of God. Jesus said "...There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting" (Lk. 18:29-30). The willingness to deny self for the benefit of others is just one of many ways that we can show others we care about them.

Submission to one another in godly order enables us to "...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:5). If we allow pride and self interest to direct our lives, we will interfere with the grace of God which we desperately need to enable us to live according to God's will.

The devil must flee from us when we are willing to do God's will. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,

and he will flee from you" (Ja. 4:7). The obvious corollary to this is if we do not obey God and resist Satan, he will continue to be in our midst. This would create an atmosphere that would increase our chances of falling into sin.

If we follow the will of God, we can establish a divine relationship. "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mt. 12:50). To be a child of God and a brother or sister of Jesus Christ is the most important relationship that anyone can have.

Obedience to scriptural standards helps us gain spiritual knowledge and brings us into complete service to God. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (Jn. 7:17). We should serve God "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers: but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" (Eph. 6:6).

Submission to the standards of the scripture makes our life secure and brings delight to our heart. "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Pr. 16:7). "I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart" (Ps. 40:8).

Following Biblical standards enables us to have access to God's kingdom "...for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Lk. 17:21). "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Mt. 6:10). No doubt, it would have been easier for Mary if the birth of Jesus could have come a little later, after she was married. This, however, would not have fulfilled God's plan, so "...Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy Word..." (Lu. 1:38).

Standards bring order and happiness to our lives: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29:18).

Most importantly, of course, is that adherence to the standards of God brings salvation to His people. (Lk. 19:9-10; Heb. 5:9).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1398 Spring Hill Dr, Orrville, OH 44667-9023.



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

Long Range Planning

Recent Mission Committee meetings have focused on long range planning with regard to future mission efforts by our church. This requires much prayer and thoughtfulness. The brothers serving on this committee are seeking the Lord's direction in determining how best to capitalize upon our strengths as a church and take advantage of the mission opportunities available for which we are best equipped.

It is the sincere desire of the Mission Committee to increase communication with our Brotherhood, to promote understanding of the church's mission efforts and to convey our commitment to maintaining the doctrinal soundness of these endeavors.

This article will focus on one of the elements of planning, the development of Guiding Principles for Apostolic Christian Missions. It will also give a brief summary of an important step toward establishing a structured "Sending" process for brethren called to service in the Lord's work. This step includes the establishment of a Servant Fund, to provide needed financial resources.

Guiding Principles

These principles must be reflected in all efforts undertaken as part of our church missions program. They are being presented here as a work which is still in progress. The Mission Committee welcomes input in refining this statement of principles. Each of the items is viewed as critical and they are not necessarily listed in order of importance.

1. Biblical Truth: Teach and practice the whole counsel of God (the perfect and universally applicable Word) under the direction

of the Holy Spirit. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable...." (2 Tim. 3:16-17); "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." (Matt. 28:20).

2. Repentance and Sanctification: Teach that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2: 8-10), calling mankind to repentance and the born again experience prior to baptism (Matt. 3:6; Acts 3:19), and to a walk of sanctification (Tit. 2:11-14).

3. Church: Establish and support viable Apostolic Christian Churches as the nucleus of our mission work. "...the church of the living God (is the) pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15); "...ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:19-22).

4. Preparation: Prepare brethren who are called of the Lord and are being sent by the Church to share the Gospel message of salvation. "...be ready always to give an answer to every man..." (1 Pet. 3:15).

5. Doctrinal Integrity: Avoid ecumenical intermingling (2 Pet. 2:1-2) and any form of spiritual deception (Rev. 2:14) in our efforts to preserve sound doctrine. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught..." (Tit. 1:9).

6. Biblical Accountability: Provide mission environments that enable effective support and oversight, fulfilling our accountability to God for the welfare of those being sent and those being served. "...for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Heb. 13:17); "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." (1 Pet. 5:1-2).

Suggestions for refinement of the Guiding Principles may be submitted to Bro. Dale Eisenmann at 6913 Wilmette Ave, Darien, IL 60561. Email: eisenman@uic.edu.

Servant Fund

Brethren who are sent by the Mission or World Relief Committees on long term missionary or humanitarian assignments will be provided with appropriate financial support. These individuals will not be expected to raise their own funds, as they are committed to full time service.

Individuals and local churches may make contributions directly to the Servant Fund, which is managed under the auspices of the Mission and World Relief Committees. Donations designated for a specific individual (restricted donations) will be applied to meet a particular servant's expenses as covered by Servant Fund policy (stipends, travel, insurance, etc.). Any funds donated in excess of what is needed to cover the approved expenses would be used for others needing support.

Unrestricted donations will offer more flexibility and they will be available for use in any areas of need for any individuals covered by Servant Fund policy. Determination of need and establishment of a support program will be handled as part of the formal sending process for individuals approved for assignment to specified programs.

Information will be provided to the churches in the near future regarding procedures for submitting contributions. May the Lord continue to move the hearts of our Brotherhood to support worthy efforts to promote the Gospel message of salvation and to establish and nurture churches founded on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ and the Word of God.



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

Reaching Out To Africa

Africa is a continent where millions of the poorest people in the world live. Hundreds of thousands have been killed by oppressive governments. Many of them are persecuted for their religion and some just because they are considered members of the wrong tribe. Draught, monsoon rains, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions have added to their plight.

World Relief has been providing relief to Africa for many years by making grants to international Christian relief organizations. Over the most recent decade World Relief on the behalf of the Apostolic Christian Brotherhood, has responded to many disasters as well as provided resources to support humanitarian aid projects by these organizations.

Responding to Disasters

Ethiopia - The country has suffered both from extreme draught and flooding. Working with Project Mercy in the village of Ytebon, tens of thousands of meals were provided to the starving. Seventeen special feeding centers were established for the purpose of feeding children too ill from malnourishment to eat a normal diet. Another year, heavy rain washed out roads making transportation very difficult. World Relief provided funds to assist with the construction of three bridges for this village.

Sudan - The Sudanese government is one of the most oppressive dictatorships in the world. Hundreds of thousands have been killed as the government maintains control of the country. Many lost their lives because of their belief

in Jesus Christ. World Relief has worked with MAP International and others to provide both famine relief and assistance for refugees fleeing the government oppression.

Liberia - A very small country on the East coast of Africa, is a country torn by civil war. World Relief has reached out to these refugees by providing aid with the assistance of Northwest Medical Team.

The Congo - In 2001, a major volcanic eruption created severe damage to a nearby village. World Relief assisted with relief efforts by partnering with MAP International.

Mozambique - In the year 2000, Mozambique suffered severe flooding from monsoon rains. Many lives were lost and the flooding created a severe shortage of clean drinking water. Working with MAP International and Northwest Medical Teams, World Relief was able to help with the funding for the shipment of a water treatment plant and provided relief for the refugees.

Improving the lives of the needy in Africa

The International Grants Committee, working with several of these relief organizations, has assisted with many projects intended to improve the lives of native Africans.

Ethiopia - Our partner in Ethiopia is Project Mercy. Project Mercy has established a school in Ytebon. Often only one child from a family is able to attend school and many of the children walk as much as two hours each way to reach the school. Since 1997, World Relief has funded a portion of the cost of providing these children with two meals each school day. Other projects in Ytebon include the construction and equipping of a hospital, the drilling of a well, and

agricultural education to improve water conservation and farming techniques. This training also introduced new food products which will thrive in the local climate. The men and women of the village are being taught skills such as embroidery, basket weaving, cabinet making and welding. These skills enable them to make and market products and improve their family income.

Eritrea - North of Ethiopia is the country of Eritrea. World Relief funded the transportation expenses of a medical team which went to Eritrea to provide free cataract surgeries.

Kenya - Working with Concern International, World Relief has funded two projects. The first was a project to provide medical assistance, literacy skills, and vocational training in the Southwest part of Kenya. The other involved the construction of a school and a medical clinic in the area known as Trans Mara.

Ghana - MAP International is very active in Africa. World Relief has assisted MAP by helping to fund the establishment of an eye clinic. We also assisted with the expenses of shipping a cargo container of medical supplies to Ghana.

The ability of World Relief to be able to reach out to the needy of the world is greatly enhanced by our partnership with these Christian international relief organizations. We monitor their expenses carefully to assure your very generous donations are used prudently.

If you have any questions, contact Bro. Virgil Graf, Chairman of the International Grants Committee.

Phone: 626-287-1611

E-mail: vmgraf@sbcglobal.net

Or contact the National World Relief office at 219-261-3200.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." Rev. 22:5

As spring approaches, many of us, including our residents, are anticipating the warmer weather and brighter days ahead. Although we sometimes grow weary of the winter weather, our hearts are warmed when we think of the beauties of heaven and how there is no night there.

We continue to appreciate faithful staff members as they provide care for the residents, and we would encourage any who may have an interest to prayerfully consider joining our ranks. The work is rewarding, and we can share Christ's love as we serve one another.

Since we wrote last, several of our residents were called home to be with our Savior and Lord. Although certainly a time of great sadness and stress for the families, residents, and staff, it is reassuring to know our loved ones are in a far better place.

APRIL Birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Jason Gingrich (4/07), Brett Johnson (4/08), Angela Poehlman (4/18), Kennan Knapp (4/19), Steven Steffen (4/26), Lindsay Ball (4/26), Zita Palko (4/27), John Terhorst (4/30).

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

At Linden Estate, 1000 Linden Street, Morton, IL 61550: Jane Kohler (4/01), Craig Brooks (4/07), Nancy Jones (4/27)

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Ryan Donaghy

Do you ever sit in awe of the Lord and all that He has done for us, His children? As if spending eternity in His presence is not enough, He seeks to bless us abundantly here on earth as well. Even though we do not deserve any of the gifts the Lord has given us, I often find myself wanting more. It may simply be my selfish nature or the nature of man, but I can feel at times as if I am getting ahead of God and His perfect will for my life. I seem to only be setting myself up for discontentment, waiting for God to act. When we are more concerned about our best interests instead of God's, we are missing the mark.

"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the father hath put into his own power."

Acts 1:7

We as servants need to be watchful and ready to do the Lord's will, but also excited with how the Lord is using us at this

present moment. The Lord promises that His Word will be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. I don't want to read too much into it, but when I think of a lamp, I think of a light source that will light our path directly before us. I think of it as shining a flashlight into a wooded trail. It is not going to show you the camp sight 300 yards away, but it will keep you on the trail. With this in mind, why do we often expect God to give us a high power spotlight? God is God and we are human. We have no idea what the future will bring, but if we can trust in Him, we have nothing to worry about. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5) How are you trusting today?

News

On Saturday, March 11, we will conduct our annual Representatives Meeting in Indiana. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share how God is using and growing Gateway Woods. In this, our 30th anniversary year, a special ceremony will be held in the afternoon for the groundbreaking of our new group home — the first in over 17 years. In addition to our Reps from around the Midwest, our staff, children, Board Members and Counseling Elders, Dennis Kruse, our local State Senator, take part in this event. This is a very exciting time for us and we would greatly appreciate your prayers for a meaningful and successful day.

Funds for the 4th house pro-

ject are a bit slow to come in. Many churches are holding their collections later than we had anticipated. We continue in faith that the Lord will work through our brothers and sisters to provide the needed dollars and donated materials and labor. We will soon begin the recruiting process for house parents for the home that is scheduled to open in the fall.

Our current and former staff members continue to maintain relationships with our former residents in many ways and over many years. It is not unusual for these young people to need the continued help of these "parent figures" as they attempt to navigate their way in a difficult world that is often void of family support. So we become that "extended family" for them. We also have some funds available to assist them when times get tough or when they seek to further their education. In recent months we have had a former foster child return to live with his foster family between jobs and a career change. Gateway Woods scholarship fund has provided day care dollars for a young mom and her husband as she attends classes to finish her nursing degree. We have maintained visits with a young man in jail and a man who left our program as a boy over 15 years ago and was recently hired by a former houseparent in his construction business.

These are just a few examples of many examples of the commitment and relationships that do

not end when the child leaves our program. Efforts and generosity beyond the call of duty by Gateway Woods and church family distinguish our program and people from so many others in the child services field. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt 25:40

Gateway Woods Family Services staff and program have been reduced. Please see the spring edition of The Gate Post for more information about these changes.

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

"Love grows, one by one.
Two by two, and four by four
Love grows, around in a circle
And it comes back knocking at
your front door."

With Valentines' Day in February, we spent some time talking and learning about how much we are loved most of all by God and those in our lives, and how important it is to show love. It is a challenge for children because although they are born innocent, they also have that sinful nature. It is hard for them to not think only about themselves. It feels like these phrases come out of our mouths so many times a day, "Be kind. Share. Do unto others as you want them to do to you. Be friends with everyone." There is such an amazing parallel between what we teach to the chil-

dren and our lives as adult Christians. It feels like as I teach them...I learn.

Also this month we worked on the letters R, S, T and U. We are winding down to the end of the alphabet and that means that the school year will already be over soon. Looking back over this school year, we started out with a very young group of children with several 2 year olds. These little guys definitely add an interesting touch to our days. They are small but mighty and sometimes have such amazingly independent spirits and determined wills. In their attitudes some days it is evident that they desire to ONLY do exactly as they please. Unfortunately that just doesn't work very well and if that attitude is kept it won't get them very far in life. Through those battle - filled days the Lord always heard and answered our prayers of patience. They are gradually growing up now and it is so encouraging to see where they were when they started and how far they have come. We love them so much and they do bring us so much joy. You know it is all worth it when they wrap their little arms around you and say "I wuv you." We give all glory and credit to God for blessing us here through another month and watching over these children, as well as their teachers in this ministry.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

"And whatsoever ye do, do it

heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Col. 3:24

During the past month we were blessed with several visiting ministers. Every visitor who passes through our small congregation leaves behind so much love and encouragement. This month we were blessed to have Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) also spent another week here to help out around the church and preschool. We are so thankful for all they do here!

Our prayers go out to Bro. David Coulter (Sis. Barbara) as he is recovering from surgery on his shoulder. We also ask God to watch over our dear loved ones, Bro. J.R. Hall (Sis. Louise) and Bro. Buddy Lynn (Sis. Clarann) as they are having several tests this month due to health problems. In the hospital this month were little twins, Cassey and Kasey Green, the granddaughters of Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of

them that diligently seek him.”

Hebrews 11:6

At the mid-winter Elder Conference, Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. was approved to be the Ordained Deacon for the Arizona churches. The ordination is planned for April 23.

Alaina Rose Baum was born February 3. Her parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy. Her happy siblings are Koby, Isaac, Annika, Rebekah and Bryan.

We have been blessed with many visitors. What a joy for our church! We thank our visiting ministers: Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson), Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa), and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis).

We are happy T.J. Sutton is repenting. His parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Verne. Oh, how we all rejoice when a soul finds The Way!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

Our annual business meeting was held February 18. Bro. Tim Furrer was re-elected treasurer and song leader. Bro. Wayne Koehl, secretary, was also re-elected to be in charge of the sound room. Bro. Ed Schambach continues as Sunday school teacher for the Bible class and Sis. Kara Drayer becomes a teacher for the younger class. Bro. Rolf Kaeppler continues as usher and Sis. Mary Koehl is our

new kitchen coordinator. We pray that the Lord will bless them for assuming these duties in serving His church.

Bro. Jonathan Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) from Bluffton, IN, is staying in the Prescott area for a couple months. We appreciate his presence and support of our church and ask the Lord's blessings and direction in his life.

Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA) ministered to our congregation on February 5. We thank him and his wife for including Prescott in their travels and assisting our ministering brothers.

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We are still praying for Steve and Maria Bauer and their family as it would seem that Maria's mother does not have much time left on this earth. We don't know God's timing or His plan, but we do know He can see it all perfectly and it makes perfect sense to Him. We pray God will bless them with His presence and comfort during this time.

We were blessed with the presence of a visiting minister last Sunday. Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) ministered to us and we certainly appreciate his efforts. We trust God always adds His richest blessing to those who serve on His behalf.

We had a short “winter” in January but are now experiencing (and our winter visitors are

enjoying) beautiful sunny days with temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's. We are, however, woefully short on moisture. We haven't had any measurable rainfall in quite some time. We hope our visitors won't mind that we are praying for rain!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Suzanne Klotzle

Greetings from Southern California! We have been moved to prayer in many ways here in the past month.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

Romans 10:14

God has abundantly blessed our little Altadena congregation with two new Brothers to serve in the ministry. Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue), and Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin) have willing hearts to help on the pulpit. We rejoice at God's provision and will continue to keep these Brothers and their wives in our prayers.

While it saddens our hearts to say farewell to a faithful Brother and Sister, we know that God has provided them with a place of love and care for this season in their lives. On February 1, Bro. Glen and Sis. Kay Hackenjos left their California home, where they have lived for 40 years, and moved to the condominiums in the Apostolic Home in Eureka,

IL. We had a farewell singing and a time of sharing fond memories with Bro. Glen and Sis. Kay. We trust God for His blessings and provision in the future.

Our Bible classes recently enjoyed another ACYF weekend with the Arizona churches in Phoenix. The theme was “Which Highway are You Traveling?” Bro. Wayne Lemman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) was the visiting minister who spoke to the young people about which pathway they are choosing to follow. Thank you, Phoenix, for your hospitality and willingness to serve our Bible classes.

We appreciated having Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan) sharing the Word with us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

February brings with it such a special time of the year where we can reflect and express our appreciation to God for His astounding love! We recognize He demonstrates it daily through our brothers, sisters, family and friends He places in our lives.

We feel very privileged to have brothers and sisters in our flock who willingly serve in any capacity they are directed to. We would like to express our deep appreciation to our Sis. Peggy Jevremov (Bro. Victor) as she wrote the Silver Lining for many years. We ap-

preciate the many hours and efforts on our behalf. May God's blessings be her reward!

Winter is always a joyous time in our congregation as we experience fellowship with many visiting brothers, sisters and friends. We would especially like to thank ministering Bros. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Brace Wieland (Leo, IN) and Mike Reiker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). Bro. Mike and Sis. Carol are a special extended part of our church family as we look forward to their many visits each year.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) assist our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic for the reading of the Memorandum. With thankful hearts we listened to their encouragement and sincere love for our brotherhood.

Our Bible class traveled to Phoenix, AZ, for a weekend of fellowship with Tucson's, Altadena's and Phoenix's young adults. Many hours were spent together as friendships were strengthened and the Word shared to encourage each student to choose the highway to heaven. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the superintendents, teachers and their families for their many efforts of love to host us all. We were thankful to feel God's presence among us and to experience the blessings of being together.

As the sun continues to shine in our region here, we welcome the warmth of fellowship from visiting brethren. If you travel

west, please come and worship with us!

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Johanna Fortenbacher**

Let me go, let me go!
Lord to me Thy presence show;
Thither still my heart is turning,
for Thy heavenly courts is yearning,
There Thy perfect rest to know!
There Thy perfect rest to know!

Hymns of Zion #231

This song was sung at the funeral of Bro. Otmar Walter who is Sis. Barb Ursu's uncle. He passed away into a more perfect life. May the good Lord be ever near his family and his dear wife, Sis. Norma (North Port, FL, Naz.). The Lord was faithful in providing Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit) in coming at the "last minute" to cover as minister while Bro. Mike Ursu was away. Also blessing us with their presence was Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City).

This past mid-week service Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) came to counsel and to share the Word which opened up to Matthew 8. He expounded on the importance of having faith in our Lord in still or troubled waters of our lives.

That same evening we rejoiced greatly at the announcement of Murray and Esther Metzger taking the step of faith in repentance. They and their two young children have been recently as-

sembling with us.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Psalm 90:2

Here's a little of what's been going on in Colorado:

Elder Bro. Mike Lemman and Sis. Deb went to Mexico for 10 days to minister to believers there. We're thankful for their willingness to serve the Lord and pray that He would use their talents to further His kingdom.

We appreciate the hospitality of the churches nearby to which we can travel and have fellowship with others of our faith. Kiowa, KS, one of the closest churches to us, is about seven hours away. A group of young people recently went to Kiowa for a baptism. A group of sisters plan to attend a ladies' seminar in Bern, KS, on March 4-5.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marlene Lemman (Bro. Tom) as she undergoes surgery on her knee. May God's healing hand be upon her and may she experience much improvement in the use of her knee.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Reutter**

In a recent sermon we were re-

minded of the hymn that speaks of our hearts ringing with the melody of heaven's harmony and love (Gospel Hymns #258 A). When we reflect on the goodness of God and His many blessings that He has bestowed upon us, how often our hearts do ring with this beautiful melody. We as a congregation have experienced both joys and sorrows, yet it is this melody of God's love that binds us together, and grants us the grace for each day.

We have had several hospitalizations throughout this past month. We pray for Bro. Paul Hany (Sis. Betsy) as he continues to battle the effects of a low immune system. May the Lord be with him and his family as he undergoes further treatment. Our prayers also extend to TJ Kloter (Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue) as he was also hospitalized for an infection. May the Lord grant him a speedy recovery. His brother, Abel, who underwent corrective surgery last month, has found that the surgery was unsuccessful. We pray for him as he will undergo yet another extensive surgery within the next few weeks.

Our congregation has been so richly blessed with converts these past few months. We are so thankful that the following dear souls have been announced for peace and are prepared for baptism. They are Ron and Sheila Gerber, Rachel Virkler (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan), and Rebecca Viens (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy). We rejoice with

these converts and pray that the Lord will provide them much grace as they await baptism.

A few weeks ago the engagement of Bro. Ben Rocke (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Janet, Eureka, IL) to Sis. Amber Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) was announced. We rejoice with these two souls as they commit their lives together in the Lord. May they heed the counsel of God's Word and remember the teaching of Apostle John, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18). Lord willing, they plan a March 26 wedding.

We pray that the Lord will continue to be with us each one as we strive towards our eternal home. May we be so thankful and grateful for the Lord's many blessings!

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Have peace one with another."

Mark 9:50

It has been announced that our convert Phil Steffen has peace with God and man. Lord willing, his baptism is scheduled for March 19.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand and Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL). We are thankful for family and

others who traveled with our ministers. We look forward to more visitors as the weather warms.

A note to the D.C. congregation: Silver Lining dues will be collected this month.

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. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 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 recently had our Communion service and the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) were present to help with this service.

We have had several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder were traveling for a few weeks and we

truly appreciate the ongoing support that we receive from our church ministers and their families. Visiting were Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL). We pray that God would bless His servants faithfully doing His work.

We held our monthly church potluck and with all the returning brethren and visiting brethren, it was a great time of fellowship and good food.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

We are so thankful for the visits of many brothers and sisters from the north and for the visiting ministers who have served us so bountifully through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May God richly bless these faithful servants and their wives who support them!

January 25 – Elder Bro. Dennis Warner, Lester, IA

February 1 – Bro. Steve Baner, Gridley, IL

5 – Bro. Trent Schrock, Leo, IN; Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, Bluffton North, IN

12 – Bro. John Baumgartner, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Tom Troxel, LaCrosse, IN

15 – Bro. Ron Steiner, Rittman, OH

19 – Bro. Dave Zehr, Gridley, IL.

Bro. Neil Stoller (Princeville, IL) is serving as a volunteer at ECHO during the time that his job in Illinois is in it's off-season. He gave us an informational report about the project. ECHO stands for Educational Concerns for the Hungry Organization. Their primary aim is to help those who need help by teaching them how to help themselves. They have a network around the world, especially in third world countries, to improve their situation through agriculture by developing a seed bank of nutritious plants to help feed the people by teaching them how to grow these plants. The facility in NE Ft. Myers is a training center in sustenance agriculture, specializing in tropical plants, and is a very interesting place to visit if you are in the area. This project is supported by World Relief.

Bro. Dave Kieser (Bloomington, IL) gave us an update on the Midwest Food Bank, also supported by World Relief, and told us of evidences that God is working with them to help feed the hungry in our country, most recently in the hurricane ravaged areas in Louisiana and Mississippi. God also provided a way for them to send their first shipment overseas. To God be the glory!

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Lorna Schrock and her husband, Bro. Don, after the passing of her sister, Barbara Phelps, of Elgin, IL; and to Bro. Andy Hunyady and his wife, Sis. Sara, after the

death of his 89 year- old sister, Margit Hunyady, in Dombo Transylvania, Romania.

We pray for healing for Sis. Bev Gerber and Bro. Ralph Knapp and hope to have them back in our midst soon!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Robin Wiegand

Greetings, brethren. We have been richly blessed this month through the faithful service of many visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bros. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH). We thank each of you for your support and for helping to guide us on life's pathway.

We were richly blessed in our annual Sunday School Auction. Through the efforts and generosity of many individuals, over \$12,000 was raised. We thank and praise God for this.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Suellen Kaeb hosted our World Relief comfort knotting activity this month. Many comforters were made on behalf of needy, less fortunate individuals. May God be with you all.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Kevin Kipfer Benjamin Stoller

With spring time comes new birth,
on this beautiful and blessed

earth,
it causes us to feel great mirth,
while we reflect on God's magnificent power
in this awe inspiring hour.

Hope this finds you all enjoying this spring. We were blessed with a few buckeyes this past month. They were Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) on Sunday January 29. It was nice to have Bro. Willie Manz come along with Bro. Ben. Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) ministered unto us on February 5.

We have been enjoying fellowship with Bro. Will Olar over the past month. It has been nice to experience different aspects of his intense personality.

On Sunday, February 12, we had our annual church business meeting. We look forward to some beneficial changes.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

"Creation", Hymns of Zion

I am grateful for eyes that see the wondrous beauty of glistening white snow. When the snow melts, the flowing, golden branches of the willow trees brighten the winter landscape. I marvel to see the tiny brine shrimp that we have had over 9 years, swimming around in this little biosphere glass container.

It never even has to be fed since it sustains itself from the algae that grow! "How great is God almighty who has made all things well."

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was here for Sunday services. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) came for a Wednesday evening service. We are grateful their lips proclaim the wisdom of our Lord God.

A bright event for us in Belvidere was hosting tea for the Elders' wives during the February meetings held in Elgin. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) was our guest speaker with the informative topic of "Understanding Each Other." We appreciate the helpful knowledge obtained for better couple communication.

Sis. Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art) continues to be a medical patient. Crissie Malezyk (Abbigale) was a hospital patient. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Several from our congregation have been able to join our churches' hurricane relief work teams in Biloxi, Mississippi. We pray God will bless these efforts.

Our World Relief project this month was a quilt-a-thon. The blankets were donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission.

Bro. Shannon Stahl continues our Old Testament Bible study, our focus this month being on Solomon.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Ann Nussbaum
Jen Heiniger**

With great joy, we welcomed two new members as Hannah Zimmerman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Pam) and Dustin Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie) gave their testimonies February 11 and were baptized February 12. We are thankful these two young hearts have chosen to walk with Jesus. We thank Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) for his part in the testimonies and baptisms. We also thank Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere) who shared the Word in the Sunday service.

On February 5, Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ) visited our congregation and delivered the morning service. We sincerely appreciate his labors on our behalf.

Bro. Adrian and Sis. Melodee Rabe are first-time parents, welcoming daughter Emma Kay into their family on January 16. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold (Forrest) and Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe.

Cade Benjamin Luginbuhl joined his parents—also first-time parents—Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy Luginbuhl, on February 4. Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl (Roanoke) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller (Princeville) are Cade's grandparents.

We rejoice as Bro. Rich Zimmerman (Roanoke) and Sis. Betty Feller united their hearts in marriage on February 8. We offer them our love and wishes for

God to richly bless their lives together.

Bro. Joel Beer and Sis. Patty Triplett of Peoria have felt God's leading in their lives and plan to marry on May 28. Parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise Triplett of Peoria. Our prayerful support is with this young couple as they prepare for their lives together.

We extend a heartfelt welcome to Bro. Todd and Sis. Betsy Zimmerman, who have recently started worshipping with us.

During the past month, we've been privileged to host a number of special events. Bro. Dave Oberfel (Peoria, IL) delivered a powerful message following the College Students Supper February 1. We also thank the young people and their teachers and parents from throughout the state as they joined us to sing praises at the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship gatherings on the evenings of February 5 and February 12.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this month including Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. who helped Bro. Wayne with the Memorandum. The fact that we can receive brethren from across the land and expect to hear the same true Gospel is a blessing that we should not take for granted.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young from Champaign, and Sis. Rosalie Wiegand from Oakville, IA, both of whom have recently taken jobs in our area. We hope they will feel our love and support as they make this transition.

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Endress as they observe their 65th wedding anniversary. It is certainly a blessing for us younger brethren to have steadfast examples and we hope they have additional blessed years ahead of them.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our brethren who have spent time in the hospital. We are glad that Bro. Richard Slutz (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Jane Ehnle (Bro. Kurt), and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bro. Keith) are recovering well. Often, it seems that God brings us these trials to remind us of our mortality. If it weren't for these sorts of reminders, it would be easy to forget about trusting God. So, we can be thankful for these things, if we seek to have an eternal perspective.

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
Karla Kieser**

We are praying for Bro. Dennis Mangers (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Art Walder (Sis. Kim) as they both lost parents this past month. Bro. Dennis lost his father, Raymond Mangers, of Aurora, IL, and Bro. Art lost his mother, Sis. Lucille Walder, of Cissna Park.

The students helped the parents celebrate Valentine's Day this past month by babysitting the children at the church. I know the parents appreciated these babysitters and the nice, quiet evening together immensely.

The students then invited their parents down to Champaign for the annual Parent's Weekend February 25-26. There was a Parent Appreciation dinner on Saturday night followed by a singing. It is always so nice to meet the parents of the students. We enjoyed a few visiting ministers that weekend, namely ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley) and Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere). We appreciate their efforts.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy Fischer have moved recently from the area to the Roanoke Nursing Home. We will miss them and pray that God would bless them in their new home.

The engagement of our Sis. Gretchen Steffen to Bro. Jeff Moser of Bluffton, IN, was announced this month. Sis. Gretchen is a senior nursing student at the University of Illinois and the daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen from Cissna Park. Bro. Jeff is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser from Bluffton. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they begin this new life together.

We also enjoyed our other visiting ministers from this past month. We thank ministering Bros. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis), Mark Zimmerman

(Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), and Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville) for their efforts.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. Our weather has been much colder in the last week or so, replacing the unseasonable warmth we've been experiencing. We have also experienced blessings in the last month, including the opportunity to pray for our Elders who met in Elgin for the mid-year Conference. It was our pleasure to host a brunch for the Elders' wives. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the brothers and their wives for all of their time spent caring for the Brotherhood.

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) assisted Bro. Dale with the reading of the Memorandum this past month. We thank both brothers for lovingly sharing with us. It was a blessing. We also appreciated the ministry of Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), who accompanied Bro. Doug.

We extend a special welcome to Faith Nenadov as she joins us from California. She has accepted employment in our area and we look forward to having her with us.

Recently I was in line at a shop, and as I waited I noticed that the young man at the register had a tattoo on his arm. It was writing of some sort and I was curious as to what it said. When my turn came, I asked him about it. He

held it up for me to see. It said, "Only God can judge me." I thanked him and moved on. But I kept thinking about that phrase as the day continued. I don't know the young man's motivation behind the tattoo, but I realized the statement was Biblically sound.

If I ever see him again in the shop I am going to thank him for sending me searching to the Bible. I was motivated to find the verses that addressed judging. There are many, but I found Jesus' words in Matthew 7, Paul's writing in Romans 2 and I Corinthians 4 reminding me that God will have the final word when it comes to my life and where I spend Eternity. As Paul wrote in I Corinthians 4:4, "...he that judgeth me is the Lord."

I have found in the past that I can get caught up in trying to please the worldly influences around me instead of the godly ones. I have found no satisfaction in that pursuit. Instead, I recognize that the times in which I am most peaceful in heart are the times spent focusing on simply living the way God instructs me through His Word and trying to draw as close to Him as I can.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Pam Walder
Andrea Walder

We rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder in the birth of their son, Caleb Stephen. He is welcomed home by his big sisters, Erica and Kristen. Grandparents are Sis. Velma and

the late Bro. Stephen Rinkenberger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN) and David Obergfel (Peoria, IL). May God's blessings be upon them and their families.

We are thankful that another soul has turned to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with John Eisenmann (son of Francis and the late Bro. Lyle Young and Merle and Elsie Eisenmann) as he begins upon this important pathway. May God's blessings and guidance be with him in the days ahead.

Our prayers are with Bro. Herman Bauer and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger (Bro. Bill) who have recently spent time in the hospital. May they feel the Lord's nearness and healing.

Several in our congregation have lost loved ones during the past month. We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. Les and Sis. Arlene Stock in the death of his sister, Martha Smith. Our thoughts are also with Bro. Harry Young with the passing of his brother, Eugene Young. We also wish to remember the family of Art Kellerhalls who passed away this month. Our prayers are with Sis. Wilma Walder and her family with the death of her sister, Sis. Joan Berchtold (Bro. Lavern), of Princeville, IL. May our Comforter be near to each of these families during their time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

Recently we were reminded of the instruction of Joshua 24:15, "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Not being promised that we will see the morning dawn, we must make this choice today. Also, because of Satan's craftiness, we must remember our promise of faithfulness to the Lord in the morning and strive to serve Him each day.

We are thankful that two dear couples in our midst have made the choice to serve the Lord in their lives and are now establishing their homes in His will and for His glory. Bro. Mikel Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan, Goodfield) was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Stephanie Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda, Forrest, IL) on Sunday, January 22, in Forrest. Sis. Julie Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) married Bro. Mark Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay, Mansfield, OH) on Sunday, February 12. God bless each one and their families as they continue to blend their lives together.

Another pillar of our congregation whom has chosen many years ago to follow the Lord, has passed on to her eternal reward. Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Irene Schrock (the late Bro. Alvin), and especially to her sons, Bro. Allen (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Gerri) Schrock, all of our congregation.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist in the passing of Jackson Jean-Baptiste, the Haitian young man whom they hosted during his stay in the United States. Jackson was a part of our Bible Class, thus our sympathy is also extended to all those who had befriended him.

As some are sorrowful, others rejoice. We extend our congratulations on the birth of Mason Ryan Kieser (Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer) on February 6. He is also welcomed home by his sisters, Alyssa, Jessi, and Morgan, and his brother, Reilly.

We would be ungrateful if we would not thank those who have visited us this past month. Our appreciation is especially extended to our visiting ministering brethren, including Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield, OH), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL). We are also deeply grateful to our Elder body for the time they give to their individual congregations as well as to the whole brotherhood as they recently met together in Elgin.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

At our annual business meeting on January 18, four brothers were selected to begin new terms

of service. They are Bro. Les Schambach as church secretary (replacing Bro. Richard Kilgus), Bro. Jeff Dietz as church trustee (replacing Bro. George Eason), Bro. Morris Young as Fellowship Center trustee (replacing Bro. Don Heiniger), and Bro. Paul Weiss as cemetery trustee (replacing Bro. Elvis Kellenberger). The annual reports remind us of the stewardship involved in maintaining church funds and facilities. We appreciate the labors of each brother and sister.

It was spiritually refreshing to host the mid-winter Elder Conference, February 7-10. We are thankful to God for the privilege of serving the brothers and their wives who have so unselfishly given on behalf of their flocks. There were church services on Tuesday and Friday evening. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) ministered to us the first night; and Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA) lent themselves on the second occasion. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) also visited Elgin in the past month, exhorting us through their ministry.

May God grant Sis. Ann Reber serenity to accept one of life's changes. She recently moved from a Resthaven apartment to the nursing home. Another who is adjusting to a move is Navy reservist Jay Cox, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. DeAnne. Within the past

month, he was activated and sent to southern California, where he is stationed for an indefinite period of time. We pray the Lord will be near him and his family while they are apart from each other.

Andy and Lori Tobler's little son Ryan was hospitalized with pneumonia, but we are happy to report he is now doing fine.

Our sympathy is extended to the families who recently lost loved ones. The funeral of Bro. Elmer Ginzl, the father of Sis. Marcia Kellenberger (Bro. Tim), was January 23. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Dorothy. Barbara Phelps, the sister of Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Marilyn), preceded her husband William in death. Her funeral was January 26.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Lisa Metzger

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Ben Rocke and Sis. Amber Reutter, both from the Rockville congregation. Their parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan Rocke and Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter (Rockville, CT). We pray they will feel God's nearness and blessing as their two lives mold into one.

Our congregation has enjoyed two wonderful occasions of baptisms recently. We welcome all of the following into the wonderful body of Christ: Bro. Hank Blunier (Sis. Wilma), Sis. Connie Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kandi

Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr, Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman). May the Lord continue to provide His grace and blessings as they walk the path of righteousness.

Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda) has undergone surgery recently. We are thankful he is recovering well and pray God will continue to provide for him and his loved ones.

It is always a blessing to witness souls turning in repentance to Christ. We pray for our new converts, Brittany Gibbs (Dennis and Janet) and Tracy Leman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis), and hope they will feel the grace and mercy of God as they continue this new walk with Christ.

Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss welcome a new little one into their hearts and home. Kianna Leigh is the new little sister of Amelia, Serena, Cade and Natalie. Grandparents of Kianna are Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). We wish them the Lord's grace and wisdom as their blessings grow.

We have had several visiting ministers recently, including Elder Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We thank each one for giving of themselves to proclaim the Word

in its truth.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who have shown so much love and kindness during the passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather.

The family of Bro. Elmer Ginzl

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Lila Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser are happy to welcome their new little Rudy Dean to join big sisters, Myrna, Martha, and Esther, along with big brothers, Corbin and Owen. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL). We wish this couple God's grace and blessings as they raise their children.

This past month Sis. Leona Kaisner and Sis. Pat Hartman spent time in the hospital. We are prayerful for restored health.

This month was also the mid-winter Elder Conference in Elgin, IL. May it have been a blessing to them to have deliberated together. We lift up our Elder brothers in prayer that they might always seek God's guidance in this weighty work.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

"Therefore shall a man leave

his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

On January 22, we witnessed the wedding vows of our Sis. Stephanie Kuntz and Bro. Mikel Steffen (Congerville, IL). Their parents are Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz and Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan Steffen (Goodfield, IL). May God be at the center of their marriage and continue to lead and bless them.

We also heard the wedding engagement of Bro. Matthew Zimmerman and Sis. Kim Hermann (Princeville, IL). Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman and Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Hermann (Princeville, IL). We pray that God will be with them during this time as they plan for their life together.

Our prayers have been with our Bro. Leland Kuntz (Sis. Marge) who has spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God will grant His healing power so that we can see him in church again soon.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who have shared the Word of Life with us this month. May God richly bless Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) for their labors in His vineyard.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Amber Grimm****Rita Bauman**

Prayer and encouragement is important for our hospital patients this past month. Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Carolyn Rokey, Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen, Sis. Bertha Wingeier, Sis. Donna Wyss and Bro. Wilbur Heinold. We pray that each one may feel God's peace and healing hand if it would be His will.

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

Acts 3:19

February 25 - 26 was a special weekend for our congregation and for Teri Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) and Teddi Taufer (Bro. Ted and Sis. Kenda). We were able to hear their testimony of faith and then witness their baptism. It is always encouraging to hear how the Lord works and changes lives. We welcome these dear sisters to the household of faith. May they continue to look to Him for guidance.

Our hearts are thankful and rejoicing in the recent betrothal of Sis. Kara Schieler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Ryan Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) of Silverton, OR. On February 26, the engagement of Sis. Shelly Hinrichsen (Bruce Hinrichsen and Cathy Appleyard) and Bro. Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) of Eureka, IL, was made

known. We wish each couple God's blessings as they plan and make preparation for their life as one with Him.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Joining us this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). May our God bless them and their families for willingly sharing the precious Word with our congregation.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

I met God in the morning
When the day was at its best,
And His Presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive them,
Brought to me a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I too had loosed the moorings,
With the Presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way;
You must seek Him in the morning

If you want Him throughout the day!

Ralph Cushman

The above contains wise advice. It ties in with the Scriptural direction to "draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." I am always sobered by the Word which teaches the believer to "pray without ceasing."

We were glad for the exhortation from the annual Memorandum, and wish to thank Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for helping Elder Bro. Earl Ringger read it to our Gridley congregation. We truly benefit from the aspect of brotherhood wherein we seek to build each other up, and help one another along life's spiritual pathways. The power of the enemy seems to be increasing, and thus it behooves brethren to be likeminded and pulling together to ward him (the enemy) off.

Lincoln David Ringger was born on February 16. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Kate Ringger. He has a brother, Mason, 3. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger and ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner. Great-grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger and Sis. Lucile Stoller; and Richard and Janet Baner, Eureka; and Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp, Goodfield. Great-great-grandparents are Sis. Sarah Frank, Morton, and Charles and Mary Baner, Decatur.

Bro. Jerry Christensen was

hospitalized for hip surgery, and Bro. Mike Stoller required surgery on his ankle after a fall. May God grant healing to these dear ones.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

Another Valentine's Day celebration has come and gone. Did the valentines in your life receive the sweet gift of prayer from you? A prayer for each one, to sincerely commit their hearts to the love of Christ? By the time this writing is printed, spring will be upon us, bringing forth many forms of new life. Our sweet gifts of prayer will be trusted to our Heavenly Father to also bring forth newly committed lives and hearts to Him.

Our family night service was presented by Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL). His topic was "Power In The Blood". Clearly, powerfully changed lives can only be accomplished through the BLOOD of Christ.

The parting of loved ones is like a farewell greeting. A greeting also mingled with sorrow. Our Sis. Lorna (Bro. Don) Schrock experienced sorrow this month with the passing of her sister, Sis. Barbara Phelps, from the Elgin, IL, congregation. Also our Sis. Lydia (Bro. Ralph) Hauter lost her brother, Benjamin Baer, on February 10. Martha DeYoung, mother of our Sis. Beverly (Ben) Wiegand, also passed away with the funeral ser-

vice on February 11. Sis. Linda Wiegand is her granddaughter. Our deepest sympathy is extended to these dear families.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kristin Menold
Carissa Klopfenstein

Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) visited our congregation on February 1 for Family Night. His topic was "The Exodus to the Promised Land."

We were blessed to have the Washington choir visit our congregation for the February Hymn Sing in addition to our K-2 Sunday School classes.

Sis. Patricia Triplett (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise) and Bro. Joel Beer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan) from Bloomington announced their engagement on February 12. Their wedding date is set for May 21.

Bro. Vern and Sis. Marie Hohulin are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jill Hohulin, to Anthony Martini of Colorado. Their wedding will be July 29 in Colorado.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Courtney Strahm are parents for the first time. Jude Anthony was born February 2. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Clayton and Sis. Marian Strahm (Sabetha, KS).

We rejoice with Johnny Huber (Bro. Jim Huber Sr. and Sis. Jean Huber) as he begins his walk with the Lord.

On February 12, Justin Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis.

Beth), Jenna Rieker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Martney Stickling (Harold and Marilyn), Alyssa Hoerr (Bro. Tod and Sis. Sallie) were announced for baptism.

We are lifting in prayer several in our congregation who are ill or in the hospital. Bro. Harry Eisenmen, Bro. Bob Miller, as he is recovering from surgery, Sis. Marian Hemmer, Bro. Dan Hoerr, Sis. Mabel Weber, and Bro. David Dunbar.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ginzel and family in the passing of Bro. Dave's father, Bro. Elmer Ginzel from Eureka, Clara Perdelwitz and Karen Hofstetter with the passing of their brother and uncle, Chris Schmidgall of Pekin, the family of Larry Riggenschach, who was a resident at our home on Skyline Drive, and the Binkele family in the passing of their brother Rudy Binkele, also a resident of our home on Skyline Drive.

Mike and Sis. Janet Weber would like to thank all who prayed for their son, Jeff, as he was in the Marines in Iraq the past four years. He has returned and is now attending ISU.

The Peoria choir visited Gridley for their monthly Hymn Sing, January 15, and Cissna Park on January 22.

The Bible Class wishes to thank all that supported them by attending the Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper, which was held on January 21 at our Fellowship Hall.

New Sunday School teachers

elected in January are Bro. Joel Hoerr, Sis. Lindsey Getz, Sis. Cheryl Grassi, Sis. Jill Gutwein, and Sis. Kristi Rieker. Lord willing, they will begin teaching in the Fall of 2006. Bro. Randy Kieser was elected as a trustee. Bro. Randy is replacing Bro. Steve Schmidgall, who is retiring.

Our annual business meeting was held on Sunday, January 8.

We welcome Tonya Henderson and her children, Marisa (3) and Floyd Jr. (1), to our congregation. Our Sis. Kyra Klopfenstein has moved to Oberlin, OH, and will be attending the Smithville church.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Kara Blunier
Vera Baer**

Let your whole life be an offering,
To God and to Christ the Lord.
None who here to Him surrender
Will regret it, for His word
Gives us peace, and release,
Sweet rest after battles cease.

Zion's Harp #159

This hymn was special to Sis. Joan Berchtold. It was sang and meditated on at her funeral, February 14. Our prayers are with her husband, Bro. Lavern, and children, Mary Beth (Curt) Wagenbach and Bro. David (Sis. Leann). Also in sorrow this month is Sis. Frances (Bro. Edward Jr.) Knobloch as her mother, Pearl Gerber (West Bend, IA) passed away. She will be missed even if she had lived to

be of an older age. Sis. Sadie Streitmatter has also been relieved of her earthly concerns. May each of the families and friends of these dear souls feel God filling the void in their hearts after the loss of their loved one.

Sis. Kimberly Herrmann was announced to become the wife of Bro. Matt Zimmerman from Forrest, IL. Their parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman. April 9 has been selected for their wedding date. We are thankful for the faith they have that God has brought them together.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Emily (Bro. Joe) Stoller, and Lily Blunier (infant daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier). Both are home and doing much better.

Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) spoke to us from God's Word February 5. Bro. Andrew Klaus (Tokyo, Japan) was here February 8. We are thankful they each allowed the Spirit to direct our thoughts.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank the ministers, church family, relatives, friends and neighbors for all the prayers, visits, phone calls, gifts, cards and meals since my accident and return home. May God bless each of you for your deeds of kindness.

Love, Sis. Lucille Rumbold

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Doris Fischer
Dee Fehr**

Observation - Seeing, noting or watching for some special purpose.

Interpretation - Bringing out the meaning.

Application - Using, applying or putting on with continued effort; paying close attention.

As we study God's Word in our daily Bible reading, are we including these three steps: Watching for some special purpose as we read, bringing out the meaning, and then applying what we have read to our daily lives with continued effort.

At our January Family Worship, Bro. Tim Roecker (Peoria) posed a question for each of us to answer in our own heart, "Are we sanctified?" How are we impacting those around us? As Christians, we are called to be disciples and a "living sacrifice acceptable to God." Our thanks also goes to Bro. Dave Marquart (Taylor) and Bro. Justin Koch (Washington) for ministering to us recently. On February 5, we enjoyed a church potluck and hymn sing, after which Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the Home for the Handicapped.

"Two are better than one...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Ecc. 4:9&12

In this past month, three dear couples entered into the bonds of

holy matrimony. On January 22, Bro. Matt Leman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Heather Mellin (Bob and Cindy Rippon and Lee and Marlene Mellin) became one in the Lord. Bro. Rich Zimmerman and Sis. Betty Feller were united in marriage on February 8 in Bloomington. February 19 was the wedding day of Bro. Stephen Bertschi (Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev) and Sis. Susan Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa). May the Lord grant each of these God-made unions much joy and happiness, grace and perseverance.

“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

Rev. 19:9

Let us each strive to make certain that we will be present at that greatest of all marriages which is to come, and that we shall be found clothed with the pure wedding garment of the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you all for remembering me with birthday cards and with expressions of kindness on my 95th birthday. The blessings of the Lord were deeply felt. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Margaret Beer

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Sheri Allen

Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter

(Bloomington, IL) came to assist with the reading of the Memorandum this past month. May the Lord bless his willingness to come and serve.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5

We were able to witness the testimonies and baptisms of three dear souls. We welcome Bro. William Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette), Bro. Rollyn Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Larissa Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) into the fold. We are thankful for the assistance of Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). Many other ministering brothers were here that weekend also. They were Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL).

Other visiting ministers include Bros. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), and Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan).

Elder Bro. Charles Sauder traveled to Elgin, IL, for the Winter Conference. Our prayers were with him and the other Elders as they joined together to discuss the serious issues facing us. We look forward to listening to the

Conference tapes. May we all continue to be prayerful and uphold these teachings from the Bible.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner as they welcomed their new daughter, Blessing Joy, on January 30. Excited siblings are Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, Titus and Courage. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA).

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt), Sis. Carrie Rocke (Bro. Jeff), Sis. Eunice Rowell, Fred Endress and Grace Kaiser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee). We pray for the Lord's blessing upon their health.

Bro. Chris Woerner has passed on from this life. He has several loved ones in our congregation. Our sympathy goes out to his sister, Sis. Pauline Sauder; his daughter, Sis. Mary (Bro. Steve) Sauder; and his grandsons, Bro. Derek (Sis. Leann) Sauder and Bro. Brent Sauder. Our prayer is that they can draw close to and feel the comfort of the Lord during this time.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Barb Banwart

Nancy Knepp

I will cling to my Saviour and
never depart,
I will joyfully journey each day
With a song on my lips and a
song in my heart
That my sins have been taken
away.

They are nailed to the cross,

They are nailed to the cross,
O how much He was willing to
bear!
With what anguish and loss
Jesus went to the cross!
But He carried my sins with Him
there.

Gospel Hymns #783

We were reminded of the blessed gift of salvation as Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Stoller were taken into the fold. What a wonderful privilege it was to their children, Jacob, Emily and Matthew, to witness the change in their parents as they submitted their lives to God. Sis. Rebecca Drete (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy) was also baptized this month. They all testified of the precious peace they found only in Jesus.

A special thank you to our young group for serving lunch on several occasions recently. We appreciate you and your willingness to serve!

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), and Bros. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan), and Marvin Lemans (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL).

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) assisted Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum.

Sis. Ida Pfaffmann and Bro. Gene Kellenberger were hospital patients this month.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for your visits, words of encouragement and prayers during the time of Martha's stay in the nursing home and at the time of her death."

Sis. Edna Mae Simon

Correction: Delores Kiefer is a Sister-in-faith and the signature on her thank you note last month should have reflected that. We sincerely apologize.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON **Amber Steffen** **Amy Gerber**

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

Psalms 127:3

We rejoice this month as three couples are blessed with new babies. Carter David arrived to Nick and Jessica Fiechter on January 27. Carter's grandparents are Bro. David and June Fiechter. Also on January 27, Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer greeted Brett William. Brett's grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie Drayer and Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger. Sydney Anne was added to Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather Merritt's family. Sydney's sister is Alyssa and her grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt and Sis. Sheri Cress.

The Bluffton congregation rejoiced with Lance Pfister as he gave his heart to the Lord last month. Lance's parents are Bro.

Courtney and Sis. Jodi. Brooke Fiechter also came into the conviction of repentance this month. Brooke's parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter. We pray that both of these converts can find peace and joy in serving our Father.

Four dear souls have announced that they are at peace with God and are ready for baptism. We are thankful that God is bringing salvation into the hearts of Kreigh Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth), Annie Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda), Beth Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie) and Brent Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill).

Our prayers are with the family of Bro. Raymond Baumgartner as he departed for his eternal home on February 6. He left behind three sisters and a brother. Sis. Lorine Baumgartner, Sis. Lucinda Steffen (Bro. Ralph), Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer) and Bro. Glen Baumgartner (Sis. Alice, Phoenix, AZ) all mourn the loss of their dear brother.

We are praying for Bro. Bob Steffen (Sis. Marcia) who is suffering from a rare disease of the esophagus. We pray that God can place His healing hand upon him. Our prayers are also with Bro. Bob Isch (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Paul Dotterer (Sis. Phyllis) who are both recovering from medical conditions.

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. Our dear Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen) visited us from

Bluffton North for a mid-week service. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Bro. Wayne Lemman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) stood willingly before our congregation and spoke God's Word to our hearts. We are appreciative of their sacrifices to be with us.

May we all remember this month, "as we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, what a glory He sheds on our way, while we do His good will, He abides with us still..." May each of us feel His strengthening and illumination as we continue on the narrow way comforted by His constant abiding.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

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

Psalm 34:1

On January 29, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton) shared the Word with us. Preaching from Philippians, he reminded us that Jesus gave up His rights as God to travel to earth and save us. What a wonderful Savior!

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Michelle Baumgartner (Bro. Brad) on the passing of her mother, Sis. Myrna Steffen, of Alto, MI.

Spending time in the hospital this month where Sis. Diane Ma-

son, Bro. Leonard Bertsch (Sis. Wava), and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry).

It is with great joy that I (Bro. Darren) announce my engagement to Sis. Amanda Brudi, the daughter of Jim and Karen Brudi. My parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer. This experience has taught Amanda and me that God is sovereign and knows exactly what He is doing. Faith marriage is a blessing. We praise God for His marvelous works.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray**

"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

We need to count our blessings and not dwell on the things that bring us down. Just like the song "Count Your Blessings" reminds us, what the Lord has done. These things are far greater than anything we could ever imagine.

Many blessings we share are the strengthening of our health. The Lord has provided through hospital stays, surgery, and illness. Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris) spent some time this past

month in the hospital recovering from illness. Bro. Brian Putt (Sis. Tami) is now recovering from back surgery, and Sis. Frances Lemman is recovering from a fall and a broken arm. We pray the Lord continues to give you all strength and healing. Our love and prayers are with you.

What a blessing many are sharing as we have seen many travel to help others build and rebuild this past month. Many have seen great earthly disasters and we can't even imagine what that would be like. Thank you all dear Brothers and Sisters who have been so willing to give of yourselves. May the Lord bless you and those lives that you have touched.

Our thanks goes out to Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN) for a blessed Bible study on being "Doers of the Word". So much was shared, and if we act on what we were taught, we will find even more blessings to count. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family.

What a blessing to share the arrival of Anna Joy Barngrover to her parents, Michael and Helen, of Peoria, IL. We pray all is going well and Anna will share many blessings with her first-time parents. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Miream Metz.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Gail Bradford**

The congregation held its annual business meeting in Janu-

ary. We elected various officers, such as treasurer, trustees, ushers, kitchen coordinators, etc. Brothers and sisters who serve in these positions assume responsibilities for tasks essential to good order and stewardship. We thank all the outgoing office holders for their servant hearts and encourage all the incoming office holders in their new jobs.

Bro. Ben Pearson is spending time in Shioda, Japan, to help Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle with outreach in that community. Bro. Ben speaks Japanese, which will be of great help in spreading the Good News.

We appreciate the service of visiting ministering Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL). We should also remember to thank our "home" ministers who preach God's Word faithfully, too!

Over these past few weeks, visitors to our Sunday services extended greetings from more than twenty congregations. We are happy that so many from all parts of the country join us to worship our Lord and Savior. We hope we make all of you feel at home every time you are here.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke

Greetings be to you our brethren,
 To our sisters in the Lord,
 Here from far and near assembled,
 Gathered here in one accord.
 Welcome, welcome, All ye loved ones:

Greetings in the Savior's name.

Hymns of Zion #7

We are thankful to welcome new brethren to our congregation. Bro. David Virkler has moved from Congerville, IL. Bro. Dave Peasley joins us from Lester, IA and we are looking forward to the time when his wife, Sis. Marjean, can join us as well. Both brothers have found employment in the area and we are thankful to have them worshipping with us.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Ben (Sis. Kendra) Stoller and their family as they grieve the loss of Bro. Ben's grandmother, Sis. Florence Stoller (Latty, OH). We rejoice that another of God's children has been called home, but she will be missed here on earth.

We are remembering Sis. Fern Antrim and her family in our prayers as she has been moved to hospice care. May they feel God's nearness during this time.

We enjoyed the service of Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park) who visited our congregation with some of his family. Thank you for your labors of love on our behalf.

We appreciated an evening of fellowship and unity at our Annual Meeting on January 30. We thank all who have fulfilled their duties and trust that those who have been chosen for positions will find joy in doing service to God and the church.

Our prayers were with our Elder brothers as they met in Elgin, IL, for the mid-winter Confer-

ence. We trust that God's presence was felt as they labored for the good of the church and we pray that God will bless them as they strive for unity.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

A Face

I wandered through the night
 alone;
 A face from out the darkness
 shone,
 A garnered flame of beauty given
 To guide a blinded soul to
 Heaven.

A lovely face, with ray divine,
 Forever on my pathway shine;
 Where'er my wayward footsteps
 roam,
 Be thou my star, my faith, my
 home!
 —W. Washburn

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

Psalm 16:11

On January 26, Sydney Anne was welcomed by Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather Merritt and sister Alyssa. Her grandparents are Sis. Sheri Cress, Gary and Sis. Sharon Merritt of Bluffton, IN. Congratulations to all of you.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) and family visited us. It was seventeen years to the day that they first arrived in Leo to serve at Gateway Woods. It was good to have them visit us again. His message based on I Samuel 15

and Hebrews 11-12; 1-4 was on obedience and faith, something we can all profit by. On February 5 we welcomed Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bay City, MI). He read from Malachi 1 and Romans 2 in the afternoon service. Bro. Steve Stieglitz had the morning service from Genesis 35 and James 4. The same theme was relative in all these chapters, written to the Jews. The Brothers aptly related the Scripture to us today. "... put away the strange gods that are among you, ..." (Gen. 35:2); "... Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?..." "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord..." (James 4:4,10); "... if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with ..." (Mal. 1:8); "... glory and honor, and peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile" (Romans 2:10).

Our prayers are with Sis. Marie Bertsch who has not been to church for months because back pain limits her walking.

Bro. Sylvan Pulfer is gaining some of his strength back; he has not been able to attend church services. We miss him and Sis. Irene.

Also, Bro. Tyler Stieglitz had surgery and needs our prayers for complete healing.

We pray for our youth who hold their Winter Retreat February 17-19. May they be drawn closer in a relationship with the Lord and others of the faith.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Haab
Carlton Beer**

The Lord has blessed us with a mild month. We are so thankful as this is less of a burden for poor families to heat their homes.

Bro. Chris Huber (Francesville, IN) ministered to us one Sunday and he emphasized the importance of being brethren. It makes us brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity, a responsibility and a joy unspeakable.

Bro. Sid Kauffman (Cissna Park, IL) also was with us on Sunday. He spoke on the terrific price that was paid by Jesus for our salvation and of the uncertainties of life. Also, that the door is still open.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) conducted a Bible study on Thursday. The topic was "Communication, how we converse with one another". We were encouraged to keep our noon break on a more spiritual nature. We could use this encouragement.

As we have some couples vacationing in the south, our attendance has been smaller. But we rest on God's promise: "Fear not little flock, it is God's good pleasure to give unto you the kingdom." By God's grace we hope to receive that kingdom.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Tammy Waibel
Beth Virkler**

Is there a person alive who

doesn't long for the renewal about this time of year that Spring promises? For those who live with a pleasant year-round climate, perhaps you wonder how the northerners or midwesterners survive the cold winters. We survive through hope... knowing that the exhilaration of spring is worth the wait. Even so, when we experience dark seasons of life, we can survive through hope... knowing that Jesus will keep His promise and joy will come in the morning (Psalms 30:5).

Bringing the Word to us this month was Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

Michael, Alexis and Marisa Schini have a new baby in their home which will provide opportunities for them all to be helpers. Kaiden Riley was born on February 16 to Bob and Heather Schini who are thankful for his safe arrival. Great-grandmother is Sis. Amelia Schini of Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Laura Vercler
Amy Gerst**

As the days begin to lengthen, we look forward to the season of new life. May it encourage us to pray for those in the darkness of sin in need of a new life in Jesus Christ!

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Curt Frank (La Crosse, IN) share the Memorandum with us in January. It was a blessing to hear their words of encourage-

ment and warning. It now behooves us to apply their instruction to each of our individual lives from day to day.

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Herb Knochel and his family worship with us February 19. His daughter, Sis. Natalie, is engaged to Bro. Nate Virkler. The church rejoiced together with the young couple at a singing shower after church. We look forward to many more visits from Bro. Herb and his family when Sis. Natalie moves to South Bend after the April wedding.

It was a joy to wish Aline Merkel a happy 90th birthday on Valentine's Day. May God continue to provide for her.

A reminder that during the winter months in South Bend, we worship the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings in our homes. Please call us if you plan to be in the area. We always love and appreciate visitors.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Andria Sprunger
Hollie Meister**

"Jesus said, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

Luke 19:40

We praise God for His continued work, drawing souls to Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for a new convert in our West Lafayette congregation. Luke Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) has

repented in the past month here in West Lafayette, IN.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost family and loved ones. Maggie Getz (Jason) lost her mother, Susan Slaughterbeck, to cancer, while Sis. Mara Lemman (Bro. Randy) lost her grandfather. Please keep them in your prayers.

We are thankful for all the ministers that came to share the Word with us this past month. We were blessed with Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), and Bros. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN), Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN).

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Elaine Bahler
Lowell Bahler**

This past month has been rather quiet here at Wolcott as we have enjoyed the mild winter days.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN), and our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) who favored us through sharing of the Word these past weeks.

Our special Bible topic "The Kingdom of Heaven" for this period was brought to us by Bro.

Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN). It was pointed out so well to us the extreme contrast between the world or man's ambitions and goals - which is to seek after fame, fortune, honor, and self esteem compared to what the Bible teaches as to meekness, a humble, contrite spirit, lowliness of heart, and esteeming our brother higher than ourselves in order to attain our eternal, heavenly goal. Thank you, Bro. Neal.

Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) has undergone lower back surgery recently and has expressed his thankfulness for the prayers and deeds of kindness shown to him during this time. Other hospital patients have been Bro. Glen Blume (Sis. Norma) and Bro. Rob Lehman (Sis. Beckie).

Brad and Tanna Kyburz are first-time parents of a son, Dillinger Bradley, born December 17. First-time grandparents are Ron and Donna Kyburz and Dennis and Darlene Patton of Wheatfield, IN. Congratulations to all.

At this Valentine season time of year, let us make a special effort to examine the condition of our own spiritual hearts.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Barbara Schock**

Greetings! This past month we were able to listen to the Memorandum on January 21. Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville) was here and assisted our Elder Bro. Doug in this duty. We read in Acts 15 how the

early church “rejoiced for the consolation” that came to the believers that sanctified their lives in the Lord Jesus Christ, and today there is still that consolation that the believer rejoices in. To be united in fellowship with those that are called to be saints truly humbles us. We thank Bro. Bob for his efforts on Saturday evening and Sunday as he brought us the living Word that calls us from death unto life. May the Lord richly bless him.

On February 12, we were again blessed with another visiting ministering brother, Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La Crosse), who was here for the weekend. We thank him also for his efforts as he shared the Word with us. It has been many years since we have been blessed with their last visit here, but the love that flows from heart to heart in Christ Jesus has not “diminished, nor faded or waxed away”.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Krystal Knapp
Laurie Schulz

We recently held our annual business meeting. Those receiving new duties are Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli) as trustee, Sis. Dorothy Taeger (Bro. Dick) on the kitchen committee, and Sis. Krystal Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) as Silver Lining correspondent. May God bless them in their responsibilities. We also want to thank those who have recently finished their terms and pray God will bless them likewise.

Welcoming Drew Alan are first-time parents, Jay and Chris Ann Miller. Drew’s thankful grandparents are Joe and Sis. Carol Bonnesen and Jan Miller. Also, Quinton Allen was born to Bro. Philip and Sis. Kelli Schulz. Grandparents of this precious bundle are Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody (and the late Sis. Karen) Schulz and Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank. We rejoice with these couples, and pray God will grant these couples wisdom in raising their children.

We also appreciate visiting ministers from Oakville, IA: Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank. May God ever bless them for their willingness to serve.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

My Lord an offering do I bring;
 My heart I give to Thee.
 I gladly give this heart of mine,
 Which Thou dost ask of me.

It was a real blessing to travel to Tremont and hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Rollyn Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Deb). We truly appreciate having Bro. Rollyn in our midst while he is attending the Dairy-Ag program at NICC in Calmar.

“We took sweet counsel together.”

Psalm 55:14

This was our joy as we gathered together to hear the Memorandum. How good to be reminded of the spiritual armor that is needed as we continue in our individual earthly battles. Our sincere thanks to Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). Also a word of thanks to all our beloved Elders who labor so lovingly and sacrificially on our behalf. May God continue to grant them much strength, grace and Godly discernment as they seek to guide the flocks according to the teachings found in God’s Word.

“Lo, children are an heritage unto the Lord.”

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty Getz welcomed another son into their family circle with the arrival of Joel Andrew on February 13. Joel’s siblings are Tierra, Oren, Bahlor, and twins, Silas and Levi. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer.

“Pray one for another that ye might be healed.”

Many prayers were offered on behalf of our recent surgical patients, Sis. Laverne Butikofer (Bro. Al) and Bro. Kent Getz and Sis. Betty Getz. We are thankful that our prayers were heard and all are enjoying better health. May God continue to provide for

their every need.

He rose His own to justify,
And draws all men up to the sky.
If you have found the Christ, His
way,
Then you can keep this Easter
day.

May we not let this Easter season pass by without spending a little time in deep appreciation and thanks to God, for His marvelous plan of salvation. Without the shed blood and resurrection of Jesus, where would our hope for a peaceful eternity be?

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

Visitors in the past month have included Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL), Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). We are so thankful for those who have traveled many miles to share the Word of God with us, and to others who traveled to fellowship with us.

As I write this, I realize this year is nearly one-sixth spent, and as you read it will be one-fourth spent. It seems just yesterday we sang, "Another year is dawning, Dear Saviour, let it be another year for Thee." Have we done even one little thing for Him?

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We are pleased to welcome back to our area Bro. Man Huynh

from South Bend, Indiana.

As I considered Easter, I thought about the following verses: "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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17) I am so thankful that Christ wants the world (and us who have come out of the world) to be delivered instead of condemned to what we deserve.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

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

Deut. 5:29

The weekend of January 21-22 our congregation welcomed three souls into the fold. Sis. Katie Metzger (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet), Sis. Elyse Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) gave their testimonies and were baptized. It is such a wonderful reminder to hear them express their desire to be free from Satan and leave the old life behind. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was here to assist in this work, along

with ministering Bros. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Truly it was a blessing for all who could be present.

Landon Jon Leuthold was born to loving parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Amber, on February 1. Grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger.

Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) was our visiting minister on February 5. We thank him and his wife, Sis. Rachel, for being in our midst.

Remembering our hospital patients this past month in thought and prayer: Bro. Ray Meyer (Sis. Twyla), Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), Paige Moser (Josh and Melinda) and Bro. Art Metzger (Sis. Kristy). May God continue to give them strength to recover completely.

Gwen Meyer (Bro. George) and Nate Christie are engaged to be married. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for this important step in their lives.

Matt and Rosalee Anderson have felt the great forgiveness of sin offered by God to those who are humble. They feel at peace with God and man and are looking forward to baptism in March. Let us praise God each day for His tender mercy.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand
Visiting ministers this past

month were Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). May our Heavenly Father be their rich Rewarder!

On February 3-4, a financial seminar was presented at the Fellowship Center by Bro. Jeff Thames. A lot of good practical advice coupled with Biblical teachings! Thank you to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda for their time and effort.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Bethany Frank are thankful for the safe arrival of little Russell Tyler, born February 2. He joins big brother, Neil, and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz and Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank. May God bless them as their family circle grows.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Sue Schneider
Lori Skoglund**

The Memorandum was read and expounded upon to us by our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). The word "memorandum" as defined in the dictionary is a written record to be used as a reminder. We are very thankful for the reminders and wise counsel of our many Elders.

Thankful first-time parents are Mike and Breann Schneider. Teagan Michael arrived on January 29. He is blessed with two sets of grandparents living close by: Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey

Messner.

Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen Dahlhauser have a new little granddaughter, Lillian Faith, born February 1 to Bro. Jaylin and Sis. Anne Dahlhauser. Gracelin and Samuel welcome little Lillian into their family.

Pearl Gerber was called from this life suddenly on February 1. Her husband, Eli, preceded her in death in 2005. Survivors include six daughters: Donna (Milton) Bond, Pine Island, MN; Marian (Aaron) Anliker, Harlan, IA; Judith (Ron) Girres, West Bend; Sis. Frances (Bro. Ed) Knobloch, Dunlap, IL; Linda (Steve) Blair, Estherville, IA; and Bonnie (Randy) Berg, Sioux City, IA. Pearl also leaves behind 23 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and two sisters, Minnie Speth of Windom, MN, and Ruby Jentz of Fenton, IA. We extend our sympathy to all those who grieve her passing. Visiting ministering Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) offered the graveside prayer.

We wish all three of the following couples God's richest blessings: Missy Lemman and Daniel Wise have announced their engagement and plan for a late spring wedding. Missy is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Lemman. Brice Metzger and Sara Grandgenett are also anticipating marriage in the near future. Brice is Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger's son. One more couple has wedding plans: Brandi

Schmidt and Jacob Akridge. Brandi's parents are Jamie and Linda Schmidt.

Joan Traub has undergone surgery in the past month and is recuperating at home. Sis. Kay (Bro. David) Eisenmann was hospitalized for medical reasons. Several from our congregation have been confined to their homes due to colds and the flu. We trust God's healing hand has been felt by each individual.

In the West Bend area, a nice layer of snow covers the quiet, cold earth as it rests before being awakened and revitalized with the coming of spring. May we, too, take the time to quietly rest and be revitalized in the Lord.

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him:"

Psalms 37:7

We apologize for failing to include Eldon Fehr (Verdell, Guthrie Center, IA) among the survivors of Henry Fehr in our news last month. Henry was Eldon's father.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

The coldest month of the year is usually February here in Japan, and with a few snowy days this year and very cold nights all went well here in Tokyo. Areas toward the west near the Japan Sea suffered with lots of snow and cloudy days.

The common cold kept loved ones at home the first Sunday of the month, but thankful most

have recovered. The ladies enjoyed a World Relief project of sewing "receiving blankets" for World Relief. We are often thinking of what other projects our small group can contribute to this worthy organization.

As usual, visitors add extra blessings to our services and fellowship, and this month was no exception. Brethren traveling to Indonesia sent by World Relief to check on Tsunami relief funds visited us on their return trip to the U.S. They were Bros. Robert Allen, Philadelphia, who is fluent in the local language there, Tom Hitz, Detroit, and Stan Virkler, Remington, who added their expertise as well. As our custom is to ask a visiting Brother to lead our afternoon Bible class, we were fed by the teachings in Jonah 3,4, and Ruth 1:16. The Brother explained that we often connect the Old Testament teachings with the salvation of only the Jewish people, and the New Testament opening the way for the Gentiles with the coming of Christ and His shed blood. Jonah was sent to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh in Assyria and not of the Jewish race. Ruth was from the tribe of Moab, not an Israelite, and said "...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God..." Job, from the land of Uz, was also mentioned as one who feared God and eschewed evil. The conclusion was that the Word from the beginning to the end is concerned for the souls of men, no matter what lineage or background.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Jackie Braker (Washington) and Bro. Seth Braker (Roanoke) were so enjoyed as they came to sightsee and visit cousins, Jeff and Lynn (Braker) Bennett and children, who are living in Tokyo for a time. We also enjoyed Bro. Ben Pearson from Indy who is busy lending his hands in the Lord's work serving at the Shioda church for a time.

Our most recent visitors were Dr. and Mrs. Parkhe on their return trip to India. At mid-week we enjoyed a delicious 'Indian Curry' meal prepared by them at the church with a song service afterwards. After we sang, "What a Friend," Dr. Parkhe commented that the writer of this song, Joseph Scriven, was considered a complete failure by many, naming several episodes. Even when a noble speaker came to his village in Canada, he was the only one of the town not invited to attend. It was then in the loneliness of his room that he wrote this beautiful song. We wish the Parkhes the Lord's blessing and favor as they continue laboring in the Indian vineyard of the Lord.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

We thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) who preached God's Word to us this month! Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) was also here for the reading of the Memorandum

with the Sabetha congregation on a Saturday evening and then services on Sunday. We thank him for his words of wisdom and encouragement!

Bro. Waymer Esslinger was our surgical patient this month. Sis. Lillian Esslinger has returned home after a stay at the hospital. We pray they have a complete healing!

Dr. Parkhe and his wife, Damayanti, came and worshipped with us on a Sunday. In the evening we had a church potluck and singing. Afterwards Dr. Parkhe gave a brief description of the work done at the Rural Gospel Medical Mission in India. We thank him for speaking to us!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today,
 For the wanderer now is reconciled;
 Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful way,
 and is born anew a ransomed child.

Gospel Hymns #622

The weekend of February 4-5 certainly brought forth much joy as three dear ones gave their heartfelt testimonies of faith. Baptized and welcomed into the body of believers were Bro. Thayre Banwart (Bro. Lon and Sis. Deb), Bro. Ryan Lewis (Tom and Kathy), and Sis. Adrienne Bahr (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria). Sharing this happy event was our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis.

Connie, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS).

Adding to the joy of the baptism weekend was the announcement of a new convert, Nicole Scott, and we prayerfully encourage her on her new path of life.

We were grateful to have two visiting ministers on Sunday, February 12. Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) shared the living Word with us. We thank them.

As we eagerly look forward to the first day of Spring, let us thank our Creator for the changing seasons. To God be the glory.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr**

Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) started the visiting minister rotation for our small church February 5. Thank you, Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne, for your efforts.

February 9 the various Kansas churches met for the men to package the canned meat at Newton MCC. The ladies quilted, tied quilts and worked on school kits. During our "noon hour" sack lunch, the director of MCC expressed his appreciation for the group that worked so well checking and sealing the boxes of mostly turkey meat. He said it is difficult to get a group of volunteers able to do the heavy work together on the assembly line – there are fewer farmers available now.

Due to the dry conditions, grass fires have already burned many acres even with the no burn bans. A tossed cigarette out of a vehicle ... or a vehicle's catalytic converter stopped on the roadside is all the winds need to start up a roaring blaze.

Grandpa Bro. Ron Isch flew to Illinois to meet their new grandson, Mason Ryan Kieser, born February 6 to Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer (Congerville, IL) and to drive Grandma Sis. Jane back home.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm**

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

Psalm 19:14

This month we had the opportunity to gather with the Bern congregation to listen to the Memorandum from the Elder Body. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) assisted Elder Bros. John Lehman and Gerry Hertzell with this occasion. Our other visiting minister for the month was Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL). May the Lord bless these willing laborers.

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy go to the family of Sis. Vila (Vi) Meyer as she has gone to be with our Lord. Her husband, Bro. Velmer, as well as in-laws,

nieces, nephews, siblings and grandchildren, are remembered at this time. Her church family will not soon forget Vi's sweet and caring nature.

On Tuesday, January 17, we held our annual church business meeting. We thank the Lord for remaining our Guide as another year has successfully passed.

Converts Micah Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen) and Renee Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) have been announced for peace. May we encourage them and pray for God's abundant grace as they await baptism.

Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marian) is currently hospitalized and recovering from complications from a fall. We look forward to having Bro. Gene assemble with us again.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Our prayers go up for Bro. Howard Warner as he continues to be plagued with infirmities that refuse to go away. In our small congregation, the Sunday School children gather in the assembly room where they sing with the adults from the Hymns of Zion. Before they are dismissed to go to their classrooms, a brother offers a prayer for their benefit. Bro. Howard is often asked to offer that prayer. He seems to have a special talent to express his gratitude for the Sunday School children.

The second Sunday evening of the month is set aside for a church carry-in dinner. This

month, the children made valentines to show their love to their parents and to those of us who no longer have families with us. They are so willing to share their creative little minds.

Several from our Wichita group joined with workers from our other Kansas churches to spend a workday at the MCC center in Newton. The men work to prepare boxes of canned meat for shipping. We are thankful the men are willing to take part in this strenuous work.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad ...”

I Kings 3:9

As we are starting out this new year, our desire is to grow in the knowledge of the Lord. May the Lord give us His grace to be willing to ask for knowledge like Solomon did instead of other things.

Happy grandmothers again this year are: Sis. Lourdes Sibaja (Felix) - little Isaac was born to Sis. Areli and Bro. Kirby Reutter, and little Naomi was born to Lorenia and Curt Schmidgall; and Sis. Bertha Gonzalez (the late Bro. Javier Gonzalez) - little Evelyn was born to Rosy and Carlos Gonzalez.

We appreciated having visitors these past two weeks, especially Misi Marton and his daughter, Edit, from Hungary.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA
Gloria Gonzalez

How thankful we are that God is a “Father to the fatherless.” The earthly father of two siblings here at CVE had suffered from diabetes and was unable to care for his daughters, Magdalena and Blanca. It was a sobering time as his health failed and he passed away. All of the orphanage children witnessed his burial and had the opportunity to sing a hymn together at the cemetery.

This month we were blessed to have Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) as a visiting minister along with his wife, Sis. Jackie.

Bro. Jeff Beer and John Schick were privileged to travel to Acapulco, Mexico, to encourage those who are seeking the Lord there. We thank God for His protection and blessing on their trip.

“For God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.”

II Corinthians 9:8

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Our thanks go out to Bro. John Jackson and wife, Sis. Peggy (Bay City, MI), for visiting us this weekend to accompany Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen in reading the Memorandum.

Our praises go to the Lord for Dennis Koehl recovering well at

home from outpatient surgery, as well as Bro. Carl Steffen who is also at home recovering from his motor vehicle accident in early January.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Sis. Myrna Steffen who went to be with our Lord and Saviour this past month. She will be deeply missed by her husband, Bro. Carl, and children, Bro. Terry (Sis. Laurie) of Alto, Treasure (Mike Reynolds) of Bartlesville, OK, Sis. Michelle (Bro. Brad Baumgartner) of Bluffton, IN, Jill (John Casper) of Parker, CO, and Bro. Mark (Sis. Stacey) of Scottsdale, AZ, along with her 17 grandchildren who will really miss her. Myrna will also be greatly missed by our congregation.

We leave these thoughts in memory of Sis. Myrna, whose chief delights were raising her children and meditating on God’s Word: “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” (Psalm 127:3). And, the last words she heard spoken on this earth: “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of Love in our Savior’s name!

Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie Knochel are thankful to have another granddaughter added to

their family circle. Addison Leigh joined the home of Paul and Ashley Reusch.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak have been in our thoughts and prayers as they are down in Haiti for three months. We also mourn with them as Bro. Dean's sister, Sis. Myrna Steffen (Carl, Alto, MI), passed away recently. Sis. Myrna also had many nieces, nephews, and cousins from our congregation.

We are thankful for the safe return of our loved ones who spent time helping those in need in Haiti and Biloxi, MS. May God richly bless each of them as they were able to be of service for Him.

Teach me yet more of Thy blest
ways,
Thou holy Lamb of God;
And fix and root me in the grace,
So dearly bought with blood.

Engrave this deeply on my heart,
With an eternal pen;
That I may, in some small degree,
Return Thy love again.

Hymns of Zion, #98, vs. 1,4

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Tiffany Wieland

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we consider the seasons of life, there are fewer seasons more precious to witness than the first. We are thankful that this month

brought the arrival of three new children into our congregation. Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe brought home a little boy, Trevor, to older siblings, Tyler and Stephanie. Macy Bahr is a first-time big sister after her parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie, brought home a new little brother, Kaden. Logan Frank is a first-time big brother to little sister Kaleigh; Logan and Kaleigh's parents are Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal. We pray that God would grant each one of these parents His grace and guidance as they train their children up. We see these small children, and as we realize that we are looking at the potential future of our faith, we ask for a diligence to walk in faith and humility, that we might be examples for those that would come after us. We know not what role God would have for each of them, but we trust that as we are given the grace to sow the seed of Truth, God will give His increase in His time.

We have had several in our congregation that have required medical attention this past month, and we want to remember each one of them in prayer. In particular, Sis. Sanche Denes, Jason Allen, and Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz would appreciate our thoughts and prayers as they recover from recent physical afflictions.

This month, we were privileged to have ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington- Normal, IL) and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin,

Alto, MI) with us. We appreciate them serving in the ministry during their visit, and we are thankful that they served with hearts and minds submitted to God's Spirit so that we could be fed from God's Word.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
LaRae Dill

"As for God, His way is perfect..."

II Samuel 22:31

The Stork family, Bro. Mark, Sis. Sandy and Braden, have been blessed with a perfect little boy, Justin Duane, born February 15. Justin's grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Nathalia Getz (Eureka, IL) and Elmer and Darlene Stork (Chatsworth, IL).

Bro. Glen Funk (Wichita, KS) visited on a recent Wednesday evening as he was in the Twin Cities for business. We appreciated the thoughts shared by Bro. Glen. His visit was especially welcome in that several of our own ministers, along with brothers and friends, were assisting with hurricane relief efforts in Biloxi, MS.

Bro. Perry Virkler (Sis. Carol) experienced a surgical procedure this month; Sis. Vera Schmidt exemplifies patience as she continues to recover from surgery on her shoulder, and is anticipating yet more surgery in the future.

We were sorry to hear that Sis. Millie Schmidgall was hospitalized recently as well. Wishes of

good health are extended to each of these dear ones.

“God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.”

II Samuel 22:33

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Katie Koehl

Heidi Nohl

Alexa Rae was born to Ben and Mary Erholtz. She is their first child and is also welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall and Terry and Claudette Erholtz. We wish them God's blessings as they raise her.

Our prayers are with Al and Sis. Ileen Burnham as they have laid Al's father, Glenn Burnham, to rest. We pray God will comfort them as well as their extended families.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Albert Joos, Bro. Jeff Steiner (Sis. Jill) and Sis. Pam Schaefer. Our prayers are with them as they recover.

Bro. Jim Koehl (San Diego, CA) was with us one Sunday. We appreciate his ministering efforts and pray God will bless him.

The weekend of February 11-12 was the baptism of Bro. Alex Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl). We were encouraged by his testimony and wish him God's richest blessings in his new walk of life. Also with us for this event was Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT). On the evening of Sunday, February 12, we held our Communion service. We ap-

preciate Bro. Kevin's help with both of these events and pray he will be richly rewarded.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Ginny Stoll

Rachel Steiner

Bro. Nick and Sis. Julie Schmidt are first-time parents of a precious baby boy. Garret Gene was born on February 10. Grandparents are Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA).

Loyd "Johnny" "Jake" Jacobson passed away on February 2. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Dorothy and the entire family. We pray that the family will feel God's love and comfort.

Elmer Schmidt spent some time in the hospital this month. We are thankful he is home and able to assemble with us again.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Garry and Marty Rokey

We rejoice that our convert, Brittany Fehr (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan), has found peace and Lord willing, will have her testimony and baptism on the weekend of March 18-19.

Our annual business meeting was held January 22. Elected to the board of trustees was Bro. Ryan Weiss (Sis. Becky), to the food committee was Sis. Karn Synder (Bro. Greg), and to Sunday School was Sis. Stephanie Young (Bro. Nate) and Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan). May God grant grace and strength to these

brothers and sisters as they begin their new duties.

On February 4 we had the reading of the Memorandum after a church supper. Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) joined our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the reading and expounding of this letter. We are thankful for the labors of these Elder brothers and all of the undershepherds of our congregations.

Another bundle of joy has been added to our church community. Kamden Scott, son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle, joins siblings, Kalahan and Klaire. May God bless this family.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Mindy Braker

Becky Marti

We enjoyed many visitors this past month. We especially appreciate Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) being willing to be used to bring forth the Word in truth and simplicity. May God always provide the needed grace for our ministering brothers.

Bro. Joe Marti (Sis. Evelyn) spent some time in the hospital and recuperating at home. May God continue to heal and comfort as He sees best.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Krista Banwart

We are thankful for the visiting ministers and accompanying travelers we have had recently. Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Justin Koch (Sis.

Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Jed Roche (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL). As winter thaws into spring, we are reminded how God renews us in hope throughout the seasons of life, and that all seasons are meant for praise. He desires in all our days, that we might honor Him with praise, for though it is from dust we came, He's honored when we praise His name! "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise." (Isaiah 43:21)

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Sally Haerr

Alive ... is the word that comes to mind when I think of this past month and all the activities and spiritual opportunities we have experienced here at Taylor. To be fully alive in the Spirit and in the church is to be involved. We have had such wonderful participation by so many. It truly binds our hearts in Christian love. When we do not get involved, I believe it displeases our Saviour Jesus and we deprive ourselves of a huge blessing. Involvement is the life-blood of any organization, especially the church. May we, as a church, never become lukewarm as is mentioned in Revelation 3:15-16. We can be busy in many ways but we need to remember that only what is done for Christ will last eternally.

On January 21- 22, we were

privileged to host The Mortonaires, a men's singing group from Morton, IL. Along with this group came ministering Bro. Fred Funk and his wife, Sis. Diane. We enjoyed it, and thank them all for sharing their talents with us. An added joy that weekend was the engagement announcement of Sis. Jan Stratton (Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl) to Bro. Dave Roberts from our St. Louis, MO, congregation. Bro. Dave is the son of Sis. Carolyn and the late Bro. Dave Roberts (Bluffton, IN).

January 28-29 was our "Invite a Friend" weekend. What a special time for all of us, both those who hosted and those who served. Three visiting ministers were among our guests. They were Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Jan, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Charles Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS). The Holy Spirit is so encouraging as it comes through each speaker.

On Friday, February 3, Dr. Parke and his wife, Dayamanti, from India, came to spend a short time here with us. It is so humbling to hear of God's work being done there and of the struggles and lack of opportunity the people there have to freely worship a true and living God. It makes us realize how much we take for granted and even neglect our opportunities of freedom.

And last, but certainly not least, on our church calendar (February 18) was the Marriage Seminar presented by the Apos-

tolic Christian Counseling Services. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) shared with us their God-given talents through this seminar, as well as serving us from the pulpit on Sunday. Sincere thanks to you; God's presence seemed so near the entire weekend.

Sick/hospitalized this month were Bro. Don Grimm (Sis. Tricia), Dallas Hoerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Phyllis Knapp (Bro. Kenny). These loved ones are all recovering quite well and are again assembling with us. If we ask ... God is faithful to answer our prayers.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have enjoyed assembling together to start working on some World Relief winter projects. This is always a fun time of fellowship when the weather doesn't permit us to travel far from home.

We were overjoyed to baptize our new Bro. Gerald Lehman. Our prayers continue with him as his health has not been good.

We are thankful that Sis. Linda Graves is home from the hospital and again able to assemble with us.

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Steidl

Dearest Savior, let me ever
 In Thy service here abide;
 Ne'er would I from Thee be severed,
 Walking daily by Thy side...
Zion's Harp #205

We can be so thankful that God is ever present, and that we have the privilege of walking as His children on our journey here below. As the years go by, we can see His provision through each stage of life.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Maria Demiter as they welcomed Preston John into their home on February 17. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky and paternal grandparents are John and Erika Demiter.

We are thankful that Rachael Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) and Melissa Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira) have felt and answered God's call to repentance. May God be near them and give them the grace and humility that they need to completely surrender their lives to His perfect will.

We are also thankful that God has shown a couple from our congregation that their lives should become one. Our prayers are with Bro. Daniel Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) and Sis. Rachel Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) as they plan for their wedding and marriage.

After a short hospitalization,

we are thankful that Brianna Botosan (Victor and Tammy) returned home and has been able to assemble with us again. We have missed Zarko Reljin (father of Bro. Dan) as he was hospitalized recently. We also were blessed that Bro. Eugene Bako has recovered enough strength to assemble with us several times since his recent illness.

We rejoice that God has added another member to our church. We welcome Sis. Kathryn Nagy, who was able to give a testimony to a small group of family, as well as our ministering brothers and their wives, and fully become part of our fellowship after years of assembling with our congregation.

May God be with each one as we strive to serve Him wherever He leads us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

We rejoice when a soul has repented and found peace with God and man. We are thankful that Danielle Sauder has recently been announced and is awaiting baptism in the near future. Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder are Danielle's parents.

Our "Invite-a-Friend" supper and singing was held this month. We welcomed Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction, OH) as Bro. Warren shared God's Word with us on Sunday. Other visiting ministers with us this month were Bro. Don Steidl and Sis. Nancy (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka and Sis. Connie (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ron

Steiner and Sis. Ruth (Rittman, OH). May God bless these brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

Many prayers go out to our student, Amy Raifsnider, at the loss of her father, Doug Raifsnider. May her family feel His comforting presence during this difficult time.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) ministered to us on separate weekends. The Word of the Lord was brought to us in clearness and we appreciate the work and labors of these brothers on our behalf. May God be with you as you labor in His vineyard.

Much joy was brought to the home of Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelby Manz on January 31 when little Tytus Benjamin was born. Big sister Elyse is thankful for a playmate. Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz are Tytus's grandparents. Tytus was born a few weeks premature so he spent some extra time in the hospital, but is now home and doing well.

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,..." (Zion's Harp #16) We are thankful that there are still souls longing to be "lambs of Jesus". February 4-5 was a special weekend for us as we were blessed with the privilege to hear the testimonies and view the baptisms of Sis. Mindy

and Sis. Christa Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue). We thank Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) for spending this weekend with us.

Our hearts were rejoicing when we heard the news of another soul turning his life to the Lord. Klint Manz (Bro. David and Sis. Kathy) has made this most important step in his life. We pray that he can dig deep and make a steadfast foundation as he joyfully lives his life for the Lord. May we all continue to pray for those yet outside the fold.

Our Bro. Eli Manz (Sis. Evelyn) has recently spent some time in the hospital. He is home now and we pray he will continue to gain strength to enable him to soon be assembling in church with us again.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Carmen Eisenmann

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month. They were: Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH), Bro. Doug Harman (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH).

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:6

We praise God that He continues to call and convert souls. We were thankful to witness the baptisms of three dear souls on February 12. We warmly welcome Esther Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), and Jeremy and Mandy Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen and David and Mary Lou Pitney) into God’s family.

Having finished her fight of faith, Sis. Florence Stoller passed away on February 5. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Bill (Sis. Barb) Stoller and their family and Bro. Bob Stoller as they mourn the loss of their mother. We pray the Holy Spirit would comfort them during this time.

On February 6, Bro. Corbin and Sis. Katie Stoller became the thankful parents of Tori Jane. Her big sister, Cameron, helped welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka, IL). We pray God’s blessings on their family.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

Bro. Wallace Ramsier retired from the ministry at the end of December. Many gathered together on January 22 to thank Bro. Wally for his 30 years of service in the ministry. We especially remember his tireless efforts in World Relief Missions. We also fondly recall the support offered to him by his wife, Sis. Helen, who passed away several years ago. May God be Bro.

Wally’s rich rewarder.

On December 29, a precious little baby girl named Abigail Grace was born to Greg and Sis. Missy Sauder. Also excited are siblings Daniel, Courtney, Brittany and Caleb; as well as grandparents, Sis. Caroline Sauder, James and Karen Fox.

Many traveled to Congerville, IL, to share in the joy of Bro. Mark Rufener (Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Julie Zobrist (Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn) as they were united in marriage on February 12. We pray Sis. Julie will feel a warm welcome in our congregation as she makes her new home in Mansfield.

Vickie Kirschenmann (Ron), Sis. Sarah Rice and Bro. Al Beer (Sis. Janet) were hospitalized this past month. Bro. Phillip Keiper (Sis. Theresa) is ill at home and has been unable to attend church the past several months. Please continue to pray for these loved ones.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Sarah Bauman
Hannah Beery

Again in our Rittman congregation this month, God has given us many reasons wherein to rejoice. We are thankful together with Sis. Nancy Bauman and her family in the news that her daughter, Kelly Gasser (Curt), is seeking the Lord in repentance. With each new convert, we realize again that God’s power is nothing short of amazing!

We were privileged to be able to witness the baptisms of Sis.

Kelly Ramsier (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Jonell), Bro. Jordan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie), Bro. Aaron Baltic (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Bradley Stoller (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori) on February 4. Assisting Elder Bro. Merle in proving the baptism candidates on Saturday night were Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) also assisted with the reading of the Memorandum on January 28. Also gathering with us this month were counseling Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and William Schlatter (Junction, OH). We can be so thankful that these brethren are yet willing to be used by the inspiration of God to bring forth His perfect Word.

On January 22, Bro. Ted Gherian (Akron, OH) (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon, Junction, OH) and Sis. Anna Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) were united in marriage. We trust God will richly bless them as they take their place in the Akron congregation.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner announced the birth of

their daughter, Adelynn Grace, on January 21. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Patricia Steiner and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Joseph "Joey" Schar (Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki), age four, has spent a considerable amount of time in the hospital recently. Owen Riggerbach (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Laura) was also in the hospital again. Undergoing surgery was Bro. Tom Gerber (Sis. Laura). We trust each one and their families feel loved by our Saviour during these difficult times.

We mourn with the family of Doug Raifsnider (Sis. Diana) as they laid him to rest on January 20. Children of Doug are Sis. Rebecca, Amy, Andrew and Jennifer, all still at home. We were all thankful to know that Doug could make a confession of faith prior to his passing. Our congregation also laid to rest Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred) on February 11. He is survived by his children, Bro. Ron (Sis. Joann), Charlotte Waibel (Terry) and Sis. Linda Dotterer (Smithville, OH). We also sympathize with the family of Ellen Daw (Thomas) in the passing of her mother, Dorothy Shilt. May we continue to keep each of these dear families in our prayers during the time of their loss.

In a previous edition, we reported the passing of Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman. However, we neglected to mention her surviving siblings: Sis. Jean Bauman, Sis.

Melba Miller (Richard), Bro. Herb Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Sis. Betty Dotterer (Bro. John, Smithville, OH). Our apologies for this unintentional omission.

OHIO, SARDIS
Eric and Jami Hartzler

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

With thanksgiving we report the birth of a dear baby boy, Brandon Joseph, born on February 7 to Steve and Kati Miller. Little Brandon is welcomed home by big brother Dillon. Grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller and Bill Cook and Ruth Ann Cook.

We are also thankful for our dear Elder body. Let's be mindful to pray for and support our Elder brothers as they recently attended the mid-winter Conference in Elgin, IL.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for the cards, pictures, and gifts given us for our 60th anniversary on January 10. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Love,
John and Almeda Brake

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

Strive aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er bur-
dened,
Freed from sin might live anew.

Strive with zeal and passion
glowing
In the strength of your first love;
Break the bonds of earth that
keep you
From your bright abode above.
Zion's Harp #47

We are thankful to report that three more souls have heard God's call to repentance and have found peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing the testimonies of Brittany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev), Juliet Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Luanna) and Janelle Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) in the not too distant future.

As our Elder brothers bring back reports of the mid-winter Conference in Elgin, IL, may we have open hearts and minds to accept their exhortations, striving in our first love to keep our focus on the bright abode above.

The family of Sis. Linda Dotterer has been in our prayers as they have experienced the loss of her father, Bro. Ralph Christian (Sis. Mildred, Rittman, OH). We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Pam Zollinger (Bro. Marvin), a granddaughter of Bro. Ralph.

Many of our loved ones have suffered physical afflictions as

well. Those confined by hospital stays were Bro. Darrel Indermuhle (Sis. Janet), Bro. John Rufener (Sis. Janice), Bro. Harold (Ted) Beery (Sis. Rhea), and George Spence (Norma). We hope they have felt our prayers and experience full recovery.

The family of Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler welcomed joyfully another grandchild as Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner (Rittman, OH) became first-time parents of Adelynn Grace on January 21.

**OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

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

II Timothy 2:15

We recently spent a quiet evening together as the Memorandum was read and exhorted upon. Helping Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) with this work was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH).

Those ministers who shared the pulpit with our brothers over the past month are Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). What a blessed people we are to be able to come to the house of the Lord and hear

the truth taught to us.

Thankful for the safe arrival of another granddaughter are Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint. McKenna Rose has joined the family of Nick and Andrea Sancraint.

**OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm**

Should I restrain the Spirit's
course
For fear of man so feeble?
Though Satan's hosts are raging
here,
Should I not be more faithful?
Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
Conceal the Word of God Most
High?

O, may I seek the souls who
stray
And save them from destruction,
And through Thy holy love still
lead
Them to Thy congregation.
May pray'rs and pleadings pene-
trate
To warn them of their lost es-
tate.

Zion's Harp #113, vs. 1 and 7

Greetings in our Saviour's name. We were richly blessed this past month with many visiting ministers from far and near. We sincerely thank the following brothers for their labors on our behalf: Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR). May we continue to uphold our undershepherds and minis-

tering brethren in prayer as they labor in the Lord's vineyard.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger**

We welcome two new souls into the faith: Sis Laura Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) and Bro. Duane Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda). We are thankful for Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) who was here to help Elder Bro. Art Metz in this work.

In our annual business meeting this year, Bro. Tim Hansen (Carol) was selected to serve as a trustee, Bro. Ryan Kuenzi for the sound system, Bro. Shawn Schurter (Sis. Kim) as an usher, and Sis. Jane (Bro. John) Wiegand for the dinner committee. We heartily thank those who have put in long hours on our behalf to keep order in our church building/events.

Our congregation has been blessed with several new arrivals this month. On February 2, Claire Marie was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lana Kuenzi. She was welcomed home by her sister Kirsten. Grandparents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Little Jennifer Leigh was born on February 8 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Amanda Dietrich. Jennifer's sister is Johanna and her grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

Carissa welcomed home her

little brother, David Ryan, on February 14. David's parents are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Regina Hari. Grandparents are Harold and Sis. Linda Hari and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn. We wish all three couples God's loving guidance as they raise their children in the Lord.

We are thankful Sis. Jo Kuenzi (Bro. Jason) is recovering well after her surgery.

Bro. Ryan Kuenzi and Sis. Kara Schieler announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler (Goodfield, IL). We rejoice with them as they begin to make preparation to join their hearts and lives in marriage on April 30.

Our Fellowship Hall Project is progressing quite well. The building is now covered and the interior work has begun. We appreciate all the hours put in on our behalf.

We certainly appreciate the willingness of the ministering brothers who share the Word with us regularly. In addition to Elder Bro. Curt Frank, other visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR).

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful that the Living Word has been so capably brought to us in this past month by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Jim Ramseyer

(Sis. Marlene; Bay City, MI); Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen; Bloomington-Normal, IL); Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy; Rockville, CT); Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally; Washington, IL); and Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL). We have also enjoyed the privilege of fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, Congerville, Forrest, Goodfield, and Gridley IL; Lester, IA; Lamont-Gridley, Sabetha, KS; Bay City, MI; Morris, MN; and Junction, 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: Forrest, IL (3/19); Congerville, IL (3/26); Bluffton North, IN (4/2); Indianapolis, IN (4/9); Detroit, MI (4/23); and Fairbury, IL (4/30). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (4/16), but if any local brethren are in the area, we will meet at church for a tape service. 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**

Judith Fehr

Greetings from Dallas/ Ft. Worth.

In January we welcomed visiting ministers, Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and their guests, Phyllis and David Walk of Rockwall, TX. Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL) were our visiting ministers in February. Added guests in February were Bro. Brent Knobloch (Sis. Michelle, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Kyle Beyer's (Sis. Carrie) guests, including Bro. Neal Kellenberger (Sis. Kim, Kansas City), Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather, Kansas City) and Bro. Myron Menold (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS). Also joining us was Tim Stoller of Holtam City, TX.

We wish to thank the ministering brethren and their wives for sharing God's Word with us, and for the wonderful fellowship. We are also thankful for all of the visitors who joined us in worship.

We welcome 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 Sis. Judi Fehr (972-956-0597) or Beverly and Ralph Rigggenbach at (817-741- 1502)

We apologize for any misspelled names, and for the incorrect publication of Beverly and Ralph's phone number in previous articles.

**TEXAS, McALLEN
Sandy Kipfer**

A hardy Christian greeting to all. This has been a very exciting month for us here in McAllen, TX.

On January 29, we were fortunate to have Bro. Frank Sauder and daughter, Hannah, from Roanoke, IL. Also, Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Burlington, IA). On Saturday we enjoyed a very blessed Bible study. Then on February 12, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Portland, OR) favored us. In the month were several visitors from Zapata, TX; Cissna Park, IL; Taylor, MO; Rose Hill, KS; and Morris, MN. Services will be held on March 12 and 26, and April 9 and 23.

If you are going to be in the McAllen area, we extend a warm invitation to worship with us. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 ½ blocks off the Expressway (Highway) on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please contact Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl (956) 581-8266; Sis. Kim Kaiser (956) 357-2591; Sis. Erin

Knobloch (956) 357-1657; Andy and Kristi Plattner (956) 433-9844 or (956) 607-8329; Pam McMaster (956) 787-7881; Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandy Kipfer (winter only) (956) 581-5612.

**TEXAS, SAN MARCOS
Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

Our family was traveling to Zapata for church one weekend when one of the children spotted a dilapidated building sign which read "Wisdom Manufacturing." Of course, we questioned this claim while discussing the unusual business name.

Our congregation plans to hold worship services in our new church building beginning next Sunday (2/26/06). Wisdom won't be manufactured there in the traditional sense, but we trust that in our worship and fellowship times we will be encouraged that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 111:10)

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21, go east one mile to the second exit onto the frontage road. Immediately turn right and proceed back west on the frontage road, and the church is the first place on the left. The address is 1025 Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding.

The following ministers and their wives have recently served us: Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury), Max Reimchiesel

(Wichita), Gene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), and Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse). We are also thankful for the visitors from Zapata, Burlington, Forrest, and Princeville.

Upcoming churches serving us are these: Forrest (March 19), Kansas City, MO (March 26), Junction (April 2), Smithville (April 9).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance so that

we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Sandy Leman

We are so glad to have our brothers and sisters from the North assembling with us again. It is good to have so many here to fellowship and worship together. We thank ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and John Rowell (Burlington, IA) for sharing God's Word with us last month.

This month has been especially full of occasions to fellowship. On February 18 we listened

to the Memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference and on February 19 we shared the Lord's Supper. Our Elder Bro. Bob Walder (also Elder in Congerville) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl from Morris helped with that. May God richly bless these brothers and their families for serving us.

Thanks also to all who have come to fellowship and worship. We love to have visitors, whether they stay the whole winter or just a few days. Our good-bys here are softened by the hope that we will someday be together, never to part again.



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~*****~

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Sermon continued from page 2

ing. Jesus was having supper with them in the physical sense. They ate a meal together. They took the sustenance of life together. They shared that with each other. Just as today He provides all things for us. He wants to gather us close, that we are sitting at His table, partaking of the Word. Maybe there is an air of betrayal. He doesn't want to lose any of us. He did not want to lose Judas. He didn't want that. All things, it says, "...the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;" St. John 13:3. He just knew this was going to take place but it troubled Him. It troubled Him.

So what did He do? I think this is real important right here. This is a real important scripture and a real important lesson for all of us. In the midst of this situation of those that were closest to Him and those that He loved was one that was going to betray Him. The disciples didn't know it. Jesus did. But what He did next is the example. What He did next is the lesson. It says He rose up from supper and laid aside his garments and He took a towel and He girded Himself (St. John 13:4). He poured water into a basin and He began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded (St. John 13:5).

You see, in the air of this betrayal, Jesus didn't focus on that. He turned it into a lesson for the disciples. He turned it into a lesson for you and I. You see, it says that He washed the disciples feet. It didn't say that He washed eleven of the disciples' feet. I believe He washed them all. I am convinced that Jesus washed the feet of all twelve, knowing that one was going to betray Him. Knowing that one was going to let Him down.

Knowing that Satan had entered into one of them. He bent over and He washed their feet - all of them. He did not single one out.

It says, He wiped them with the towel wherewith He was girded. "Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" St. John 13:6. Are you going to wash my feet? Today we don't do the washing of feet. Most people keep their feet pretty clean. We have the ability to take showers and baths everyday. Those people didn't have the opportunity to do that then. It was a humbling experience, I believe, in that day. It was a needed experience. They needed to do that. It was a great service to do that, to wash someone's feet. To have clean feet was something that didn't happen all the time. So to do that for somebody was really stepping past the line, to wash their feet. Peter says to Jesus, you are going to wash my feet? Are you going to wash my feet?

And Jesus said, "...What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." St. John 13:7. What is it that we ask or don't ask Jesus to do for us? Will we let Him wash our feet? Will we let Him get that close to us? Will we let Him get that personal with us? Will you let your Savior wash your feet? Or maybe we are like Peter and we say, you aren't going to wash my feet Lord. You are not going to do that. You see, but Jesus wanted Peter to understand that Jesus wants to be that close to him. That close to you and that close to me. So it's not even so much, will you wash someone's feet. It's will you let your feet be washed? Will you let Jesus wash you?

"Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet..." St. John 13:8. I would never allow you to do that, Jesus! I am not going to

let you stoop that low that you'll wash my feet. I am not going to let you. I don't want that!

Jesus says, "...If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." St. John 13:8. Peter, if you don't let me do this, if you don't let me get this close to you, if you don't let me get down here and wash your feet, then you don't have any part with me. You don't have any part with me. Are we willing to be that open? This is what Jesus is, I think, trying to tell Peter. Peter, you've got to be open. You can't build this wall up. You can't be stubborn. You have got to open up. You have got to understand that Jesus wants to be this close to you.

As Jesus hung there on the cross, probably the last thing that His blood touched was His feet as it dripped off. It was His feet.

"Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head." St. John 13:9. When he finally got the picture, he said, Lord, you just wash me! You just wash all of me. Not just my feet. Peter was beginning to understand. He didn't have it yet. But he was beginning to understand the kind of a relationship that Jesus wants with him and with us. That close.

Now the fact that Jesus washed their feet was a great example to them. Him, being the King, the Savior and Him washing the feet, being the servant. That tells us what He wants us to be. Regardless of our status. Regardless of who we think we are. Regardless of whether we think we'd even want to do it! He is not saying that. He did that for an example to show us that we need to humble ourselves and when there is an opportunity to serve, we do it. If somebody needs their feet washed, we'll wash them if that is what they need! If they need something else, we are willing to do that. We

don't pick and choose. We don't say, well, if they follow Christ we'll do that.

We were driving back in IL yesterday, in Morton and I saw this old guy pushing a cart walking down the street. He had a bunch of stuff strapped on it. He was kind of clothed kind of cruddy and he was just pushing this cart. He was kind of limping a little bit and he was heading up on the interstate. You just knew he was going to try to go get a ride out there for something. But who knows who he was or what. I had to think and I said something to my brother, I said, do you know who that is? Because that is our home town. I said, do you know who that is? He said, I've never seen him before. I don't know who it is. I said, he just looks like he doesn't have a place to live, doesn't have a place to go. Then my brother said, you know whenever I see that it just convicts me sometimes, because I wonder, is that Jesus walking down there and it is an opportunity that we should maybe have taken advantage of? Should I have gone to go say something to that guy? Or give him a little something? I don't know. But we tend to be picky and choosy about who we want to help. Jesus washed the feet of the guy that betrayed Him, that turned Him in! He didn't bat an eye. He wanted to do it. He hated losing Judas but He wanted to wash his feet.

You and I, we have got to get past that silliness that comes in front of our eyes that we want to look at somebody and say, well I think I'll help them. Or are they a follower of Christ? Are they a believer? If they are, I'll help them. If they are not, I am not going to. We got to be careful about that. Jesus' example here was, you help them regardless. I think that's what we have to do is be the servant.

Jesus says, "For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?" St. John 13:11,12. Interesting that He would ask that question over something so simple. Certainly He just washed their feet and He says, do you know what I just did? See, we got to look past that. We got to look past the act of washing feet. It was a great service. But, He says, do you know what I just did? Do you understand that? That is what He is asking us to do, to look beyond what is just right in front of us. The opportunities that He has and He puts in place for us, do we take advantage of them?

I really believe that we can miss a tremendous blessing by turning away. It is our humanness to do that. It is our humanness to just want to turn away. I don't want to get involved. Or, I'll let somebody else handle that. I don't have time. I don't have time right now. I can't mess with that right now. We do that. But I think every time we do, we miss a blessing. When we miss a blessing, when we miss that blessing, I believe that we miss an opportunity to share that hope with that person. We miss that. We miss that chance. We need to pray for more. We need to pray for more opportunities. We need to pray for people with dirty feet to come up to us so we can wash them. We need to pray for people. Pray for opportunities that we can work in God's vineyard.

"Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." St. John 13,14. There it is. Jesus did it so we ought to.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you,

The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." St. John 13:16,17. Happy. We've got a world out there right now that just can't figure out what happiness is. Happiness - someone is happy if they're happy for five seconds. If they can get some kind of joy for five seconds or ten or half a day, they are happy. Happiness is long term. Jesus wants us to be happy people. We are happy people if we know and understand this concept of serving others.

"I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." St. John 13:18-20. There is this air of betrayal again out there. He knows it is there. He knows it is going to happen. But Jesus did what was right. He washed his feet.

"When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." St. John 13:21. I don't know what all happened there. But it does say that they looked one on another (St. John 13:22). The disciples were looking at each other, trying to figure out who is going to do this? Or why would somebody do this?

"...there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved." St. John 13:23. We would think that that is John himself. Simon Peter beckoned to John and said, will you ask Him

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(St. John 13:24)? I think Peter had probably asked Him enough questions a little earlier on and was willing to just be quiet for a little while and let John take care of it. He said, John you ask Him. Who is it? Who is going to do this? So John asked Him. Jesus said, it's the one whom I give a sop when I have dipped it. Then it says, when he dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas (St. John 13:26).

"And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly. Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him." St. John 13:27,28. They just couldn't figure it out. They didn't know what was going on. They didn't know what was going to take place. How he was going to do it. They knew that Judas was kind of the treasurer. They didn't know if something tied with money or what was going on. But Judas left. It said, he received the sop and he immediately went out and it was night (St. John 13:30).

"Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him." St. John 13:31. He is beginning to tell them that now is the time. This is going to happen. Everything I have been teaching you and telling you for the last three years, this is the culmination of it. This is it.

"If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you." St. John 13:32,33. He knew

He wasn't going to be there very long. Even as He said to the Jews, where I am going you can't go. You can't go there. He knew He was going to go to the cross.

He says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." St. John 13:34. There's the lesson, there's the message of what took place in the verses we just read, is a display of love. When we display love one toward another, we display God's love. When we display God's love to somebody else, we give them the opportunity to know that He loves them. He uses us. He works through us. He gives us those opportunities. Let's take advantage of them. Let's take advantage of those opportunities. Let's love one another as Christ loved us.

It is a high standard. We could never reach it. It is like putting a bar for a high jumper at ten feet. He's never going to get over it. He is never going to get over it. But he just keeps trying. That's what we have to do. We have to keep trying. He wants us to put effort into it. Not just get up and go through life. He wants us to put effort into this. He wants us to love one another. He wants us to wash their feet. Seek the opportunities. If they are there, take them.

"Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou?..." St. John 13:36. Remember Jesus said where I am going you can't go. Peter says, well where are you going? Jesus said, where I go you can't follow me now, but you will (St. John 13:36).

"Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down

thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice." St. John 13:37,38. We can be really strong. We can be really strong in our Christian walk when we are surrounded here at church. When we are surrounded by other brothers and sisters, those that love us. We can be really strong. Peter was really strong right then. He was surrounded. He had the Lord there. He had all the other disciples. He was feeling good.

But what happens when we step outside? What happens then? How strong are we? Are we willing to lay down our life down for Christ? He was willing to lay His life down for us. That is the bar. That's how much He loved us. Are we willing to lay down our life for Him? That is what He asked Peter. Peter said yes I am. But we know just in the next chapter or two he says, I don't even know who He is! I don't know who Jesus is. But we also know that Peter did give his life for his Lord. It is even believed that he was crucified.

So yes he did, he did. He gave his life for his Lord. But he had a lot of lessons to learn between then and when it took place. Just like you and I do. We have tons of lessons to learn. If we just let the scripture work in our hearts and open us up to what's out there, to this big God, this big world, that the church can't hold. He is out there everywhere. Let's open our hearts to Him and let's see what He has for us! If there is dirty feet, let's wash them. Even beyond that, if our feet are dirty, let's let Jesus wash us. It is just a beautiful thought. When Peter finally got it, he said just wash all of me.

Zion's Melody Music CD

An a cappella singing CD of hymns from the Zion's Melodies recently was recorded with the intention of helping the brethren become more familiar with the Zion's Melodies. The CD consists of 17 hymns and the title of the CD is "The Homeward Journey". Anyone who is interested in purchasing CDs can order from the Homeward Journey, PO Box 20, Fairbury, IL 61739; or e-mail fairview@Route24.net or call: (815) 692-2572 (days) and ask for Sally. The cost is \$12.00 per CD plus shipping (media mail, unless first-class is requested). All proceeds of the CD, beyond expenses, will be contributed to The Good Samaritan Fund of Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury.

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A CD has been recorded containing one verse each of all 67 hymns in the Zion's Melodies hymnal, played on a digital piano. It is hoped this recording will be helpful in learning these hymns which are historical to our church, but may be new to many of our brethren today. The cost is \$5.00 per CD plus shipping if necessary. Proceeds beyond expenses will be donated toward further preservation and sharing of Apostolic Christian historical material. To keep costs low, the CD will be sent in a slim jewel case without an insert (the track numbers correspond directly to the song numbers). The title is simply "Zion's Melodies" and it can be ordered by the following options:

Phone: (309)448-2422 - ask for Chet
Mail: ZM on Piano, 319 First Street, Congerville, IL 61729
Email: chetrink@juno.com

2006 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

This year's annual Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend is scheduled for Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28. The weekend theme will be "Footsteps to Jesus" with included speaking topics of "Lack of Prayer and Watching can lead to Backsliding" by Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, Mo.), "Luke Warmness (both in personal life and church support)" by Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, Ohio), and "Attitude and Ways to Study the Bible" by Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, Ga.).

The weekend activities are scheduled to begin on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. with an auction at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Everyone is encouraged to bring at least one item to donate. Proceeds will be used to maintain the Tennessee Fellowship property and for the Athens Apostolic Christian Preschool. Church services on Sunday will be held at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church.

*For additional information including overnight accommodations, driving directions, etc., please contact Tennessee Fellowship Secretary Gwen Leuthold (615)356-5755 or e-mail leutholdg@aol.com
Tennessee Fellowship Chairman Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or e-mail don.sauder@juno.com
Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Mike Moore (256)729-0620 or e-mail alm38@aol.com .*

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006

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. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

| HAITI | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| ORG. | DATE | AREA | COORDINATOR | PROJECT | CAPACITY |
| SEED | March 10-17, 2006 | Les Cayes | Bob Beebe | Agriculture Aid | 11 |
| AWA-T | March 17-24, 2006 | Les Cayes | Troy Struber | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-FRW | March 17-24, 2006 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-B | March 17-24, 2006 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |
| MEBSH | March 24-31, 2006 | Les Cayes | Rich Bertschi | Grade School | 9 |
| Palm Grove | TBD | Puit Sales | Tom Hitz | Grade School | 11 |
| MEBSH | April 21-28, 2006 | Les Cayes | Jon Zeller | Construction/Maintenance | 11 |
| MEBSH | April 29-May 6, 2006 | Haiti | Tom Hitz | Caribbean Evaluation | Invitation |
| MEBSH | June 3-10, 2006 | Haiti | Tom Hitz | Elder Evaluation | Invitation |
| AWA-T | June 16-23, 2006 | Les Cayes | Troy Stuber | Water Aid | 5 |
| AWA-FRW | June 16-23, 2006 | Les Cayes | Rick Wuethrich | Vocational School | 4 |
| AWA-B | June 16-23, 2006 | Les Cayes | Bill Rager | Vocational School | 2 |
| JAMAICA | | | | | |
| CCCD | March 18-26, 2006 | Deaf Village | Wolcott SS/Jon Schwab | Work Place | 40/50 |
| CCCD | March 24-April 1, 2006 | Kingston | Work/Project/Terry Miller | Deaf School | 40/50 |
| CCCD | May 19-27, 2006 | Deaf Village | Work Project/Ted Hirstein | Work Place | 40/50 |
| CCCD | June 3-10, 2006 | Deaf Village | Taylor SS/Rusty Adrian | Work Place | 40/50 |
| CCCD | July 1-8, 2006 | Knockpatrick | Mansfield SS/Pete Webel | Deaf School | 40 |
| CCCD | July 22-29, 2006 | Montego Bay | Detroit SS/Scott Bahr | Deaf School | 40 |

| COORDINATOR | PHONE | FAX | E-MAIL |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bob Beebe | 574-291-2158 | 574-299-8173 | rbeebe@surfpure.com |
| Rich Bertschi | 309-467-6110 | | lemangm@mtco.com |
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| Terry Miller | 941-485-4302 | 941-485-4302 | kjs@a5.com |
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| Ted Hirstein | 309-266-8769 | | hirstein@mtco.com |
| Scott Bahr | 734-513-5907 | | spb9@dcx.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 2005-2006

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@adamswells.com

| Location | Date | Project | Coordinator | Phone | E-mail |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agua Prieta | March 18-25, 2006 | Construction | Denis Fry | 260-824-3055 | fry.d@mchsi.com |
| Magdalena | March 18-25, 2006 | Construction | Nic Rassi | 217-367-1427 | rassi@uiuc.edu |
| Rio Bravo | March 25-April 1, 2006 | Construction | Dean Fiechter | 260-565-3439 | dfiechter@adamswells.com |
| Juarez | March 25-April 1, 2006 | Construction | Jay Grube | 260-565-3402 | grube@adamswells.com |
| Agua Prieta | March 25-April 1, 2006 | Construction | Jim Fiechter | 260-565-3248 | jimfiechter@adamswells.com |
| Magdalena | March 25-April 1, 2006 | Construction | Courtney Pfister | 260-824-5161 | fizz@parlorcity.com |
| Reynosa | March 25-April 1, 2006 | Construction/Medical | Erin Knobloch | | pudgydawn@yahoo.com |
| Juarez | March 30-April 6, 2006 | Medical | Cheryl Herrmann | 309-385-1082 | cheryl@mtco.com |
| Magdalena | April 8-15, 2006 | Construction | Kevin Fischer | 309-923-7684 | kafischer80@msn.com |
| Magdalena | June 3-10, 2006 | Construction | Roger Herrmann | 309-446-3502 | rdkidz@juno.com |
| Magdalena | July 8-15, 2006 | Construction | Rick Kaisner | 847-942-1174 | rick@kaisner.org |
| Magdalena | July 15-22, 2006 | Construction | Duane Meyer | 785-336-3385 | |
| Magdalena | July 22-29, 2006 | Construction | Tyler Banwart | 620-223-1362 | tybanwart@hotmail.com |
| Juarez | September 20-27, 2006 | Medical | Cheryl Herrmann | 309-385-1082 | cherylh@mtco.com |

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

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

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
 Phone: 309-925-4171
 Fax: 309-925-4171
 Cell: 309-339-9894
 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

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:

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The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

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 (256) 729-0620
 8653 Beechwood Rd.
 Athens, AL 35611
 Email: ALM@aol.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Satellite Churches

In the first edition of *Marching to Zion*, a section begins on page 446 entitled "Satellite Churches." These were start-up gatherings that, at that time, had no permanent church building and usually met in homes or in motel conference rooms, etc. Examples of these churches were San Antonio, Texas; Belvidere, Illinois; McAllen, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Emporia, Kansas; Tampa, Florida; Columbus, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa; Kitchener, Ontario, and St. Louis, Missouri.

In retrospect, a positive development of these early (and small) gatherings for worship is that as the Word was preached many became regular churches with their own building, and growth occurred. Permanent facilities — either new or purchased — were obtained at Belvidere, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Columbus, Ohio; Kitchener, Ontario; and St. Louis, Missouri.

Worship Language

As brethren from Europe emigrated to the United States, many congregations were established in many states. Worship services were conducted in the German language. This was a practice, incidentally, not confined to our church. Other denominations used the German language as well. In fact, there were so many German immigrants in the early stages of the 1900's that a bill was before Congress to make German the national language. It likely

would have passed, but war with Germany defeated that prospect.

At any rate, in the late 1800's and early 1900's our brethren wanted to preserve the German language, and many congregations made an effort to teach German to their youth. An example of this occurred at the South Side church, a rural congregation south of Fairbury, Illinois. In *Marching To Zion*, the following account was listed: "In the 1890's, German classes were held at the church. The idea of preserving the language of their native country ran deep among the brethren at the South Side, as well as among the brotherhood nationally. Many young men and women attended German school during the winter months."

Preaching in the German language was the norm, it seems. As World War I broke out, however, the trend toward using English became apparent. Yet, using German persisted due mostly to the fact it was difficult to find brothers who could preach adeptly in the English language. In fact, Elder Bro. Emil Schubert, Peoria, Illinois, who emigrated to America in 1906 and eventually became a church leader, did not begin preaching in English until 1932.

Younger, American-born men began to emerge in the church and eventually were instated into the ministry. They could speak English very well, and over time the English language became the norm.

The New Jerusalem

On page 625 of *Marching To Zion* there is a poem entitled "The New Jerusalem" by Samuel H. Froehlich, consisting of 46 verses. It is thought he wrote this poem after the grief he felt on losing a child. Eventually, this poem will be carried in the Remembering column.

Early Ministers

Recently, in traveling to Ohio, I noted the variety of the terrain. Sometimes it was very flat, and at times hilly. Too, one noted forests and fairly rugged areas for walking. As I sat in my comfortable car cruising at 65 miles an hour or so, I thought of Elder Bro. Isaac Gehring, who walked (many times) from Sardis, Ohio, to the Rittman area, which took four or five days. I thought, not only of the rugged terrain he often faced, but of the varying weather conditions he faced, especially in the form of rain and wind. It was inspiring to note the zeal he had for the Lord. And I marvel at the thought that his first convert in this area was Anna Steiner, the wife of a local Mennonite bishop. From this, we now have two large congregations at Rittman and Smithville, Ohio.

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue:
Miscellaneous Topics

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"Love Fulfills The Law"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The people living during the Old Testament times were in a difficult position. They were required, not only to keep the ten commandments, but to also keep the ceremonial laws as laid down in Leviticus and Numbers, concerning the offering of animal sacrifices and the keeping of feast days, etc. They were not allowed to work on the Sabbath, an example of which is recorded in Numbers 15:32, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath day. He was put to death for this infraction of the law. Therefore, if we were under the law, we would all be dead, since we do not follow the guidelines that closely.

We are thankful to God that things are better for us. The letter of the law has been replaced by the spirit of the law. (II Corinthians 3:6), Who also has made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. When Jesus was asked

which is the great commandment in the law, (Matthew 22:36.) He replied with the well known commandment about loving God, and added the second most important commandment about loving our neighbor as ourselves. Clearly, the Lord Jesus Christ was promoting that part of the law which emphasizes love.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 13:10, concludes, herefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Does he mean that we don't have to pay any attention to what we say or do, or where we go; that we only need to have love for God and for others? I once said that followers of the Lord Jesus Christ may do anything they want. The reasoning behind what I said was that they don't want to do anything that is displeasing to God, or anything that might be harmful to their spiritual life, or that might be a stumbling block to someone else. This is based on love for God, love for others, and love for oneself. If you love yourself,

you should take the safest road.

In answer to my above question, I believe that Paul meant that if we love as we should, we will pay close attention to what we say and do.

I would like to consider another aspect of this statement by the Apostle Paul. He didn't say whose love was the fulfilling of the law, so we may consider that it is the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for us. He loved us enough to die for us and in this sense, Christ, was the fulfilling of the law. Romans 10:4 reads, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

There is a concern that if we only have love, we may fail to warn and exhort as we should. In II Timothy 4:2 we read, "Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering," so that, too, is important. However, if love is the fulfilling of the law, then it may be we have underrated the importance of love.

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*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night
Job 39:19*



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